

S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

Refuge News

2nd Annual Golf Scramble

This year we had 79 participants. And with things like great silent auction items, generous hole sponsors and mulligan sales we were able to raise over double the amount of money as last year. We raised almost \$18,000 at this year's event! This money will be used to help so many women, trapped in the sex industry, find hope and a new way of life.

Thank you for participating and supporting this event. We already look forward to next year!



Did you know?

To date, Refuge for Women has helped **35 women** from **ten states**. Prior to opening its house, Refuge for Women provided assistance to seven women, one of whom became the first guest. Since July 2010, Refuge for Women has had 21 guests complete the program. Currently, there are seven guests. **Seventy-percent (70%)** of the guests have **not** returned to the sex industry and 63% have maintained sobriety. This year, Refuge for Women strengthened and further developed its programming with the goal of decreasing re-entry and helping all guests make a successful transition to a life out of the industry.

Refuge for
W o m e n

We believe in women.

Get Involved

Serve

Connect & Volunteer

Check out our website at refugeforwomen.org to get involved.

Give

Give a little, save a life

Partner with us \$20 a month and help us save more lives @ refugeforwomen.org

Pray

For our ministry

Join our prayer team by emailing prayer@refugeforwomen.org.

Congratulations Tanisha!



One of our former guests recently graduated from high school and

walked with her class! What a blessing it is to see all that God is doing in her life. To new beginnings and 2nd chances! Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow!!

Partner Spotlight - Thank You!

A Great Big THANK YOU to all the Mary Kay Representatives who participated in the fundraiser "30 Faces in 30 Days"! We appreciate each and every one of you! Praying that God blesses the fruit of your hands!

Current Needs:

- 2 economy transportation vehicles
- Commercial grade washer & dryer
- Corporate partners for employment opportunities for guests

Mistake...or Miracle?

Sitting with a friend the other day she made an odd comment that gripped my heart. She said that she had been a mistake from birth and that her mother had 3 children and she said they were all mistakes. I immediately replied, "God knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb, God never makes mistakes" and that she had been sent to earth for a plan and a purpose. So many of the women that come through the door of the Refuge for Women have come from many different backgrounds, but to sum each life up into a short description it would be easy to say that their lives have been hard. We have all made mistakes, but with the experiences I have had from such a wide spectrum of life situations, I have seen that so many of us start out our young lives with a handicap. It's as though we entered life in some kind of sporting event and we lost our first game by 65 points and we start the next game of our life with a 65 point deficit. The score just gets us deeper into a pit because we can never get caught up. This is where The Refuge for Women steps into the game of life and gives women an opportunity to heal, grow, break chains and soar into the next chapter of their lives. It is a hiding place God has given us through the generous donations of those who have partnered with the Refuge. Those whose hearts have compassion and a hope to see that God alone can do the miraculous in a woman's heart when they have a place like the Refuge to go, for God's word says; "He will surely give me shelter in the day of danger. He will hide me in HIS home, He will place me in an inaccessible rocky summit" Psalms 27:5 I would like to invite you to invest in a life by donating to the Refuge for Women. It is an investment into our culture that changes lives through the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. It is a place where you can encourage the poor, to help the broken hearted, to decree the release of the captives, and the freeing of prisoners, it gives you the opportunity to announce to each woman, "this is the year the Lord will show you His favor, the day when our God will seek vengeance" on our enemy. Isaiah 61. To God be the Glory, I have seen lives change and the process is beautiful, truly "He will bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor". Isaiah 61:3

Tracy Burleson, a Refuge Servant

Guest Spotlight - Frances

My name is Frances and I am a guest at the Refuge. I'm 45 years old and from Louisville, Kentucky. I am an only child raised by my grandmother. Growing up was an adventure to me because I was always looking for something to get into, whether it be good or bad. I had a lot of anger in me from 1st grade to adulthood, due to my mom not being around all the time while I was growing up, plus the physical abuse that I saw my mother go through. My life changed forever when a close relative sexually molested me.

I started fighting all the time, my grades in school were bad and my life was never the same. From the fights came sex as crazy as that may seem, but my world was crazy. From the sex came prostitution at age 15, and let's not forget the drugs and alcohol that started at age 11. By the time I was 18 I had been in and out of the court system, in and out of foster homes, group homes and state facilities because my mother said I was "beyond her control". My grandmother died when I was 15. I was out of control and did not know it or care. Life was one big party to me. My motto was "stay high till you die".

By the time I was 20 I was a full-blown alcoholic and didn't know it. I have three children that I couldn't slow down long enough to be a mother to. Alcohol and drugs drove me to become bitter, angry, selfish and lonely. Prostitution gave me a false sense of self worth, of being needed, wanted and desired. All I wanted was to be loved. My self worth was at an all time low.

I've been to prison two times so now it's hard for me to get a job but I got faith that God's got me on that one. I just got to hold on, on the days I feel like throwing in the towel, like today.



I did drugs for 34 years. I've been in and out of rehab since I was 26 years old. The difference I see and feel here at the Refuge for Women is LOVE, real genuine and pure LOVE for me. WOW that blows my mind that people can love so real and want me, yes me, to be the best I can be just takes my breath away.

I've been at the Refuge for Women since February 2012 and since that day my life has not been the same. Not all days are good, yet they are much better than the ones I left behind. I have goals today. I have dreams today. I have a life today. Thank you God and Thank you Refuge for Women.

A Letter from the Director

As we approach the end of our second year of doing Refuge for Women it is a good time to stop and reflect on what we have learned during this time. It has been an eventful 2 years. We have seen so many victories, we have seen lots of challenges, we have seen our hearts broken over some of the guests choices, and we have seen our desire to reach more and more guests increase. We have served 36 guests since the beginning of Refuge for Women. One of our staff members recently prepared a lengthy document on the industry and how we have done so far with the guests that have come out of the industry. Please email me at ked@refugeforwomen.org if you would like to see this document that was recently submitted for a local grant.

I have learned the pain that our guests have gone through is deeper than I would have imagined when we first began. Some of their pain is like looking into a cave and not being able to see the end of it. Each Thursday we have a class that deals with trauma from their past. They make it known to me each week how much they hate Thursdays because dealing with the pain seems like trying to climb an insurmountable wall at times. I remind them each week that it is only when we pull our hand away from the wound that the doctor can clean out the wound and stitch it up for healing to occur. The hurt and pain goes deep. Such a sad reminder that it is hurting women performing in this industry and that many Americans are supporting some of the nation's worst victims through their usage of pornography and attending strip clubs. The rapes and the childhood abuse have created such a clouded filter that they see themselves through and their beliefs get confirmed daily by men paying for sexual services. The pain is deep and we must stop inadvertently traumatizing them over and over again.

The depth of these needs confirm what I have known for a while and that is their need to connect with an all loving God. He is the one that is able to reach deep into their hearts and to free them from the guilt and shame of their past. He is the one that is able to help them forgive perpetrators who have done so much damage in their developmental years. I was recently reading about the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus wanted to show the crowds compassion while the disciples wanted to send them away to fend for themselves. The disciples were looking at the problem through human eyes and they saw no solution to the need. Jesus saw some fish and loaves and knew through supernatural methods that the crowd could be fed. Isn't that the daily challenge that all Christians face? Do I look at this situation in front of me through human eyes or through supernatural possibilities? I have realized I can do a lot for the guests we are serving but my efforts do not equal the needs our guests are bringing. They need supernatural appointments to take place and to free them from their past.

This supernatural encounter is exactly what took place last week with one of our guests. One of our guests was dealing with an extremely hurtful situation that took place several years back. We had been processing the event for several weeks with her to no avail. My program director and I were sitting with her while she covered her face from pain. We were looking at each other as if to convey I hope you know what to do right now because I am at a loss. We decided to pray an honest prayer that said, "God please give us direction right now because we are at a loss." While we sat there I got a text from another staff member who was in a different part of the city who had a random thought that it might be a good idea for this particular guest to connect with a lady who went through a similar situation. We arranged the appointment within 2 days. It was a God appointment and what this lady said to our guest set her free. I saw her on the following Monday and it looked like a fifty pound weight had been lifted from. Only God!!!!

We keep having things like this happen. There is more activity from the Spirit now then I think we have had since the ministry began. I could tell you story after story of dreams that keep happening, worship services where encounters are taking place, provision and more. I am realizing more and more the truth behind what Zechariah said when he stated, "Not by might nor by power but by my spirit says the Lord Almighty."

Please pray that we would continue to cooperate with God's activity in the guests' lives and that we would see more of His Kingdom here on Earth as it is up in Heaven. We are excited about the beginning of our third year and all that God has in store for more lives to encounter Him.

Blessings,
Ked Frank

Need to Contact Refuge for Women?
342 Waller Ave, Suite D, Lexington, KY 40503
www.refugeforwomen.org
859.254.0041