

bringing-truth-to-light-confronting-coping-with-family-sexua...

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SPEAKERS

Jennifer Malcolm, Madonna Savage-Philips

J Jennifer Malcolm 00:10
Calling all women who are curious and called to be women warriors are rising in this day and age to heal and grow together. I'm your host, Jennifer Malcolm, self made entrepreneur, women advocate and life balance expert. Welcome to the next episode of the Jennasis Speaks podcast The Transformative Power of Women's Stories where every woman has a story and every story matters. And yes, if you're listening, that means you ladies, the ones that are you are questioning that means you you matter and your story matters. And that's what this community is all about. Today, I have with me a friend, I don't even know how long we've known each other. I'm gonna say close to 30 years, 2530 years, I believe. Madonna Phillips is here with us today. So welcome, my friend.

M Madonna Savage-Philips 00:55
Thank you. Thank you Good. Glad to be here.

J Jennifer Malcolm 00:57
You are beaming. So I can't wait to just showcase and get into your story. But I have a little bio to read just to share with the audience about who you are. And then we'll get ready to rock and roll.

M Madonna Savage-Philips 01:09
Okay.

J Jennifer Malcolm 01:09
Alrighty. So Madonna is a registered dental hygienist and has been in the dental field for 37 years. She has two beautiful daughters. I'm putting the beautiful in there because they are stunning. Madison, who's 25 and Riley who's almost 21. But Madonna says being a mom is the best and the hardest thing she's ever done. She's passionate about helping women and children escape from and heal from human sex trafficking. She is a mentor through rehab ministries in the Akron Canton area, which helps children who are vulnerable to human trafficking or who have been victimized by human trafficking. She also does outreach to strip clubs as part of our work with rehab ministries. Welcome, Madonna.

M Madonna Savage-Philips 01:55
Thank you. Thank you for having me.

J Jennifer Malcolm 01:56
You are so welcome. And it's so exciting because we got reconnected less I think December after my date rape podcast came out. And we just picked up where we left off probably 10 years ago, right after my divorce, and after me cried and we hugged and the hours just flew by. And we had so much more to share and talk about but was very grateful that through the sharing of my story that our friendship was rekindled?

M Madonna Savage-Philips 02:27
Yes, absolutely. It struck me in the heart. And I just want I sent you a message saying I heard you. I heard you, I hear you. And thanks for sharing your story.

J Jennifer Malcolm 02:38
You are most welcome. And for those of you who are listening and caring the theme through April, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. And we've been very purposeful to put together different women's stories that are about sexual abuse and trauma. And Madonna over that lunch in December shared some of her personal history and part of her story. And so I asked her if she would be willing to share this part of her story in life

with you all today. And she would readily open arms said yes. So I really appreciate your humility, your courage, your strength, the process of your pain, but even more so the beauty of the healing and freedom walk in now. And that's the whole point of showcasing these stories is to showcase the healing, and the freedom and the joy and the life that comes through the sharing of the stories. So I'm excited for such a time as this, that the time is this. So you have so many different layers to your story. And I know yours actually goes back to childhood. And we're gonna just start there where you feel is the best introduction to what you walk through as a young little girl.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 03:54

Well, first of all, I came out when I was an adult, because as a child, I really thought that I was the only one in my family that was sexually abused by my dad. And even I even at 18 he said to me, you know, my older sister was no longer my favorite. She used to be my favorite. Now you are and I remember taking that is such an honor place out of 13 like, Oh, thank you. I mean the sexual abuse stopped about seven years old. So it was still something important to me that I was his favorite. Out of 13 for just fixed point of view but perspective but it was important to me that I was so special.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 04:43

What age order are you in?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 04:45

I'm number 10 and all of us girls were our little necklaces around our neck with our numbers on them.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 04:52

That's awesome. So number 10. So that might get feel like you're getting lost in the shuffle and so to have that acknowledgement from your dad. Yeah, I saw one, I'm sure. Even through going through what you did as a young age made you feel special.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 05:07

Yeah. And part of that being part of 10 is my, where I came in that order was one after there was four girls than five boys in a row. And then I was the first girl after those slides, I held a very special place in the older ones, the nine above me, they talk about it all the time. There were so glad the boys were so glad to have a little sister. And so there was this,

higher this special place that I had. And then later when it came to telling the truth about the sexual abuse, I was afraid to because I knew that my position, my special place, would fall, but took that risk. Anyway.



Jennifer Malcolm 05:48

So what made you start talking about or sharing your story as an adult?



Madonna Savage-Philips 05:53

Well, my sister Jennifer called me one day, and I was already married, and started telling me something about her story as a child. And it married exactly the same. And we were finishing each other's sentences. She gave me permission to use her name, by the way. She would say something, and I would finish it, I would say something and she would finish it. And we were then we just started to cry and weep and, and moan and groan and are just sharing the burden together, I was kind of glad that there was someone else because then that we could share and someone would know, instead, I wouldn't have to just carry it around. So that's how it initially came out. exploded. It's never anything that went away, or just a memory that came up. It just is something that I was told to be quiet. So I did. And it just was natural to me just to be quiet. I was naturally very quiet and shy as a child. So it was just carried on to that I'm not shy and quiet anymore. Like today. Family Here we go.



Jennifer Malcolm 07:09

Bold and strong now. And it's interesting because the other women that have been showcased in April for their stories, all of its different, some have vivid memories. Some came back as an adult that they didn't have any memories, and then flashes of of imageries and pictures came back. But you remember, but just stayed silent. To keep the shame and the pain.



Madonna Savage-Philips 07:37

Oh, yeah. Rejection was my number one reason for not saying it. I did not want to go there with rejection didn't want to rejection was the number one fear. Yeah, I lived in fear.



Jennifer Malcolm 07:51

Wow. And it's amazing that your sister unlocking her voice helped you unlock your voice

M Madonna Savage-Philips 07:57
Number 13. Number 13 helped me unlock my voice.

J Jennifer Malcolm 08:02
What a gift. And I'm sad that that happened to both of you. But it is a gift that her courageousness or her willingness to be vulnerable with you was a piece in the tip- tipping line to get you to heal and to grow and to be a warrior.

M Madonna Savage-Philips 08:21
Yes.

J Jennifer Malcolm 08:22
Warrior advocate now. So as you and your sister talk this through, and you can finish each other's sentences. And and you were finding that, hey, there is solace in you know, someone else having a shared experience? Where did it go from there after the two of you connected?

M Madonna Savage-Philips 08:38
Well, we decided we were going to call my older brother. And we were going to talk about it with him. And in that conversation, he ended up calling us while we were talking. So we joined in a three way call and started talking about it, then we rallied my oldest sister number one, and ended up having conversations and talking it out. And then I decided that we should go to my mom and dad and go sit down with them and have a talk. Let's do this. Let's get it out in the open and we'll heal and that's just the way I am I have something in my head and I'm ready to go and feel the gut and they denied everything. They denied everything.

J Jennifer Malcolm 09:19
I'm so sorry.

M Madonna Savage-Philips 09:19
That was hurtful. And to me that was the worse out of being sexually abused and rejected by the family was harder for me.

- J** Jennifer Malcolm 09:31
Yeah.
- M** Madonna Savage-Philips 09:32
I don't quite understand all that. But it was harder the rejection was harder than then the sexual abuse.
- J** Jennifer Malcolm 09:40
And so you have you and your sister saying the same story. So you know it's not made up when you have...
- M** Madonna Savage-Philips 09:47
And my brother also had the same story. So just a little different, and more my mom than my dad. So but both he was one of the few siblings who were both
- J** Jennifer Malcolm 09:57
Wow. So you all have similar stories and your parents are sitting there with you guys all saying that's not true.
- M** Madonna Savage-Philips 10:05
Correct. And their bodies convulsing as they were. It's hard to explain that via this podcast, but their bodies were actually convulsing my dad's muscles and body was just roll, I could see it visually rolling. And my mom began to hit herself and denying it why she was hitting ourselves. Yeah.
- J** Jennifer Malcolm 10:30
And, and was it. And I know that odd or weird question. Was it something that both your mom and dad knew that the other was doing as well? Or was it pretty siloed. And it just happened to be very...
- M** Madonna Savage-Philips 10:45
I believe it was that they knew my mom pretty much handed us over to my dad. And I

remember her always coming to the stairs, and saying that's enough. That's enough. That's enough. And then I remember a final time. Okay, that's it no more. And then it was stopped at seven, about seven.

J Jennifer Malcolm 11:07

But your youngest just experienced it after that age. After your abuse stopped?

M Madonna Savage-Philips 11:13

Well, because usually, I always explain I don't know what this is. But I said he just went on to the next person.

J Jennifer Malcolm 11:21

I'm so sorry. So what did you you have your parents denying you have the confrontation? Or they let's bring this to the open and target through? So after that situation? How Where did you guys go from there?

M Madonna Savage-Philips 11:36

Well, I suggested we go to counseling. And I let them pick, I said that we could pick whoever they wanted, because so they feel like who we picked was going to attack them. And they didn't want to. And my mom's line was always Time will heal all wounds, which is true to some things, but not speaking about it wasn't going to heal it. So it was a next 10 years before we spoke again.

J Jennifer Malcolm 12:04

Wow.

M Madonna Savage-Philips 12:05

Yeah. And we didn't get invited to weddings and stuff go away. I had a brother call me and say that I had to ask for forgiveness. If I was to attend the wedding, to ask my mom and dad forgiveness, and I said, I can't do that. We can't do that I forgive I mean, I'm sorry for hurting them. But I can't. It's the truth. Can't...

J

Jennifer Malcolm 12:28

And it wasn't about their hurt feelings even. Even like it's not about that. It's about the abuse and the lying and the you know, keeping that all a secret.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 12:38

It was all a training and a brainwashing. I think of just over the years of all of us being able to sweep things under the carpet and just keep going because I did for many years, we just keep going, you know.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 12:48

Were you get so like perception of your family, like from your community around? Was it that you guys are one big happy family or where you can't?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 12:56

Yes, yeah, absolutely. And we were in a way because we always say now that my parents are deceased. We're so grateful that we have each other and all of us in this thought we were just very involved. My parents in the Catholic Church and my dad later became a deacon in the Catholic Church. So we could do no wrong. We were kids. Most of us were very well behaved. We were afraid to misbehave. To be honest...

J

Jennifer Malcolm 13:27

Sure. The time though that they've you stopped to there's 20 years ish of you keeping your mouth shut you being site, you've been very afraid of rejection. You keeping the secret to yourself? How are you coping through that? Were you just a high functioning person and compartmentalised? Or did you? Was it coming out sideways in ways that you've kind of had to keep grabbing?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 13:54

Well, I guess it's whose perspective is looking at me. I think, um, I definitely was very structured during the week. So and then Friday, I let loose. That was when I went drinking, danced, and in my own world, I didn't need anybody around me. I just was free and free to maybe numb, numbing. And I also could be joyful. When I was drinking in the fear wasn't there. So it brought out in the inhibition. Yeah, stifled little girl. I was out the real what I felt the true self inside of me that I was afraid to bring out I could bring out.



Jennifer Malcolm 14:44

It's amazing because we all cope in different ways. And I think mine You know, through the years has been anger you know, that all sudden, I go from zero to 100 you know, night and day, triggered by just words. Especially words have triggered me where, you know, it's a pain point. And, you know, or it comes out sideways through overdoing this or overdoing that, but I've hurt metalized too, and, and I am a high funktioner. And so that piece of just are if I focus in on work, if I focus in on this project, I can put all my energy into it. And I do believe that that's a safety mechanism, it's a way for us to cope. And it's a way for us to target something, ultimately, it's not good for us because we don't get to the root issue or the root wound to actually allow it to heal. And it can be an avoidance, you know, tactic as well, but we can't wallow in our hurt or the pain that that we've caused ourselves or others. So I'm just curious, like how and for you, you know, to be able to go structure, structure, structure structure Friday night, let's have fun. I had a blast, by the way.



Madonna Savage-Philips 15:57

But um, I was very, you know, I guess it was just control, right, controlling my environment, controlling what I control, and then control and then give myself permission to be out of control.



Jennifer Malcolm 16:10

To be out of control. But within you controlling the out of control, like yes, self regulating, you're still putting, you're in charge of that moment of that space. And I shared last week, on the first podcast on this month, in in a book that I read that control is one perfectionism and control people who have been sexually abused. That that is a trait that we carry that you know, I'm in charge, because if I'm in charge, I keep myself safe. Even if I push the limits on drugs, alcohol, whatever that is, you push those limits, but it's me choosing to partake in those things versus it being put upon us.



Madonna Savage-Philips 16:51

And in control to let you know that I'm not dumb, and I you are not going to take advantage of me and you will not abuse me I No one's going to treat me that way again, that that whole feeling stupid, right? That I somehow if I wasn't that I was smarter, or if I was, you know, more bold or courageous, it wouldn't have happened.



Jennifer Malcolm 17:14

And it's that victim mentality that lies that start of, well, I knew better, or I should have done or all that stuff. And if you're listening, it's just lie upon lie upon lie upon lie. That brings us into isolation, that brings us into not being willing to heal or be vulnerable. And if you're if any of this as we're sharing these pockets and pieces of Madonna's story is resonating with you, or you know, some of this would resonate with, that's the important piece is to break the lies to break the silence, and to uncover an ugly wound that has been festering in so many of our souls for so long, and allowing that to be healed, and two will have the scars will carry the scars with us. But they become scars that are weapons versus ones that are upon us. Absolutely. Absolutely. How was your heart response, as you learned of other siblings, that were also abused.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 18:15

There's this oh thank God, I'm not the only one Oh, but Oh, but you had to be abused to be that. So totally wanting to envelop them and wrap them up and protect them and love on them. And just recently, some of those stories came out. I think this past Thanksgiving, other siblings, mostly the boys who've never been a part of this, mostly it's been about the girls, and the boys admitting to some things. And then it's passing down to one of the nephews who actually led the whole conversation and came forward and we I never heard our family weep and groan so deeply because we thought we saved all of the grandkids.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 19:00

Wow.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 19:02

So but it was healing. It was healing. I had that's a whole nother story. But we did a Thanksgiving.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 19:09

We shared that you shared some of that with me at our lunch and I had goosebumps, like it was so powerful. And that's a piece of you know, breaking that that cycle breaking the the abuse cycle because often, you know, the data shows that have abused people become abusers. And so I appreciate your guys's tenacity for the next generation and to protect the next generation and to educate the next generation. How, how is that generation the grandkids generation? How are they coping dealing? Are they curious, angry?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 19:47

Well, that's what came out of Thanksgiving is that one of my brothers was leading the conversation and he just said that I think that you guys should be able to ask us your aunts and uncles at the table. Anything you want. And it went straight to that. So obviously what we thought we were keeping some some of the stuff. I did not keep it for my children. But some of the siblings hadn't really discussed it with their children. And obviously they knew enough. And they just started asking questions about our childhood and it led to the sexual abuse conflict, the conversation lead there. They wept the hardest, they wept. It was amazing to watch. But they they weren't able to ask us any question. Why one bursted out in anger come severe anger, throwing things in chairs, and I was so asked why we didn't protect them. And then one of the nieces and nephews asked, Why are you are the only one that told your children? Why are they the only ones that know? And I just said, Well, I wanted to protect them. I wanted them to never be left in a room alone with grandma and grandpa. I wanted to educate them. And they were never afraid. I just would say, when we're at family reunions, when we started getting back together after that 10 years of silence. If we're in a room, and it's just you and Grandma and Grandpa, I need you to turn around calmly and walk out and go find me or you're dead.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 21:17

Yeah.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 21:18

But it wasn't anything, you know, a ton of information else a bit. But as they asked me, I answered.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 21:29

And that's the beauty of truth. And I know we say the truth sets, you free it, because it really, it's scary. It is so scary. Because your body shakes, you feel it all in you and body and your soul. And your spirit is wanting that truth. Because it is it's called to be out. It's called to be to, you know, out in the light. And it's so scary, though. And I honor that courage to educate your girls at a young age, even at the level of simplicity. You know, he alone, right? Doesn't have to go beyond that. And if you are call from your or your dad and you know, get out of the situation and your courage to answer, honestly, hard questions.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 22:13

Yeah, one of the hardest things I had to do was when my dad came and my mom came back into my life, to and the girls were very young, I asked my dad to hear that I told my dad that he could never put the kids upon his lap. He could not he could hug them in my presence. But he could not hold them or be in a room alone with them. And that, and then anytime, Baba, I left the room, we would warn the other one to stay in the room. We never left the room.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 22:49

So how was that reunion back with your parents? Did they ever acknowledge the abuse? Or was it just that you're with your mom's mantra Time heals all wounds? And just you know, we're not going to discuss that part of our lives?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 23:01

Correct. You're just going to move on here. You know, I asked them to come meet me, you know, meet my girls. And then we just started being allowed to come to things. That's it. That's the way it rolls.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 23:13

Well, what was the courage piece in you that gave that invitation to them? Or had that been an invitation along the way to invite to come and see your girls? Or was there something that at some point, you just said, you know what? I'm healing and protecting? And the relationship is important as well.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 23:31

Yeah, you know what I actually cannot remember right now, when that actually happened. But there was some conversation and I'm being invited to something and then all my parents it was it? Well, I know what it is. My parents moving back from Michigan to Cleveland, okay, they moved to get away from from possible, you know, things that might get around because we brought it out in the open, I think they thought that we were going to spread it all over the place, which we didn't write in. So my dad was a deacon at the church. So he wanted to get away from there. So they retired quickly. And then then they decided to come back after 10 years moved back to Cleveland. And somehow the conversation started. Because and then it was funny, because everyone in Cleveland who, you know, they brought the secret out, ended up being their strongest copy, you know, helpers of moving and healthcare and everything else towards the end of their lives.



Jennifer Malcolm 24:34

Did you I know your parents who said earlier that you both your parents have passed now. Did you ever get any acknowledgement of the abuse?



Madonna Savage-Philips 24:41

No, I was just discussing this with my sister before I got on here. And I said, You know, I was thinking, you know, they never admitted and that was our biggest anger. That was where my anger came that you know, you didn't have the courage you weaklings, you know. But there came a point of my forgiving it really, I asked God to help me because I couldn't do that on my own. But I remember my dad on his deathbed kind of mentioning things and trying wishy washy, but it was never clear. I just told him that I forgave them right there a couple hours before he died, that it's okay. And he's like, I don't know what else to do, then he died with that. But my mom, on the other hand, came close to times of really spilling the beans and another sibling actually stopped it from happening, she didn't want. So again, but we do know my mom was my mom made the comment that my dad should be in jail and not the brother who's in jail. And then she kind of really couldn't get anything further. But also my oldest, one of my older sisters brought my mom to counseling because my mom requested it. And that was probably a year before she died. She ended up having my sister speak for her to the council, because she couldn't say it out of her own mouth about some of the things that happen. And shortly after that, she had a mental break. And that was the end of that. But to me, that was her way of trying to say, Okay, I know it did. So and that was enough. For me, it was enough for me.



Jennifer Malcolm 26:21

Well and I think it's important because I just had this conversation recently about forgiveness. And I don't want to just skip over that piece. That you were able to say that to your dad. And, and this is my interpretation of forgiveness, or how I view it, that my emotions may be over here. And forgiveness is a choice and a will. And I choose to forgive and I choose to release and unhook, you know that those those hook between me and a person, but it may take a long ass time for my emotion. Catch up with my will because I choose to forgive, but it still hurts. It's not a magic one that you flip the switch and all the pain goes away. But how did you deal with forgiveness? Because, you know, seeing your dad passing like there's closure there like he's not coming back. You're not gonna hear those words, you choosing to forgive them? How did you process your forgiveness?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 27:19

So first of all, I thought this was weird over the years, but I was more angry at my mom. And we were all the girls were always very forgiving of her dad and you know, very gentle with him, but very harsh with my mom. And I don't know if I thought about that later that it comes from and seeing a counselor that it probably came from that she allowed it. She didn't protect us. And I couldn't stand my mom, I might was raised mostly by my sisters. I don't have a recollection of my mom until I was about six years old. She was rough and her discipline. She did some beating with x. That's a that's another Jedi of the story but very physically abusive, especially to the girls. And I remember thinking close to her dying probably six months or so before she died asking God please help me love this woman the way you love her. And I couldn't hug her whenever I hugged her I would cringe. And behind her back, I would have to actually cringe my face. Like skin touching her I couldn't stand. I couldn't stand her. I wish her dead many times. as even as a kid and a teenager, not even a bad teenager. You know, it wasn't just teenage years, I just even as a child just I wish she would go away at all. Oftentimes, she would go away for days at a time, just get in the car and drive away and we loved it. But one day, I grabbed ahold of her. And I felt an extreme amount of love. And I wrapped my arms around her and I was like, okay, he did it. I asked him to do that for me. And it did and it never turned back and I just grabbed ahold of her and I said I love you mom. I forgave her at that moment.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 29:10

And it's amazing when you put things out in the atmosphere, your choices and your decision or desire to heal. How, how God and whoever you pray to whatever higher power that you pray to that you are met, you are met and in that vacuum is is filled with compassion and love that you couldn't understand or forgiveness that wasn't there before. And what a beautiful story and testimony of your choice to want to love or don't want to forgive and your emotions catching up with your will.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 29:50

Yes, yes. It is a long night it nothing goes quick. You know it's a slow process, but it was all worth it

J

Jennifer Malcolm 29:58

And healing takes time, healing, you know, time does heal all wounds, fine, we'll go We'll go with your mom's mantra does heal. But it does take time, it is not a I choose to forgive, and therefore I'm okay or I choose, and it all goes away. And if you're listening to this, and

it's resonating because of a story, that you maybe you've been abused, or maybe you know, some that it's been abused that piece that it, it's going to, you're going to wake up one point and not remember. And then you're going to acknowledge that day have I went through this entire day without remembering my assault or remembering my abuse. And then you'll realize, you know, a couple years later, or a couple months later that you went a week without thinking about it, or you might without thinking about it. And that is where time does heal. Now talking, you know, Madonna and I, when we met in December, we both had tears like, it's still there's still wounds, there's still it's still ouchie it's not 100%. And I think that's part of the compassion, the empathy, the desire to help other people that have been abused or in situations that, that allow us to continue that humanity and compassion piece.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 31:11

Yeah, like you said, before, there's triggers that sometimes, you know, you need another layer of the onion peeled away, especially people who are close to you that say something that trigger things, that rejection, then then oh, I need to deal with that deal it within a day, totally different way and more mature way and calmer way. And sometimes it's not. Sometimes it's ugly. But most of the time now it's less stressful and more, get right to it. Let's get to the root of it.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 31:40

And I love that because even in the healing process, I remember when I first met Chad, and I remember saying I don't trust men. I don't want to be alone with men. Right? Not that all men are assholes types, right? But I was like, I don't trust men. And there's that wall there. So anytime that he would remotely do something, I knew that I like, yep. That's why I can't trust you. And he's out. This will never work. It reveals the wounds that are still in me, even though I thought I had healed from them. And that is such a gift, like our life is a lifetime of healing, thinking or heal. But then when we get triggered, or we get a smell, a sound, an emotion that reopened something that as much as truth always wants to get out. We're called to heal. And we're called to be whole and those wounds do get exposed as a gift to us in order to press into that healing place. Amen. Exactly. Crazy. Yeah, I want to hear a little bit about the current work you're doing because there is not a lot. I know that there is a movement in Cleveland as well, that helps in the sexual trafficking area. But then you also have work in the strip club area. So, I'd love to hear just your work and what you do. And if someone's intrigued by that, how they potentially could get involved as well.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 33:06

I found out through a friend My friend Pam, or my very good friend Pam told me about rehabs ministry because her and I both are very much into the anti human trafficking. And I just kept pursuing it and kept looking it up and read it and taking their training and then decided to go to the next step. Okay, push the volunteer button. I've been 10 years of really preparing for this time, but not the right time to go out into this particular area. Because I still have my kids and they they're my first priority and didn't want to put myself in danger. So now is the time such a time as this that rehabs ministry out of Canton Akron area. A woman started the Ministry of helping traffic kids. But firstly, they go into strip clubs and don't bring food and gifts. And that's what I do once a month on Fridays. It seems simple. And you seem why would these owners of these places let you in. And our mission is just to love. Just love, love on you. And if you want to ask something, I'll tell you what I believe in what we're why I'm doing what I'm doing. But we don't start with that. It's mostly bringing them a hot meal and they love it. Minor mentoring is helping children who have been trafficked or vulnerable to trafficking or have had family members who are trafficked. And miner mentor them for two to three hours a week. And that's actually their opening house in Cleveland area. So I won't have to go all the way to Canton Akron area so I'm really excited that it's going to be in Cleveland. And I finished my training and my background check and ready to start that too.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 34:56

So when you go into the strip clubs are the owners open to that like they're they're good but you're coming in and...

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 35:04

They are said the girls really love you. And they I want you to know we do give them the food and they really love the food that you bring a hot meal, the full blown. There's another group of people that volunteer to make the meals and then we deliver them. And just talking to them and asking them how their families are doing. But no, the owners are always back donors usually come up to us and say thank you for coming. We appreciate you guys and the way you bring the food for everyone.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 35:27

Amazing.

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 35:28

Yeah.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 35:28

And that is such a gift because I am getting giddy because it's all about love. It's all about, it's all about love. And that love brings deeper healing brings curiosity brings relationship. And I love that you're doing that and getting that through a physical demonstration with food, but just the conversation piece and humanizing. Yes. When they are in a industry that often, you know, takes that away from them?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 36:00

Yes, yes. It's amazing. I've had lots of trauma training through that. So it's actually helped me with my own, and just to how to interact with them. So they're very rehab ministry does a very good job of training the volunteers, and also protecting the volunteers and watching what sticks on us, too. And why we so it's been really, really awesome, very much out of my comfort zone. Don't really, yeah, it's, it's not fun. Not a fun thing, but, but I got to do it.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 36:34

I honor that journey. And it's that part of you know, with this podcast is uncovering and unlocking women's voices in a way that we step into our God given rights. And we come out as a warrior woman. And it's not anti men, it's just coming into the beauty of who we are and, and the courageousness of who we are. And through the demonstration, through rehab and other things, hitting other pockets with the same heart the same intent, the same desire to connect people where they're at, not judge, and just love and that's rare, if not as rare as it used to be. Yeah, correct. So as you wrap up your story, are there any parting words, as you're closing up this podcast?

M

Madonna Savage-Philips 37:24

Yes, I absolutely. have something to say that the only reason why I am healed hold free and, and have a sound mind at all, is because of my relationship with Jesus. And I have learned to continue to learn to go to him quicker, and stay with him longer. So that's how I'd like to sum that up.

J

Jennifer Malcolm 37:49

That's awesome. That gave me goosebumps. Thank you so much for your time today. I was excited just to connect with you as my friend. You were someone that through my divorce helped you you were that light, you gave me joy, you gave me friendship when a

lot of people didn't. And I was rejected and despised. And you you took some Brentford, you took some backlash, because you chose to be my friend and to babysit my kids and, and I makes me lean in all the more when I look back at iconic people. And I'm sure that time I was just trying to survive. It's all it is trying to survive. But looking back just the gem that of the woman that you are, and who you were to me, and I just want to honor your friendship because you are a rare gift in this world. And you are who you are unapologetically you and it's beautiful. And, and I just want to honor you because you really were a healing extension to me during a really dark time in my life. And I really appreciate you.



Madonna Savage-Philips 39:01

It's an honor and a pleasure. I really mean that with all my heart.



Jennifer Malcolm 39:05

Good. Well, we're wrapping up here, ladies. And I hope that you got some courage voice out of hearing Madonna's story. And we will provide the information on rehab. We'll also provide some information that if you are feeling that nervousness in your your soul or wanting to you know, shrink back into the silence of maybe abuse that you've also dealt with, that we're here and we will make ourselves available. I am not a therapist, I am never going to be a therapist. But we do have resources and tools that we can also point your way to provide and and on the other side of this is joy and freedom. Amen. So, have a great afternoon and I will talk to you all soon. All right. Thanks, guys. Bye. Thank you for listening to the Jennasis Speaks podcast. If you love the show, one of the best things you can do is to share it with a friend. Tell them what you like about it. How it inspired You and invite them to listen. Subscribe to the Jennasis movement to empower women's voices and reclaim the power over your own narrative.