



Local mother celebrates seven years of love and redemption on Mother’s Day

By Seth Gatewood
Special to The Press

Angelia Wakefield, a resident of Martin and a former drug addict, celebrates Mother’s Day as a reminder of God giving her a second chance at life and being a mother again.

Ms. Wakefield was born and raised in the small community of Drummonds and had her first child at the tender age of 15. At 18, she had her second child and married the child’s father shortly afterward. It wasn’t the easiest life, and she and her husband had to work hard every week to earn enough for themselves and their children. However, on the weekends, she and her husband could rest from their labors. On those days, Ms. Wakefield would occasionally have a drink or two and, perhaps, take a puff of her husband’s joint. She confessed, “I never really liked pot or alcohol. I wasn’t ever in any real danger of being addicted to it. I wasn’t really in danger of being addicted to any kind of drug. I was a homebody. I was a good girl. I never went to any parties. I never did any of those things.”

But on one fateful weekend, everything changed. Her husband brought home a joint laced with cocaine, and, not knowing exactly what was in it, she took a puff. One puff, and Ms. Wakefield was hooked. She remained addicted for the next 25 years or so, taking a severe toll on her life and her relationship with her family.

“I took pride in taking care of my family,” she said. “It was always one of my dreams to have a family of my own. But when I started on the drugs, my life at home started to slip away.”

Eventually, she ended up divorcing her husband. He left town and took her two oldest children with him because she could not care for them. She arrived in a very dark place in her life, where if Ms. Wakefield felt big and bad and bold enough to do something, she would do it. She stayed in this dark place for many years until God helped put her back on the right path on one particular night.

“One night, I had a whole table full of cocaine. I had started smoking it in the evening, and it was now four o’clock in the morning, and I still had a bunch of crack left. And I



was sitting there thinking, ‘What will I do with all this dope?’ Then, all of a sudden, every single thing I ever done came before me. I couldn’t stop thinking, oh my God! Look at everything I have done; look at everything I lost. I lost vehicles, a house and time with my kids. I lost everything for these drugs. At that moment, I was so tired of my life that I realized I didn’t want to do this anymore. So I cried out to God from my heart and said, ‘God, I’m so tired. Please take this desire away from me.’”

After that night, things started to change for the better. Ms. Wakefield, wanting to have a fresh start, decided to move to Martin, where her oldest daughter was studying at the university. She applied for an apartment in Martin, and within the next day, her application was successfully reviewed and accepted. She moved to Martin with nothing more than a broken bed, three outfits, \$25 in cash and a 16-inch TV. Within a week, she had clothes, food, furniture, towels and more from We-Care Ministries. God was giving her back everything she had lost and more.

At first, her children stayed away from her, but when they saw she was for real, they came back into her life and were there for her. Her daughters told her, “Whatever you want to do with your life we will support you. We love you unconditionally. We just want you to stay off the dope and have our mama back.” So, that’s what she did. Ms. Wakefield has been drug-free for seven years and has received continued love and support from her family and her kids.

“Mother’s Day means everything to me and my kids. Every day they lift me up and show me they are grateful to have me back. My grandchildren show me love. Everyone is so proud of me,” she said.

Ms. Wakefield encourages other struggling mothers to try to stop do-

ing drugs. She wants them to know there is a God in heaven who will give them strength and courage to help them get through that long and challenging process.

Residents who are struggling with drug addiction or may know someone with a drug addiction are encouraged to call 800-662-4357 or visit the local drug rehab center. It’s not too late to make things right.

Editor’s note: Seth Gatewood of Martin is a freelance reporter.

Surprise your mom this year!

- Are you all out of Mother’s Day gift ideas? Do you want to give your mom something unique that’s different from what you’ve given her in the past? Here are a few original gift ideas to inspire you.
- UNIQUE FLOWERS**
Flower bouquets are old news. Instead, why not book a timeslot at a local garden and pick a bouquet of tulips together? If your mom prefers at-home activities, get her a flower bouquet in the form of a craft project, like paint by numbers or origami. For a more classic option, consider an everlasting rose that will stay beautiful for years to come.
 - PERSONALIZED ITEM**
Pick out your best family photos and have them printed on an attractive, fun or practical object. Mugs, t-shirts, blankets, puzzles, pillows, drink coasters and bookmarks are some of the many possibilities.
 - LOCAL PRODUCTS**
Create a gift box filled with local products, like handmade soaps, craft beers, cured meats, spirits, body lotion, jams, clothing, candles or anything else you think your mom might like. It’ll give you a chance to make new local discoveries.
 - ACCESSORIES OR BEAUTY PRODUCTS**
Upgrade your mother’s hair dryer or flat iron to a more powerful model, or gift her personalized products based on her age and skincare needs. For example, collagen facial oil, lip care, brightening serum, foot cream, perfume and makeup are great options.
- Visit the stores and boutiques near you to find a gift to surprise and delight your mom.**



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4 fun Mother’s Day activities

- Do you want to organize a special, fun activity this Mother’s Day to create unforgettable memories? Take inspiration from these four ideas.
- 1. Recreate a special moment**
Think of an activity you and your mom did together in the past that brought you joy. See if you can recreate it to bring back happy memories and create new ones.
 - 2. Treat mom to dinner and a show**
If you know your mom’s tastes, buy tickets to a concert, theater show or comedy act. Combine the experience with a meal at a restaurant to make it even more special.
 - 3. Unwind at a spa**
A trip to the spa is a great way to relax and take a break from the daily grind. Extend the relaxation by booking an overnight stay at a hotel.
 - 4. Go on an outdoor adventure**
If the weather permits, take the family on a hike in the great outdoors. Slow down and enjoy the scenery and fresh air. Don’t forget to pack snacks! Need a change of pace? Go somewhere you’ve never been before.
- There’s no shortage of activities to celebrate Mother’s Day! For example, you could go on a bike ride, arrange a photo shoot or attend a cooking class. Discover what’s available in your area.

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