



REFUGE

A FREE METHODIST | SET FREE MINISTRY





THE NEED

Homeless women in Wichita do not have the opportunities for care and protection that homeless men in the area have. The residential services available to these women limit the length of stay to a maximum of 30 days, which is an insufficient amount of time for them to get back on their feet.

Women who are exiting domestic violence and prison also face deep emotional, physical, and social challenges. Some have nothing but a change of clothes. They are overwhelmed with finding a home, getting ID, seeking employment, accessing medication, and establishing a support system. This creates a vulnerability to exploitation.

840 females are in correctional facilities in Kansas as of 2017

60% of female state prisoners have a history of physical or sexual abuse

5,798 incidents of domestic violence were reported in Wichita in 2014

3,468 protection orders were filed in Sedgwick County in 2014 (this is much more per capita than the rest of Kansas)

274 cases of human trafficking have been reported in Kansas since 2007

88% of reported victims of trafficking in Kansas are female

WHO WE ARE

Refuge demonstrates God's love through intentional Christian community by addressing the hurts and needs of people before they encounter exploitation.



Refuge was founded in 2015 by **Kristen Marble** and **Linda Green** (pictured at left). During our first year, we spent most of our time networking with ministries and programs that help the less fortunate to identify the 'holes' in the community.

Upon learning about the lack of services for women who are homeless, re-integrating from incarceration, or exiting domestic violence, we decided to come alongside these groups of women with the vision to **prevent human trafficking and other abuses** in our community. In doing so, we seek:

- **To build strong partnerships in the community**
- **To transform broken relationships, situations, and systems to bring people to a place of wholeness**
- **To impact lives with the truth and hope of Jesus Christ**



We are birthed out of the **Set Free Movement**, an international non-profit organization that seeks to end slavery and create new futures through partnerships and community-based action. Set Free is a coaching and support system for teams—such as Refuge—in the US and around the world. They are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the Free Methodist Church USA. We are currently under their umbrella but plan to pursue our own charitable status.

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Honoring the uniqueness, value, and dignity of each individual person and identifying their giftedness
- Fostering cooperative partnerships and community-based action
- Being a relational ministry that focuses on walking with individuals, and working towards restoring broken relationships with self, others, creation and God
- Upholding Free Methodist roots of abolition and working towards preventing modern-day slavery and human trafficking
- Serving marginalized populations in downtown Wichita with an emphasis on women



OUR PARTNERS

Rivercrest Free Methodist Church

Operates our food pantry, provides office space, and houses homeless families quarterly through our partnership with Family Promise.

Northwest Free Methodist Church

Key partners in collecting food items, staffing our food pantry, and other projects.

The Set Free Movement

Provides coaching, funding, and connects us to an international network of abolitionists.

New Life Re-entry Program

Connects us to re-integrating women in need of spiritual development and other support.

Family Promise of Greater Wichita

Our partners in housing, feeding, and supporting homeless families.

Wichita Family Crisis Center

We work with the Crisis Center to meet the basic needs of women leaving domestic violence.

WHO WE SERVE

We build relationships with people who are in vulnerable situations, with a special emphasis on women who are:



HOMELESS



HUNGRY



**RE-ENTERING FROM
INCARCERATION**



UNEMPLOYED



**ESCAPING DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**





OUR PROJECTS



PURSE PROGRAM

We build relationships with women who are homeless, re-entering from incarceration, or leaving domestic violence, and gift them with a purse filled with toiletries and personal items. Working with three other agencies to distribute the purses, we have supported about 140 women since 2015.

As one woman who received a purse said, "For me that purse meant dignity. It is more than just the things in the purse - it's knowing someone cares about me and wants me to succeed."



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

We are in the early stages of identifying livelihood and skill development opportunities for the women in our program to build their confidence, generate income, and develop their employability, all of which reduces vulnerability to exploitation.



SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

We provide food, shelter, and support to homeless families on a quarterly basis through our partnership with Family Promise.



FOOD PANTRY

We've restructured our church's food bank so that recipients have the dignity of choosing their own items instead of receiving a pre-packaged bag. We serve 130-140 people each month, focusing on building relationships with them.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

We host a weekly Bible study for women at a halfway house, which is also a time to build relationships, support them emotionally, and offer practical help, such as driving them to appointments.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

> PRAY

Please pray for those who are marginalized in downtown Wichita. Pray for our team to grow and strengthen so that we can better serve vulnerable groups, for the right connections and funding sources,

> GIVE

We are always in need of funds and donated materials. To find out our current needs, please contact Linda Green at wichitarefuge@gmail.com. Checks can be written to "Rivercrest Free Methodist Church" with "Refuge" in the memo line and sent to: **Rivercrest Free Methodist Church, 136 North Emporia, Wichita KS, 67202.**

> VOLUNTEER

If you're in the Wichita area and would like to join our team, please contact us at the email address above. Please also contact us if you're interested in sending a work group to Refuge to help with renovations and other projects.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**