



Dear Friend,

As the holiday season approaches, most of us will enjoy many opportunities to spend time with the family we love. However, we must remember that there are those among us who no longer have a home to go to, or who are separated from their loved ones due to difficult circumstances, such as abusive relationships, and poor choices that have led to nightmarish addictions and lifestyle decisions. Some of these precious souls have found a loving embrace at the Women's Refuge of St. Johns County.

When women first cross our threshold, they have survived the very worst life can inflict- abuse, addiction, debasement, homelessness, incarceration, attempted suicide and more. They have lost their jobs, spouses, children, homes, dignity, self-respect and self-worth. For them, the Women's Refuge is quite possibly their last hope. Every day, God is providing direction for the Refuge as we prepare for our next resident to share in God's unconditional mercy, forgiveness and love.

Incorporated in 2004, founders Ed & Joan Clements shared their vision and desire with me. This in turn led my parents to donate land, which was the seed. The Women's Refuge began as Helen's House, named in memory of my sister. A schoolteacher, Helen made it her purpose to seek out those who were often overlooked but most in need of love and attention, much like the purpose of the Women's Refuge. Every year since its inception, I have witnessed the life-changing power of God that has touched the hearts of Women's Refuge clients. The majority of these women have become productive, contributing members of our community and powerful witnesses of God's mercy.

The need has never ceased and continues to grow, with law enforcement agencies from as far away as Volusia and Orange counties placing clients on our wait list. We maintain a campus in St. Johns County, with house parents and other staff. Basic living expenses are provided for our clients, as well as needed medical, dental and other services to restore them to healthy, strong, confident and faith-filled women.

We are a 501-C (3) nonprofit and depend on the Lord's guidance prayer and contributions from donors like you. Will you help us in our ministry to these women? Attached please find testimonials from some of our recent graduates.

Feel free to contact me at 904-669-2387 or our Executive Director Debbie Morales at 904-460-3762 for additional information.

You may also send your donation,  
made payable to Women's Refuge of St. Johns County  
P.O. Box 1430, St. Augustine, FL 32085.

"The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. " - Psalm 34

Yours humbly in Christ,

Dennis W. Hollingsworth  
President  
**The Women's Refuge of St. Johns County**