



**A PURPOSE
DESIGNED
SHELTER**

Providing a nurturing,
supportive and safe
residence for homeless
families in Bermuda

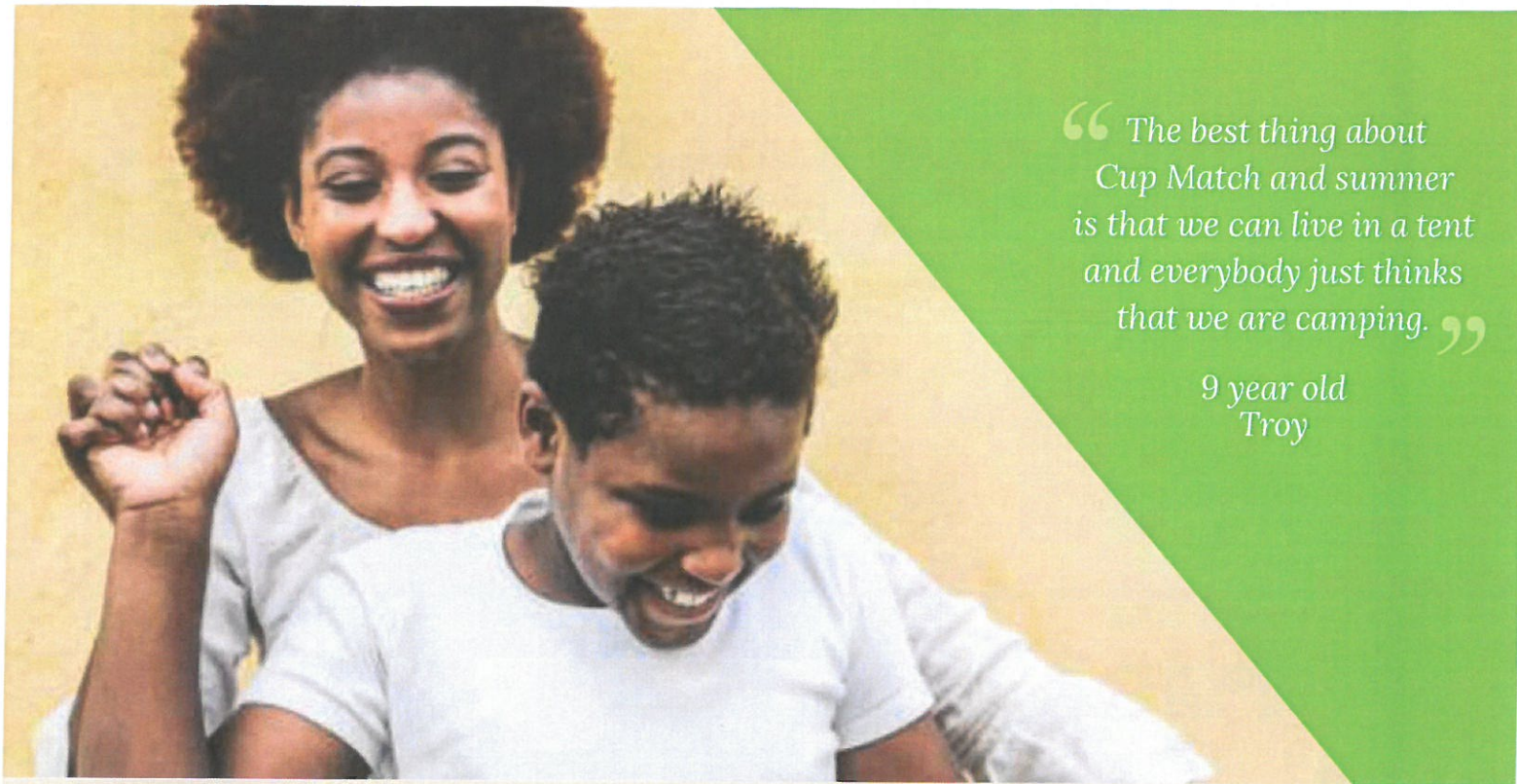


**Transformational
LIVING CENTRE
FOR FAMILIES**

“ I am not homeless. I just have to stay with my mom’s friends. We move a lot. I’m ok, but it’s hard getting to school from different places. It’s confusing. I feel sad because my mom is sad. ”

8 year old
Jameira





“ The best thing about Cup Match and summer is that we can live in a tent and everybody just thinks that we are camping. ”

*9 year old
Troy*

A step toward solving the crisis among homeless families in Bermuda.

Every night, scores of children and their families in Bermuda can't curl up in comfortable and secure beds.

These families face the daily task of wondering where they might sleep tonight. They typically spend a few nights with friends, maybe a relative here or there, but they inevitably have to move on, searching for another generous or willing soul to take them in or face the prospect of sleeping in an abandoned building or car.

These families did not choose to be homeless; they were made homeless by a series of circumstances that too many Bermuda families could also face by the next paycheck.

They are not visible to most Bermudians as they are remarkably adept at hiding their circumstances. The mothers are concerned that their children will be taken from them because they are homeless.

The TRANSFORMATIONAL LIVING CENTRE (TLC) for FAMILIES is a first step in addressing this growing but largely hidden problem.

The magnitude of the problem is generally known only to those government and charitable foundations that provide direct services to this population. It was through consultation with these agencies that we were able to determine the very concerning extent of the problem, the details of which are contained in our report "Family Homelessness in Bermuda".

The Transformational Living Centre (TLC) For Families

Under the direction of Habitat for Humanity and the Women's Resource Centre, the TRANSFORMATIONAL LIVING CENTRE (TLC) for FAMILIES is a purpose designed housing shelter on Parson's Road in Pembroke (the former Pembroke Rest Home). The TLC will address the growing problem of homelessness among families with children in Bermuda. It will also make provision (in a secure area) to accommodate emergency housing needs.

In addition to providing shelter for up to one year, families will be provided with a range of developmental, educational and therapeutic programmes that are designed to heal, empower and transition; with a goal of achieving self sufficiency and the capacity to thrive successfully within the broader community.

The design and operation of the TLC is based on the premise articulated by "HOUSING FIRST" which is that very little can be accomplished developmentally or therapeutically unless or until one's basic needs for food and shelter are met.

Existing programmes and facilities attempting to accomplish the former without the latter have failed and the cost to families has been enormous.

The TLC seeks to change that trajectory and, with the help of the generous Bermuda Community, we believe this can not only be accomplished, but will establish a model that can be replicated throughout Bermuda.

Who Are Our Families?


Our Target population

Largely female headed, these families have found themselves without a consistent form of shelter for a variety of reasons.

Clearly a lack of finances is a major factor as there is a very significant shortage of affordable housing in Bermuda. Making matters worse is the fact that the skill level that many of the breadwinners bring to the table is not sufficient to command a wage commensurate with a high cost of living.

Unemployment figures heavily in this population and with that goes a lack of medical insurance, which can envelope a family with crushing debt if any of the family members become seriously ill.

Additionally, since the closure of the Safe House, operated by the Centre Against Abuse, Bermuda no longer has a facility to accommodate those escaping domestic violence. The TLC will have the capacity to accommodate some of these women in a secure area on an emergency basis.

A photograph of a woman with curly hair hugging a young girl. The woman is wearing a white shirt and has her eyes closed, appearing to be in a state of emotional distress or grief. The girl is looking down with a sad expression. The image is partially obscured by a blue and beige geometric overlay in the bottom right corner.

“ I had been off work with cancer treatments and had to choose between paying the rent and feeding my kids, so I got so behind and finally we got evicted. I don't blame the landlord, but this is where we are...not saying where. ”



Transformational Programmes and Services

The TLC is designed to be a safe, holistic, supportive and therapeutic environment for homeless families, while empowering them to become independent and self-sufficient.

The facility will provide a comprehensive range of services and opportunities, including but not limited to: counselling, substance abuse rehab, job readiness, further education, training and life skills.

These support services will be of high quality, client centred, strength based and delivered with respect, dignity, empathy and compassion.

The transitional component will be coordinated by The Women's Resource Centre and delivered by a collaboration of services, to ensure any family transitioning through will have every opportunity to receive transformative skills and training that enables them to move forward with strength, confidence and stability.

Our projected residential capacity at the TLC will be 10 families, which could include as many as 30 to 35 children, per 12-month period.

Additionally, the range of programmes provided in the facility will be available to the broader Pembroke community as many vulnerable families can also benefit from these programmes.

The process includes needs assessments, empowerment education, job training, employability skills development and transitioning and ongoing support. The needs assessment will help us to understand and design a response tailored for their specific needs. They will also go through literacy and numerical assessment and placement tests.





A Fantastic Find

After an extensive search for just the right venue to house vulnerable families, the Executive Committee Search Team was delighted to discover the abandoned Pembroke Rest Home, which we knew instantly would suit our purposes perfectly.

Set back from the road with two entrances, the building sits on a generously sized piece of land with ample room for play areas, fruit trees and the opportunity to develop a market garden. And located right across from the Pembroke Playground and walking distance from primary, middle and senior schools, the 38 Parson's Road property answers all of our needs.

The building itself, having formerly been a rest home, is already ideally configured for our purposes, with an industrial-sized kitchen, generous living and dining areas, a central courtyard and bedrooms large enough for a parent and up to three children.

“My daughter is having her 6th birthday next week – I would love to give her a party. I know we can go to the playground but I just wish we had a place to bring the children back to for a birthday cake.”



Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Opportunities for Growth

While we recognize that considerable capital expenditure will be required to renovate the facility (and this involves a dedicated capital campaign), we also recognise that the ongoing cost of operating such a project will be substantial.

In terms of the former, we are approaching major donors for multi-year commitments. Additionally, we expect some assistance from Government both through grants and through financial assistance payments associated with eligible residents.

We will also partner with the Department of Workforce Development to support educational and training opportunities provided at the facility.

Beyond these traditional sources of funding, however, we are committed to the development of entrepreneurial efforts that will be sustainable over time as an ongoing

source of revenue and, perhaps even more importantly, will provide growth opportunities for the women living in the facility.

One of the major initiatives designed to provide ongoing financial support is the establishment of a Habitat for Humanity ReStore operation.

By way of controlling operating costs, two major providers of solar panels in Bermuda have committed to installing solar panels to perhaps even eliminate the BELCO cost on the facility.

Additionally, our plan is to turn the vacant property attached to the TLC into a market garden, which will be available for community use, but will also provide vegetables for the TLC residents.

Marketing Strategy and Fundraising Plan

The TLC is in an excellent market position to be able to attract participation and funds. The competitive edge is TLC's ability to provide family housing that lasts longer and is more complete than traditional "transition housing." No other organisation or service is able to offer the benefits of a family centred, reasonably long-term housing

solution with skills training. The TLC will be active in their marketing campaign to increase awareness of the facility to the target clients, as well as visibility within the community to aid fundraising efforts, and acquire referrals from other community service agencies.

Competitive Edge

The TLC has three distinct competitive advantages that will be leveraged to help make it a successful service provider with sufficient financial resources:

- **FAMILY SERVICES:** Because of children, homeless families are far more vulnerable than homeless single men or women. The TLC environment allows entire families to address emotional issues, which are common in abuse and other situations.
- **LENGTH OF STAY:** The TLC for Families has the ability to offer clients the option of staying up to one year at the facility. This longer stay significantly increases the chance of rehabilitation, skill development, and self sufficiency.

- **EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME:** The Transformational Support Service programme, when fully engaged in by the residents (which generally occurs because of the programme being on-site and the duration of the stay of the clients), is more successful in building and empowering self-sufficient, confident family members.
- The TLC is designed, developed and operated by two leading charitable foundations: The Women's Resource Centre and Habitat for Humanity. This is a strong collaboration as, together, they provide the full range of services needed.



A Powerful Partnership

Two leading organisations have come together to make this dream a reality. Both bring essential services to the Living Centre in a powerful and effective collaborative team.

The Hardware

Plus

The Software

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BERMUDA

Founded in 2000, Habitat for Humanity Bermuda is an affiliate of Habitat International. Since its inception, Habitat has completed more than 100 projects on the Island, securing homes for more than 400 family members.

Because of the high cost of purchasing land or executing new builds, Habitat has focused on repairing, refurbishing and, in some cases, enlarging family homes. These were dwellings that were derelict, unsafe or otherwise inadequate for the resident families. As an all-volunteer organisation with no paid staff and huge support from local suppliers, Habitat continues to complete projects well below market cost.

As a partner in the TLC for Families project, Habitat is responsible for the design and renovation of the facility, the ongoing maintenance and, through Habitat ReStore, the continued financial support of the programme itself.



WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

For over 30 years, the Women's Resource Centre (WRC) has been a place of refuge and support for women and their families who have found themselves in difficult situations.

The WRC has more clearly defined our strategic plan to fulfil our mission through a more proactive approach, as a centralised, collaborative resource for women of all ages to help build resiliency, navigate life's challenges and opportunities, and empower them through life transitions.

As a partner in the TLC for Families project, the WRC will provide the Transformational Support Services to include needs assessments, empowerment education (development programmes), academic and life skills training, employability skills development, as well as ongoing support for women who are underperforming in life and have the potential to become economically self-sufficient. The programme will be individualised according to client needs. WRC will also be responsible for the continued financial support of the overall programme.



We Need Your Help

There are many ways that individuals and companies can help us achieve our goal.

MONETARY GIFTS

Our fundraising target is \$1.3million dollars. Corporate and Individual Donors will be recognized in various ways throughout the complex based on the gift category.

DONATION OF MATERIALS

We are hopeful that local suppliers of windows, doors, flooring, electrical and plumbing supplies come forward with assistance in these areas.

DONATIONS OF SKILLED LABOUR

We are calling on Masons, Electricians, Plumbers, Designers, Decorators and other trades people to volunteer their time and talent to help reduce the overall costs.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

We are encouraging Individuals, Community Groups and Schools to participate in this project by Hosting Fundraising Events, Grub Days, Running, Walking or other Athletic or Cultural Events.

Donations which may be made directly to Habitat for Humanity HSBC ACCOUNT 006-053177-001

“ We have been staying with my mom, my aunt and my sister and her 3 kids in a 2 bedroom cottage now for almost a year. I have 2 children so there are 9 of us living here. We are on a mattress on the floor. ”



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