WE DON’T JUST PROVIDE SHELTER, WE EMPOWER FAMILIES

2018-2019 Annual Report
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE
HOPE FOR INDEPENDENCE
HOPE FOR THEMSELVES
Originally called The Homeless Family Center by its founders in 1992, our name was changed to The Hope for Families Center in 2012 to more accurately portray the positivity of our mission. Under the restructuring and leadership of a new, committed Board of Directors, Executive Director, and professional staff since 2016, the Center continues to improve and upgrade its safe, predictable environment and services for families with children. Our successes are numerous, as detailed in this Report.

In today’s society, the word “family” has many iterations. In our world, “family” means at least one adult with at least one child, born or about to be born. Each child is an unintended victim of homelessness and deserves to have his or her basic life needs met, regardless of family circumstances. Families come to the Center due to various downturns in their lives, such as job loss, housing loss, lack of transportation, violence, drug addiction, and so many other issues. It is the Center’s mission to provide a secure shelter for adults and children in which to sleep, eat, play, learn, grow, work, and thrive.

The Hope for Families Center does not just provide food and shelter. In order to facilitate changes in lives, we must educate. We educate the adults in financial matters such as budgeting and saving, as well as in parenting skills. Multiple services address the issues of access to health care, resume writing, job interview skills, transportation, daycare and, when ready, a sustainable path to independence. Parents have responsibilities to the Center as guided by our Rules of Conduct, as well as to themselves. The Center’s children have responsibilities, too. School age children are required to be enrolled in Indian River County schools. We provide indoor and outdoor spaces for play, games, reading, studying, and family time. We also support literacy for children while in residence.

Every story, every family, every child we help is unique. It is the hope we inspire, the assistance we impart, and the successes we celebrate together that embody The Hope for Families Center. Thank you for your continued support of our mission, our residents, and our community.

Dr. Diana Grossi

CEO
OUR 5 BIGGEST SUCCESSES OF 2018-2019

- BEGAN CONSTRUCTION FOR READING RESOURCE CENTER ADDITION
- 110 FAMILIES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OUR PROGRAM AND MOVED INTO PERMANENT HOUSING
- PURCHASE OF LAND ADJACENT TO SHELTER CAMPUS FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE EXPANSION
- ENROLLMENT OF 122 CHILDREN INTO INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SCHOOLS AND 80 CHILDREN INTO DAYCARE
- FINANCIAL STABILITY ACHIEVED THROUGH INCREASED COMMUNITY SUPPORT
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF TREASURE COAST HOMELESS FAMILIES

For 27 years, the Hope for Families Center has been a source of safety and security when the Treasure Coast’s most vulnerable residents find themselves without shelter. We serve as the catalyst to get families back on their feet and provide the structure, education and resources to not only keep families safe today but to have the ability to provide for themselves for the long term.
GIVING HOPE

Residents served during the 2018-2019 fiscal year:
327 residents: 125 adults and 202 children

66% completed financial literacy courses
73% completed a working budget
63% opened a savings account
74% became employed
71% moved into permanent housing
A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME

An environment that is safe, structured and stable to help families reestablish their independence.

The heart of the Hope for Families Center is our shelter. Safe and secure, warm and stable, our center provides the refuge and consistency homeless families need to get back on their feet. Our risk-free living environment removes any uncertainty of safety – adults and children alike know where their next meal is coming from, they have warm, dry beds to call their own, and they are physically safe from hazards - such as substance abuse and domestic violence. Our Center delivers the first vital component that homeless families need, a home.
$220 gives a family a week at our Center.

$6,900 gives the average family enough support to become self-sufficient.
DURING THE 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR,
THE HOPE FOR FAMILIES CENTER:

• INCREASED NET ASSETS BY $971,504 PER AUDIT (67%)
• OBTAINED FULL FUNDING FOR THE NEW READING RESOURCE CENTER
• OBTAINED FULL FUNDING FOR LAND PURCHASED FOR RECREATIONAL USE AND FUTURE GROWTH
• SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS ALLOWED US TO DOUBLE OUR RESERVES AND OPERATE ON A CASH POSITIVE BASIS.
EVENTS

“MAKE WISHES HAPPEN” THEMED ANNUAL DINNER AT BENT PINE GOLF CLUB RAISED $67,000

VERO BEACH’S TOP CHEF CHALLENGE AT BENT PINE GOLF CLUB RAISED $50,000
I didn’t know what to do when the father of my children was killed and we had nowhere to stay. We were jumping from home to home and surrounded by negative situations that I knew we needed to get away from if we were going to have a chance. They connected me with childcare so I could work. They helped me find a job. Taught me how to apply for Medicaid and food stamps. I went through their financial literacy program – I went from literally nothing to more than two thousand dollars in my bank account. I even bought my own car!

We’re in the process of looking for permanent housing. I’m hoping to secure enough savings to eventually put a down payment on a house. For once, I’m excited about the future.

Kristie

It seemed that everything went wrong at once. I got sick and Clarissa couldn’t work because we couldn’t find childcare for Delilah – everywhere had a wait list. We were evicted from our home and were one night away from sleeping in our car. We had nowhere to turn and desperately needed a roof over our little girl’s head. They brought us in, fed us and gave us a chance. The stability they provided, the guidance, the chores, the structure, the no-nonsense rules – all of it was exactly what we needed. We both found jobs. They taught us how to budget, how to save. We learned the importance of having conversations about our finances.

I’m working as a maintenance person and Clarissa is working as an administrator at a real estate office. We have an apartment. Our little girl is so happy. We are eternally grateful to Hope for Families. I don’t know where we would be if it weren’t for them.

Justin, Clarissa & Delilah

When Hope for Families enrolled my brothers and sisters in Mardy Fish Foundation’s tennis camp this summer, I was skeptical. I was excited to have a chance to go to camp but playing tennis had never even crossed my mind. I loved it! My instructors taught me the basics, but they also made it fun. We got to dance on the court, eat lunch and snacks, and spend time with our friends. I was disappointed when summer ended and camp was over, but they created a program just for my family so we could keep learning tennis after school! I feel lucky to have found tennis and am thankful to all the people who have helped my family.

15-Year-old student from a family fleeing domestic violence
PROVIDE HOMELESS FAMILIES A SAFE, CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT
Staffed 24/7/365, all public spaces are monitored for security. In addition, all residents are required to maintain sobriety during their stay at the center.

OFFER FOOD SECURITY
Each of our residents is offered three prepared meals a day, including packable lunches for work or school.

TAKE CARE OF ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES
The Hope for Families Center is stocked to meet the living needs of our residents. Upon admittance, each family is given bedding, personal hygiene products, laundry supplies, and any extra necessities such as diapers. We also work with other community agencies to meet any additional needs our residents may have, such as clothing or infant formula.

TEACH RESIDENTS PERSONAL DISCIPLINE
The Hope for Families Center provides our residents a framework to understand what personal discipline looks like, walks like and talks like. Preserving a clean living environment, maintaining sobriety, and monitoring behavior of their children are practices we support and require to help residents live personal discipline not only for the short-term, but well beyond their residency at the center.

HELP RESIDENTS FIND AND MAINTAIN GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT
We require each of our adult residents to contribute to their family’s income through steady employment. We help residents who are not currently employed build a resume, prepare for interviews, and negotiate so they can find a job to help support their family. We also have savings requirements so that families are prepared to support themselves once they leave the Hope for Families Center.

UPHOLD FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES
With two-thirds of our residents being children, maintaining responsibility to the family is critical. Our residents work directly with their case managers to ensure their family’s medical, mental health, dental, and educational needs are met, whether it’s applying for insurance or conferencing with a teacher.
FINANCIAL LITERACY – EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO ENABLING TRANSFORMATIONS IN LIVES. WE EDUCATE ALL OF OUR ADULT RESIDENTS IN FINANCIAL MATTERS SUCH AS BUDGETING AND SAVING. MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS HAVE NEVER GONE THROUGH THE PROCESS OF CREATING A BUDGET OR SETTING UP A BANK ACCOUNT. OUR CASE MANAGERS PROVIDE THE ONE-ON-ONE TRAINING AND GUIDANCE NEEDED SO THAT NOT ONLY WILL OUR FAMILIES HAVE ACCUMULATED A PERSONAL SAVINGS DURING THEIR STAY, BUT THEY WILL HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO STAY FINANCIALLY STABLE AFTER THEY LEAVE OUR CARE.

EDUCATIONAL LITERACY – OUR CHILDREN’S FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE FOUNDATION WE HELP PROVIDE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT LITERACY IS THE KEY TO THE FOUNDATIONAL SUCCESS OF THE CHILDREN WE SERVE. EDUCATION IS PARAMOUNT FOR THE CHILDREN OF FAMILIES EXPERIENCING THE CHALLENGE OF HOMELESSNESS. MANY OF THESE CHILDREN DO NOT KNOW THE STABILITY OF BEING CONSISTENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, THE PLEASURES OF HAVING ACCESS TO LITERATURE, AND THE PARENTAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT IN EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVORS. BY PROVIDING THE RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE NEEDED FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS, WE BELIEVE WE CAN IMPROVE THE OUTLOOK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:

Families with children experiencing homelessness represent one-third of all people experiencing homelessness on a given night.

On a single day in January 2018, 552,830 individuals were counted as homeless across America. 33% were families with children.

59% of people experiencing homelessness in families are children under the age of 18.

Along the Treasure Coast, 1,532 individuals were counted as homeless, of which 45% of them were families with children.

More than 30% of the homeless counted in the state of Florida are families with children.
WITH SO MANY FAMILIES EITHER WITHOUT A HOME OR ONE UNFORTUNATE EVENT AWAY FROM FINDING THEMSELVES HOMELESS, CONTINUING OUR MISSION IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN. WE ARE PROUD OF THE HOPE WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE, BUT WE WANT TO DO MORE.
An Involved Community Makes a Difference

With no state or federal funding, we rely on community support to make our mission possible.

We Appreciate all of our significant contributors

Notable Giving:

• The Hill Group has committed their resources to constructing the Reading Resource Center.
• Dr. Wayne Hockmeyer funded the additional land purchase.
• Marjory Seinsoth’s Trust and Endowment has enabled many families to achieve independence.
• The Flaherty Family Foundation is the primary contributor to the Reading Resource Center.

Grants:

• United Way of Indian River County: Program Services
• Grand Harbor: Program Services
• Head, Heart, Hands: Program Services
• John’s Island Community Service League: Program Services
• Children’s Services Advisory Committee: Children’s Program Case Manager
• Leo and Peggy Pierce Foundation: Meal Support
• Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council: Rapid Rehousing Case Manager

Additional Contributors to the New Reading Resource Center:

Leo & Diane Dilling • Al & Joan Decrane • Dr. William Cooney • Anthony & Joyce Calderone
William & Marlyn Scully • Barbra Prein • John’s Island Foundation

We thank all of our dedicated donors and supporters. Thank you for believing in our families.
IT TAKES A VILLAGE

PROVIDING THE NECESSARY STRUCTURE FOR LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO COLLECTIVELY SUPPORT OUR MISSION.

THE HOPE FOR FAMILIES CENTER IS STAFFED BY EXPERIENCED AND ACCREDITED PROFESSIONALS TRAINED TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH THE CARE, SKILLS, AND GUIDANCE NEEDED TO EMPOWER THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. OUR RIGOROUSLY VETTED STAFF NOT ONLY CARES FOR OUR RESIDENTS BUT OFFERS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND DIRECTION TO GIVE FAMILIES THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE.

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The Hope Center for Families
WE BELIEVE THAT EXPECTATIONS ARE PARAMOUNT TO TEACH HOMELESS FAMILIES THE HABITS AND ROUTINES NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES. THE HOPE FOR FAMILIES CENTER IS DESIGNED NOT JUST TO BE A PLACE TO STAY, BUT TO PROVIDE A STRUCTURED PROGRAM THAT TEACHES FAMILIES HOW TO SET EXPECTATIONS FOR THEMSELVES THAT THEY WILL CARRY INTO THE FUTURE.

GIVING HOPE
PREPARING FAMILIES FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

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