Hello,

My name is Gail. I was raised middle class by much older than average parents. My mother was in her 40’s when she had me. She had already raised 8 children before me and died when I was 19. Looking back, I can see that I had a good life with my parents for the most part. The hard part was dealing with my physically and emotionally abusive brothers that hid everything very well. The abuse that I survived in my younger years formed what happened in my teen years.

At the age of 19, I found myself pregnant and trapped in a physically and emotionally abusive relationship. He had threatened to kill me and later to take my daughter from me if I ever tried to leave him. The drugs and parties were an everyday norm. We lived wherever we could, and I tried to keep my daughter fed and clothed the best I could. The food banks and the soup kitchen help. They helped me with formula, diapers and anything else they could.

Then came the day I discovered I was pregnant again. Ten days later he came home drunk and tried to abuse our 7-month old. I ran the next day while he was gone and showed up at the door of my present husband’s house. His mom welcomed my daughter and me with open arms and sheltered us. Eleven months later in 1986 Richard and I were married at the age of 21, with a 17- month old and a 3- month old that were not his. But he chose to love and raise them as if they were. I can’t imagine what would have happened without Richard and his mom and their love for my girls.

All that happened over 32 years ago, and we moved to Florida, raised 3 wonderful children together. I went to college to become a Registered Nurse. Richard started his own business and we now have 8 grandchildren. Periodically over those years we have helped other women in similar situations the best we could but have always desired to be more involved. This is where Lorraine comes in. Samaritan Ministries is exactly what I have always desired to be involved with. Sometimes I need a huge shove from God to move with Him. So, when Richard and I discussed becoming involved with Samaritan Ministries there really wasn’t any hesitation. God has us right where he wants us to be at this time, and we are looking forward to our time together in this ministry.

Gail Dake

Board Member