



April 2020

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*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,  
let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds  
through Christ Jesus.  
~Philippians 4:6-7~*

Amidst this time of uncertainty and fear, The Women’s Refuge home is holding steadfast to the peace of God’s love displayed for us in Jesus Christ. When we fix our eyes on the truth of God’s sovereign rule and His love for us, **EVERYTHING** changes.

### *From the heart of a resident: Cathy*

A lifetime of depression, fear, feelings of worthlessness and shattered family relationships had finally pushed me to try to put myself into permanent darkness. I had no hope. However, God had other plans for me, and after my second attempt to end it all, I wound up here at The Women’s Refuge of St. Johns County. Seven months later, I find myself renewed and recharged - I have come to know Jesus personally. The One who always felt so distant from me is now my best friend. Being in His Word, the studies and the teachings here have transformed me. My family relationships are being restored. My beliefs, attitudes and desires are now connected to what God wants for/from me. I am forever grateful to this place for believing in me, for giving me the opportunity to know that no matter what, we have a HOPE and a FUTURE!

“God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light.  
God saw that the light was good.’”  
~Genesis 1:3~



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God *is* Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent – Nothing catches Him by surprise, and nothing escapes Him. He *always* has a plan, and His plans and ways are higher and greater than ours. (Isa 55:8-9) This truth offers peace amidst circumstances we do not understand. We may not have all our questions answered and things may not go according to our plan, but with God comes a peace that surpasses all understanding. Why? Because we KNOW... God *is* love (1 John 4:8), He *is* good (Psalm 34:8), He *is* Sovereign (Colossians 1:16–17) and nothing can take us out of His mighty hand (John 10:28-30).

He's the giver of LIFE. He changes the motives of the heart. He provides HOPE and strength, wisdom and guidance. He breaks chains in Jesus' name! He establishes our steps, and molds us into the person He created us to be (2 Cor 5:17). Praise God!



## *A Special Note from The Women's Refuge House manager*

As the house manager, I have the blessing of a unique perspective to witness God's hand in transforming the lives of these women and restoring damaged family relationships in the process. Weekdays are normally centered on structured assignments and counseling. Opportunities for recreation, family visits, phone privileges, and amusements are reserved for the weekends. Before the quarantine was in place, we enjoyed a Dinner and a Movie night with friends of the Refuge, featuring War Room! Last month, two ladies shared their testimonies: One at Celebrate Recovery, a weekly meeting we attend, and another with the Women's Quilting Ministry at Anastasia Baptist Church. We are so proud of them for courageously sharing painful details of their lives which can serve as a deterrent to some and a source of encouragement to others. The college career young men and ladies from Turning Point came out to the Refuge for an afternoon of painting and Spring yard sprucing. They did such a tremendous job and were so gracious to us, such a blessing! Once the quarantine is lifted, we plan to connect monthly with the college career group with the hope of fostering lasting relationships. As you can see, God is on the move at the Refuge and we give Him all the glory.

Thank you for all the prayers and support,

Kathleen (Cookie) Martin  
House Manager

The Women's Refuge home is undergoing a few adjustments considering the quarantine and safety of all, but the mission that God set before us in making disciples has not changed.



The ladies remain engrossed in God's Word, classes, and counseling during the week. They still participate in their Tuesday night Celebrate Recovery groups held through ZOOM! They love it. They get to join in worship, Bible study and discussion with their Celebrate Recovery family.

Most afternoons, the ladies are busy tending to the grounds. The TPAC College Career ALIVE ladies taught us their skills in arts and so we added a time for arts and crafts, painting canvases! Thank you ALIVE ladies! Our home has made some adjustments for sure, but the ladies are doing well and are continuing to grow in the Lord.

We ask if you will commit to praying for this ministry God has entrusted to us. Thank you for all your support and prayers. To God be the glory!

His Kingdom Come,

Debbie Morales  
Executive Director



**Turning Point at Calvary Church  
Sunday morning Drive-in ready!**