

Tshwane Leadership Foundation

The Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF) is an inner-city, grassroots, community organisation. It is committed to socially inclusive urban transformation. It was started with the simple desire to be present and in solidarity with the most vulnerable communities in society. TLF has demonstrated its commitment to the city's most vulnerable since 1993 with the development of innovative programmes for women and girls, children and youth, and homeless communities. TLF was established under the name Pretoria Community Ministries (PCM), which later changed to what it is today.

What started as a simple desire in 1993 to be present with the most vulnerable in the inner city, developed into a rather complex, multifaceted social movement of base communities. TLF combines care, development and justice into all its programmes and initiatives. The approach of TLF is centred on compassion, justice, and equity. Through outreach work, a drop-in centre, transitional housing, life and social skills training, palliative care, and access to social housing, TLF helps to break the vicious cycles of victimisation, poverty, and abuse for thousands of homeless women, men and children.

TLF does not only care for the most vulnerable and marginalised in society, but addresses the root of the systemic issues that create the situations of vulnerability and marginalisation. Therefore, TLF hosts and participates in the

Tshwane Homelessness Forum, the Tshwane Counter Trafficking Coalition, three residents' forums (Marabastad, Berea and Salvokop), Children-at-risk Forum (1997-2007), and the South African National Network on Street Homelessness. TLF has holistic and diverse care programmes. However, to address the causes of vulnerability and marginalisation and to work towards healthy and vibrant communities, there must be an engagement of diverse stakeholders at different levels. Throughout the last 26 years, TLF has become well known for its broad partnerships and networks, working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, ensuring socio-economic justice for the most vulnerable.

TLF established a housing company in 1997, Yeast City Housing, which later became a legal entity. YCH is currently a fully accredited social housing institute. TLF and YCH are one movement, sharing a vision to create and nurture vibrant and healthy communities. YCH develops and manages the hard infrastructure, and TLF develops and implements the soft/ social infrastructure. It currently manages 1 400 social housing units.

TLF has hosted the annual Feast of the Clowns since 2000. The unique festival celebrates the inner city and its diversity and people – and takes place over a whole week. The festival hosts workshops at the University of Pretoria's Mamelodi and Hatfield campuses in collaboration

with various departments and centres at the University. The culmination of the festival is on the Saturday in Burgers Park, with a march of the clowns through the inner city, using the music and arts to engage issues of social justice.

The Feast of the Clowns seeks to speak out against death and injustice in our city. The festival, through the metaphor of the clown, shows us a new direction – one that is inclusive of all people and communities. It seeks to create radical equality and inclusive spaces, no matter where you come from. It emulates equality between all people in society.

The Feast of the Clowns will be hosted again in August 2020. It will take place in conjunction with the Biennial Urban Ministry Conference co-hosted by the Institute of Urban Ministry, TLF, the Centre for Contextual Ministry, Unisa and other organisations.

Projects and objectives

TLF has seven (7) main objectives:

Outreach programme:

To run outreach activities, building relationships of trust with adult homeless people, young girls and women on the streets (exposed to violence and abuse).

Drop-in/assessment centres:

To offer basic assessment, support, information and referral services to homeless and at-risk people, through four drop-in assessment centres. We support people in skills development and finding employment through one employment centre.

Transitional residential care:

To provide transitional housing and a place of safety to: 100 women-at-risk with their children per year, 60 orphaned and girls-at-risk (11 to 18 years) per year.

Health, HIV and AIDS:

Facilitating access to basic health care and HIV/AIDS support services for people who are homeless, poor and at-risk people in the inner city through mobile counselling and testing, transitional residential care for 40 people with psycho-social disabilities per year, and hospice care (palliative and geriatric) to 100 people per year.

Child protection and development:

To provide quality pre-school education to: 155 children (0 to 6 years) per year; and holistic protection, development services as well as teaching children's participation and rights to 450 vulnerable children.

Economic development:

Creating access to tailor-made training programmes for unemployed people, internship opportunities, on-the-job traineeships, job-seeking support, and small business incubation through an employment centre.

Advocacy and lobbying:

To increase awareness and encourage public participation towards urban transformation through advocacy and lobbying programmes in order to affect (policy) change.