



# Counsel, Retreat and Resources for Law Enforcement Officers

By Linnette Rochelle

**R**yanne Caldwell sat next to her husband, Kevin, in church one Spring Sunday morning in 2017 and sensed his movement. She glanced over to see him writing furiously. It would not have seemed odd except Kevin rarely took notes. Yet here he sat, writing throughout the remainder of the service. Afterward, they climbed into the car, fastened their seatbelts and headed home. Still, Kevin said nothing.

Casting glances at his thoughtful expression, Ryanne finally said, "What happened in church? I didn't get the memo." Kevin glanced at her and said, "I think I got a calling. I think we need to do something to assist law enforcement. Something with mental health, but I'm not sure..." Ideas swam in his head, forming a haze he could not quite see through. Together, they prayed for

God's direction and clarity. As two of South Carolina's law enforcement officers, they have intimate knowledge of officer needs. Should they go back to school to become licensed professional counselors? Neither could see their way clear to that path.

One fall day in 2017, Kevin grabbed paper and pencil as Nahum 1:7 ran through his head. "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble; he cares for those who trust in him (NIV)." His hands moved to sketch a map of a 10 acre lake with a house on one side, a lodge on the other side, and cabins scattered around the lake. Ideas continued to play through his mind as he prayed for clarity. Kevin called Ryanne on a hot summer day a year later and said, "Write this down. Haven." "What? Haven? What do you mean," she said. "Write it down. That's the name. The Haven," Kevin said.

In January 2020, Ryanne and Kevin finally decided it was time to meet with Pastor Jeff. This would be the first time to discuss The Haven with anyone. With such a major life-altering venture, they needed counsel to determine whether this was truly a calling from God. Pastor Jeff continued to pray with them for direction when Spring 2020 rolled around, bringing with it tragedies and trauma for police officers like never before. Headline after headline of officers being ambushed and officers committing suicide sharpened Kevin's vision.

One Saturday in October 2020, the Caldwells took a family trip to the mountains with Kevin's parents, Marilyn and Roger. Though they had not planned to do so, Kevin shared with Roger in one vehicle while Ryanne shared with Marilyn in the other. When they arrived back at his parents' home, they discussed ideas about the resources they wanted to provide for officers and their families. The following Wednesday, Marilyn called Kevin to inform him that she had found the property. Thursday, Kevin and Ryanne called the owners and shared their story. Upon hearing the Caldwell's story, Danny and April simply said, "We've been praying for the right buyers." Sunday, Kevin and Ryanne made a trip out to see the property.