



## Dana's Testimony

"I first heard about the House of Hope on WDJC, a local Christian radio station. Martha was chosen to be on their Wednesday's "A Call to Prayer." At the end of every show each guest, usually 3 a week, tells about what ministry they are involved in. As Martha began to speak my heart was beating so fast. Could this really be real, I thought to myself. A Christian organization that provides love, support and healing for women, It sounded too good to be true. The most shocking information was that it was free. I jotted down the website and began my investigating. This is exactly what I had needed, being a single mom of 2 small children and recently divorced from a 6year long controlling and mentally abusive marriage. I could not afford a professional and I didn't have insurance. Now all I had to do was get the courage up to make that phone call for an appointment.

After I heard of the House of Hope it took me over a month to actually go there personally. Within that month I had looked at the website every day. If I remember right I submitted a prayer request first. I then made an appointment but I didn't keep it. The spirit of fear took over. I then started e-mailing Martha asking questions. Every time I emailed her she responded promptly. Each email was full of love, encouragement, and scripture. It truly amazed me. I finally was getting to the point to where I could go to the House of Hope in person.

When I came to the House of Hope I felt worthless, unlovable, rejected, depressed and even suicidal at times. I hated my life. I felt like I was a failure and my life was meant to be full of misery as long as I lived because until this moment my entire life was just that. I grew up in a home filled with physical, sexual and mental abuse. I always believed in God but yet I did not believe God could do for me what he had done for others. Because of the things in my past I was full of unforgiveness, bitterness and self hatred. Unfortunately, I was even angry at God for allowing me to go through all of this alone, or so I felt. I had been taking 2 pills a day just to get me from day to day. One pill was to wake me up every morning without being depressed or having nonstop panic attacks. The other pill was to help me sleep. But even the pills could not help me. I was still having sleepless nights and battles with depression.

Since I have been at the House of Hope I have quit taking my depression/anxiety medicine. I have not had a panic attack in over a month. I have forgiven God, myself and others. I have learned life lessons as to how to handle different situations that have risen in my life. I have become a better mother. I pay attention to the needs of my children more. I also give them more affection. Before I really didn't know how to love or be loved. I am a better Christian. I have learned what the Bible says about who I am in Christ and how important I am to Jesus. I have this hunger and thirst that I cannot explain to read my Bible and pray. The House of Hope has given me 2 devotionals that are AWESOME and helping me along this journey. The one change that I like most is how I have learned to love Jesus and allow him to love me back through the angels he has sent to me at The House of Hope.

To wrap all this up, since coming to the House of Hope my ENTIRE outlook on life has changed. My favorite scripture now is Jeremiah 29:11. I now have a "HOPE" for tomorrow. I have started back to school and could have never done that without the love, support and prayers of everyone at the House of Hope. So thank you to EVERYONE!! I will never forget what a blessing you have been to me. I am now very excited to see what God has in store for me and my children both physically and spiritually."