



Build Hope

The Campaign for Hope House



ST. FELIX CENTRE
Care. Compassion. Community.

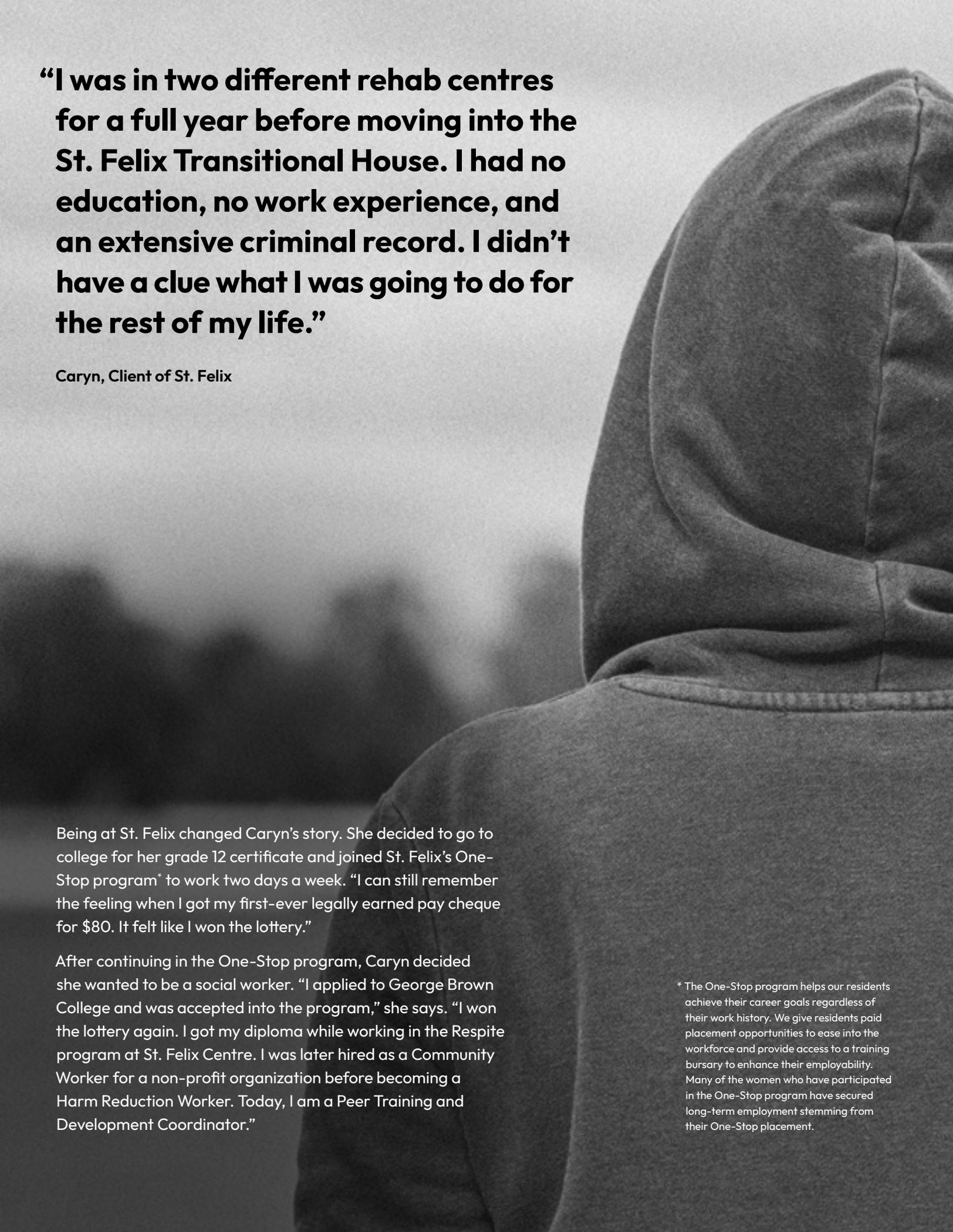
It's Not Hopeless

Approximately 34% of the city's 10,000 people without access to housing and basic social supports are women. This number does not include the "hidden homeless," women—many with children—who are unable to leave abusive, unsafe, or otherwise precarious living situations for fear of homelessness.

Every day, countless women in our city face an impossible choice—a roof over their head or safety for themselves and their family. This crisis has never been more urgent.

Now is the time to give people a better answer and build hope.

Together, we can build affordable and supportive housing to give women and their children hope for the future.



“I was in two different rehab centres for a full year before moving into the St. Felix Transitional House. I had no education, no work experience, and an extensive criminal record. I didn’t have a clue what I was going to do for the rest of my life.”

Caryn, Client of St. Felix

Being at St. Felix changed Caryn’s story. She decided to go to college for her grade 12 certificate and joined St. Felix’s One-Stop program* to work two days a week. “I can still remember the feeling when I got my first-ever legally earned pay cheque for \$80. It felt like I won the lottery.”

After continuing in the One-Stop program, Caryn decided she wanted to be a social worker. “I applied to George Brown College and was accepted into the program,” she says. “I won the lottery again. I got my diploma while working in the Respite program at St. Felix Centre. I was later hired as a Community Worker for a non-profit organization before becoming a Harm Reduction Worker. Today, I am a Peer Training and Development Coordinator.”

* The One-Stop program helps our residents achieve their career goals regardless of their work history. We give residents paid placement opportunities to ease into the workforce and provide access to a training bursary to enhance their employability. Many of the women who have participated in the One-Stop program have secured long-term employment stemming from their One-Stop placement.



Hope For A Brighter Future

St. Felix Centre is here for women and their children who are experiencing homelessness or fleeing vulnerable situations. We believe that everyone has the right to a safe home—it's the first, and most critical step in rebuilding and changing lives.

Since 1993, our community of supporters has enabled St. Felix Centre to provide a range of services for those experiencing homelessness: transitional housing, community meals, casework support, job placements, and access to life skills workshops. Hope House is our next step forward in providing support for women and their children in our city.

We will offer Hope House's residents crucial affordable housing, but also, we create meaningful connections through a range of health, social, and professional development supports. Together, we build hope for a brighter future.



A Message of Hope from the Executive Director

“We’ve seen it first-hand, the only way to break the cycle of violence and other conditions that lead to homelessness is to provide women (and their children) with homes. Together we are embarking on the most significant affordable and supportive housing project in St. Felix’s history—we call it Hope House.

Your donation will help us build 31 units of affordable and supportive housing where women can begin to rebuild their lives.

Imagine the hope you would feel turning the key and walking into a safe, comfortable home after months or years of fleeing violence, living on the streets, bouncing from shelter to shelter, living in a car, or on someone’s couch.

Our units are a place for women to regain their independence, so they have the best chance at improving their circumstances. The units come with supportive services— help with their finances and educational goals, and every woman will even be paired with a caseworker to help secure referrals to primary health care, psychiatry, substance use counselling, and other health services.

Your generosity will give these women a safe environment and immediate support, so they feel empowered in taking the next step to rebuild their lives. Once our residents feel comfortable moving on to more traditional housing*, Hope House will be able to offer the same affordable housing unit to new residents who require urgent support. Your donation will continue to help women in our city, today and into the future.”

Brian Harris
Executive Director
St. Felix Centre

*Residents at Hope House are welcome to stay for as long, or as little, as they need. There is no time limit for our residents.

With the construction of our new apartments, women and their children will no longer have to choose between staying in untenable domestic situations or living in the streets. With your help, our vision for secure, affordable housing can be fully realized.

A safe, consistent, barrier-free place to live is the first step for many women who are facing violence, systemic oppression, substance use issues, and housing insecurity. That's why we decided to build Hope House, an affordable and supportive housing project that provides more than just a roof over their heads—our project will provide the lifestyle supports needed to give women and their children hope for a brighter future.

But we need your help to make this vision a reality. Our multi-unit housing project wouldn't be possible without the generosity of donors and funders. While the Federal Government, the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario have provided substantial funding for this project, your contribution is vital to ensure Hope House reaches its full potential. With your support, providing respite, security, and hope for the future will be possible for Hope House's residents.

We still need to raise \$1.7 million to realize Hope House's full potential. Will you help the women and children from our community?

**Help
Us
Build
Hope**



How Your Support Builds Hope

Hope House is more than a safe place to live—it will give women and their children hope for the future.

Each woman living in one of our 31 units will have:

- Personalized support by a dedicated caseworker
- Short and long-term wellness support
- Crisis prevention and intervention services
- Help to ensure they can sustain income
- Guidance in helping them pursue their educational goals
- Connections to community resources to address legal and financial issues
- Access to culturally appropriate resources
- The ability to bring their pet into their new unit since the building will be 100% pet friendly, maintaining St. Felix Centre's long tradition of recognizing the strong bond between people and their four-legged family members

All of this while living in a fully furnished studio or one-bedroom unit with a kitchen for when residents are ready to cook for themselves and their families. The building will also have a communal kitchen where nutritious meals will be prepared on-site to bring the community together. A shared meal is more than nourishment—it's the opportunity to connect with others, forming bonds of solidarity that also help with healing.



↑ Your support will help create beautiful, landscaped outdoor spaces for women and their families.

With your donation, we will create private units where tenants will have their own space to help them regain their independence.



Hope House

Your support will go further than building four walls and a roof. Together, we will provide space for long-term growth and recovery where women can begin again.

Your support will provide flexible spaces for women to reconnect with their children and families.



Your generosity will ensure there is 24/7 support; a safety net of integrated services to ensure shelter is no longer a concern for these women.



With your support, we will build community spaces to share meals, participate in workshops, town halls, and Indigenous healing circles.



How You Can Build Hope

A donation to St. Felix Centre is an investment in changing lives. We are committed to working with you to create a meaningful partnership that helps others.

With your support, women in vulnerable situations—along with their children—will have Hope House to provide a safe place to live and receive the services they need to recover, heal, and take the next step in regaining their independence and lives.

There are many ways to support our \$1.7 million Build Hope Campaign. Whether you are considering a personal gift, a gift of securities, or life insurance, our team can provide the guidance you need.

Everyone who donates will be celebrated for building hope.

There are naming opportunities to support a furnished unit, create an inviting outdoor space, the community kitchen, a common dining area, or a beautiful green space that will be professionally landscaped around the units.

**Contact us today to
learn how you can
change lives in our city.**

“If you had asked me nine years ago where I’d be today, I would not have believed this was possible. But here I am, and it is all because of the opportunities St. Felix Centre gave me.”

Caryn, Client of St. Felix



**Support Our
Campaign Now
to Build Hope**

Donate Today
buildhopehouse.com

For more information, please contact:

Enrique Cohegrus

Director of Philanthropy and Communications

St. Felix Centre

416-203-1624