

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

A SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY
DEDICATED TO ENDING AND PREVENTING THE EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS
WITHIN THE **HOUSING FIRST** APPROACH

The Impact of Trauma and Homelessness

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Adverse Adulthood Experiences
- Loss of Stable Shelter
- Loss of Family Connections
- Loss of accustomed social roles and routines
- Shelter and Food Insecurity
- Adverse Childhood/Adult Trauma
- Trauma impacts how people access services
- Responses to traumatic stress are adaptive
- Trauma survivors require specific,
tailored interventions



I JUST WANT TO BE HOME!

*“**Home** remains the primary basis of life. It is where meals are shared, quiet habits formed, dreams confessed, traditions created.”*

Desmond, Matthew. *Eviction: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York: Broadway Books, 2016.

*“The **Housing First** approach views housing as the foundation for life improvement and enables access to permanent housing without prerequisites or conditions beyond those of a typical renter.”*

National Alliance to End Homelessness



Caswell Manor

Coming fall 2022



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Trauma-Informed Care Principles*

- Understand trauma and its impact
- Promote safety
- Ensure cultural competence
- Support consumer control, choice and autonomy
- Shared power and governance
- Integrate care
- Promote healing through relationships
- Emphasize the possibility of recovery

*Adapted from derived from Guarino, Kathleen, Phoebe Soares, Kristina Konnath, et al. Trauma-Informed Organizational Toolkit. Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Rockville, MD, 2009.

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Opening Doors for a Better Tomorrow

Trauma-Informed Design Framework



Trauma-informed Design Framework 'Designing for Healing, Dignity and Joy (2020). Shopworks Architecture Group, 14 Engineering, & University of Denver Center for Housing and Homelessness Research'

Caswell Manor
A HOUSING OPPORTUNITY BY VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER

Caswell Manor Design and Amenities

Caswell Manor uses Trauma-informed Design (TiD) principles with “uniquely designed spaces where all users feel a sense of safety (both real and perceived), respect, connection and community, control, dignity, and joy.” (see traumainformeddesign.org).

Environmental Context

- Two residential structures (each with 24 one-bedroom units [600+ sq. ft] with a kitchen, living space, and a full-size bathroom) connected with a central building with a commons area and laundry.
- Matches the fabric of the existing neighborhood. It utilizes the “punched opening”-aesthetic of its surroundings and incorporates the materials, rooflines, and street façade entrances consistent with the community architecture.
- Plenty of glass doors and glass walls – *visible support*
- Promotes safety – *secure location, controlled access, clinical assistance, 24-hour property attendance*
- Supports consumer control, choice and autonomy – *choice in décor*

Caswell Manor Design and Amenities

Lived Experience and Cultural Context

- Understand trauma and its impact – *trained staff*
- Ensure cultural competence – *unconditional positive regard, clinical social work access*
- Shared power and governance – *tenant council*
- Integrate care – *supportive and coordinated services with on-site case management*
- Promote healing through relationships – *therapeutic trust and community building among residents*
- Emphasize the possibility of recovery – *hope*.

Sources for development include 9% LIHTC, THDA THTF Competitive Grant, Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Creating Homes Initiative Grant, Knoxville City Affordable Rental Development Grant, foundations, local churches, and private donors. Continued affordability is made possible by participation in Knoxville's Community Development Corporation's (KCDC) Section 8 Project-Based Voucher (PBV) program.

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Caswell Manor *Welcome Home*



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