

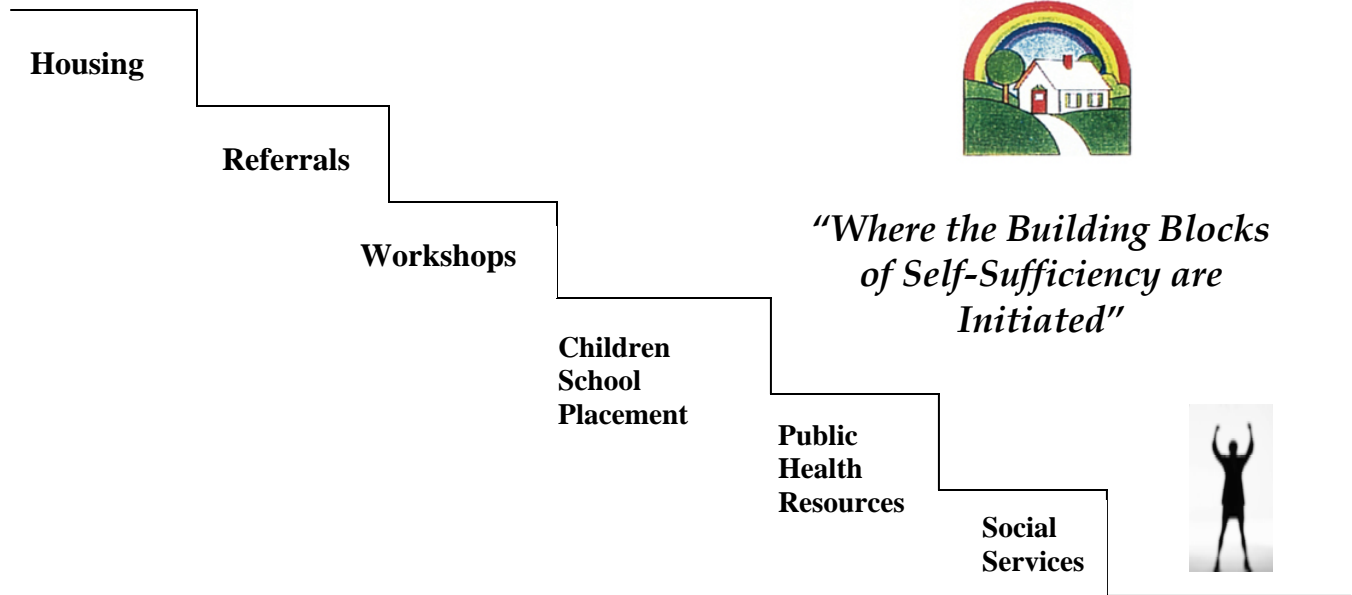
# Van Siclen Family Residence



*“Where the Building Blocks  
of Self-Sufficiency are  
Initiated”*

## Synopsis:

The Van Siclen Family Residence (VSFR) is a transitional housing facility for homeless families with children located in Brooklyn. VSFR is the sister shelter of the Pulaski Family Residence (PFR) and an extension of Overcoming-Love Ministries (OLM), which is a 501(c)(3) faith-based nonprofit organization. The facility provides housing and social services to 20 families. Clients are referred to us by the Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing (PATH) office through the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS). The majority of our families are composed of single parents with children ranging from newborn to age 17.



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## **Mission:**

Our mission is to provide safe and decent housing to homeless families with children and, in the process, meet their mental, physical, and spiritual needs. Van Sicle Family Residence (VSFR) believes that a holistic approach to man's needs creates a more stable human being.

## **Overview of Facility:**

VSFR is a spacious, four-story apartment building whose 20 units are equipped with beds, cribs, table with chairs, full bath and full kitchen containing stove, refrigerator, counters, and cabinets. There is 24-hour security on premises. We have a recreation room for children equipped with TV, VCR, educational materials, and monitors, which allow the administrative staff to supervise child activity. The facility also includes a laundry room and staff offices.

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## **Services Provided:**

As a transitional facility, VSFR has many unique qualities. It offers the initial support services needed towards the stabilization of the families we serve. VSFR offers services on-site and by referral.

- ***Manager/Case Manager:***

There is an on-site manager available to ease the transition of clients being admitted to and transferred from the facility. Clients are assessed and, according to their needs, realistic goals are set.

- ***Social Worker/Housing Specialist:***

To ensure that these goals are met, the social worker follows up with each family. Clients are encouraged to take an active role in other services rendered to them as a means of increasing their sense of responsibility. Housing applications are initiated and followed up. A social worker coordinates services to clients, assuring they receive all benefits in a timely manner. Most of our clients are either working or attending an educational program.

- ***Family Assistant:***

A part-time representative from The Department of Education evaluates the educational needs of each school-age child within 24-hours of entry into the facility. The family assistant coordinates transportation to and from school and monitors attendance.

- ***Chaplain:***

The services of a Chaplain are available at client's request.

- ***A Better Care (ABC) Workshop:***

A program developed to assist and teach families how to better care for their apartments with tips on self-sufficiency and home safety. This workshop is used as a tool to prepare these families to care for and maintain their future apartments. Workshop is mandatory and meets once per week.

- ***Money Management Workshop:***

The primary goals of this workshop are to provide our clients with money-saving tips, improve awareness of the responsibilities of holding credit cards, and stress the importance of creating a budget. Workshop is mandatory and meets once per week.

- ***Job Application, Resume, and Interview Workshop:***

This workshop provides information on finding job openings, writing a resume, and preparing for interviews.

- ***Introduction to Parenting Skills:***

This workshop discusses family values, communication between parents and children, and developing emotional support systems among family members.

## **Referrals and Community Linkages:**

Our clients are referred to the following organizations for services:

- Brooklyn Alliance
- Career & Educational Consultants Metro Training Institute
- The Institute for Community Living, Inc.
- Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation
- East New York Diagnostic Center
- La Marca Family Health Center
- Kings County Hospital
- Brookdale Hospital
- Inner Force
- Early Intervention Program (EIP)

Our community linkages include:

- City Harvest
- Food Bank
- United Way
- Mission of Mercy
- Common Cents New York
- 75<sup>th</sup> Precinct
- Community Board #5
- Arlington Public Library
- Local Consortium of Cypress Hills Community Development
- Hospital Audiences, Inc. (HAI)
- Clothing Bank
- New York Cares Secret Santa Program
- Toys for Tots
- International Bible Society