



The Healing Sanctuary



KRISTI
HOUSE

PARTNERSHIP
South Miami-Dade



MUJER

A Compelling Idea

IN THE HEART OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN HOMESTEAD, two of Miami-Dade County's most trusted not-for-profit human services organizations — Kristi House and MUJER — have come together and created something extraordinary for Deep South Dade:

The Healing Sanctuary, a permanent shared service center dedicated to restoring lives shattered by violence, abuse, and exploitation.

This visionary collaboration gives survivors and families in Deep South Dade a place close to home where trauma can be met with compassion, treatment, and community support. The Healing Sanctuary campus is already alive with activity: therapy sessions, after-school programs, advocacy meetings, prevention workshops, and children playing safely in a courtyard designed for healing.

Now, Kristi House and MUJER are seeking support to complete the transformation to ensure this site fulfills its promise for years to come.



..... An Amazing Site

THE PROPERTY located at 240 and 250 N. Krome Avenue is in the heart of historic downtown Homestead. Along with 24,000 square feet of office/classroom space in two connected buildings and two parking lots sitting on two acres of land, the signature building on the site is a 7,000-square-foot space, "The Sanctuary."

"...a beacon of healing for residents in Deep South Dade..."

The site represents a beacon of healing for residents in a region that has been historically underserved but not without tremendous needs. As a facility co-owned by Kristi House and MUJER, this property alleviates the vagaries of the rental marketplace, thus enabling greater operational sustainability for owners as well as partner-tenants. It is providing space for continuing education for professionals, prevention education to break cycles of abuse, and activities to celebrate the cultural assets of the community.



Property Details

Property Type: Mixed Use

Total Buildings Size: 31,388 SF

Buildings 1 & 2: 24,811 SF

Building 3 (The Sanctuary): 6,577 SF

Lot Size: 84,801 SF

Zoning: B-2 / B-1

Year Built: 1948

Parking Type: On-Site

Parking Spaces: 71



Just a block from Homestead's new City Hall, The Healing Sanctuary is situated in an area has seen several successful projects preserving downtown Homestead's unique historical and cultural charms while incorporating modern amenities and invigorating the area with activity.

The Losner Park expansion, Homestead Cybrarium, Homestead Station Transit Center, Seminole Theatre revitalization and Homestead Police HQ are all part of this renewal and growth. These projects and other private sector investments encompass more than \$100 million of economic stimulus over the past decade.

..... An Undisputed Need

DEEP SOUTH DADE is a mix of suburban, urban and agricultural communities. It includes Homestead, Florida City and unincorporated Redland, Goulds, Naranja, Leisure City and Princeton. The population of some 200,000 **urban and rural residents represents many backgrounds, infusing rich cultural and linguistic diversity**. Travelers to Deep South Dade seek its authentic Mexican food, locally grown fruits and vegetables, historic and cultural landmarks and activities. A visitor will hear English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and indigenous dialects of Mexico and Central America. Deep South Dade's dominate racial/ethnic groups (67% Hispanic; 24% Black) place great importance on family and community, both favorable factors for child and family safety and development.

While much of Deep South Dade is growing and Homestead's central core is undergoing a revitalization, many people in neighborhoods throughout the area struggle with poverty, lack of affordable housing, and high unemployment. Limited personal transportation and the sheer distance from Miami-Dade's central core present serious challenges to accessing services.

The Healing Sanctuary's central location is a key asset. Having services within reach via public transportation or by foot in a welcoming setting is opening up access to children and families who may have been unable or reticent about seeking help in the past.

1 in 4

women experience
domestic violence

1 in 10

children are sexually
abused by the age of 18

1 in 2

children experience
some type of trauma

All-Too-Prevalent Problems

SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, abuse and sex and labor trafficking affects millions of Americans each year. About 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence in their lifetime; 1 in 10 children are sexually abused by the age of 18, and 1 in 2 children experience some type of trauma during their childhood. Experts believe that tens of thousands of people are trapped in sex or labor trafficking each year.

While family violence and child sexual abuse cut across ethnic, racial, and socio-economic lines, they disproportionately impact families dealing with multiple stressors like those in many in parts of Deep South Dade.

When left untreated and unresolved, the impacts of violence on survivors are long-lasting, Survivors face increased risks of homelessness, unemployment, and mental health issues. Marginalized communities, including people of color and those living in poverty, are disproportionately impacted. For child-victims of sexual abuse who do not receive treatment, the effects often haunt victims for years, increasing the likelihood of social, health, emotional and financial struggles into adulthood.

..... The Healing Sanctuary Model



THE HEALING SANCTUARY has brought together two leading entities in Miami-Dade who have been on the frontlines for children and families for three decades. Both independent 501c3 organizations and now the two partners of The Healing Sanctuary LLC, Kristi House and MUJER have worked together over the years as partners in client care on grants and through advocacy and training initiatives.



KRISTI HOUSE is the nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center for all of Miami-Dade County, responsible for providing system coordination with seven partners along with expert healing services for child victims of abuse. Kristi House's agency-partners making up the Children's Advocacy Center include law enforcement, the State Attorney's Office, child welfare, the Child Protection Team, Jackson Hospital and Guardian ad Litem.



MUJER is one of two certified rape crisis programs in Miami-Dade County. As a One-Stop Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center, MUJER responds to rape/sexual abuse south of Bird Road. MUJER is serving individuals who are at great risk and in great need of knowledgeable, compassionate and skilled help, with a focus on agricultural, rural and predominantly Latino communities.

Service Delivery

The new site is enabling the two partners to expand programs and community events that have been limited due to space. The site is serving as a hub for education and cultural programming, expanding The Healing Sanctuary's impact throughout Deep South Dade and the Greater Miami-Dade community.

Equally important, the site is providing operating space for lease for several other community organizations that also serve families, creating a centralized hub for healing. The Sanctuary building is providing rental space for community and private groups to host gatherings, meetings and many types of events. Together, tenant leases and rentals are providing revenue streams to support ongoing operations and financial viability into the future.

Gathering Support

THE MIAMI FOUNDATION'S Open for Business program recognized this partnership's potential and significantly advanced the vision with a \$500,000 seed funding grant toward the purchase. At a final price of \$5.1 million, the sale closed in October 2024. THE FREDERICK A. DELUCA FOUNDATION provided a loan for the purchase with very favorable terms. THE OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, the first foundation to make a capital renovation gift, will support enhancement of the Sanctuary space for community events.

The Healing Sanctuary is positioned for success however, capital support is needed. Along with repaying the acquisition cost, another \$5 million is sought for renovations and capital improvements to ensure the property is fully ADA compliant and updated to meet today's standards for safety, connectivity and functionality. The campaign is being led by Amanda G. Altman, Esq. (Kristi House CEO) and Susan Rubio Rivera (MUJER Executive Director), two highly regarded leaders who bring decades of leadership experience to the project.

We invite you to be the foundation of survivors' futures.

The site and the alliance of Kristi House and MUJER hold great promise for delivering vital services for victims of violence and abuse in southernmost Miami-Dade. The Healing Sanctuary is already changing lives. Together, we can ensure it reaches its full potential — a safe haven for thousands more children, women, and families who deserve to heal and thrive. We invite you to be part of this incredible undertaking to better serve children and families in southernmost Miami-Dade County.

Support The Healing Sanctuary

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HealingSanctuary.org

