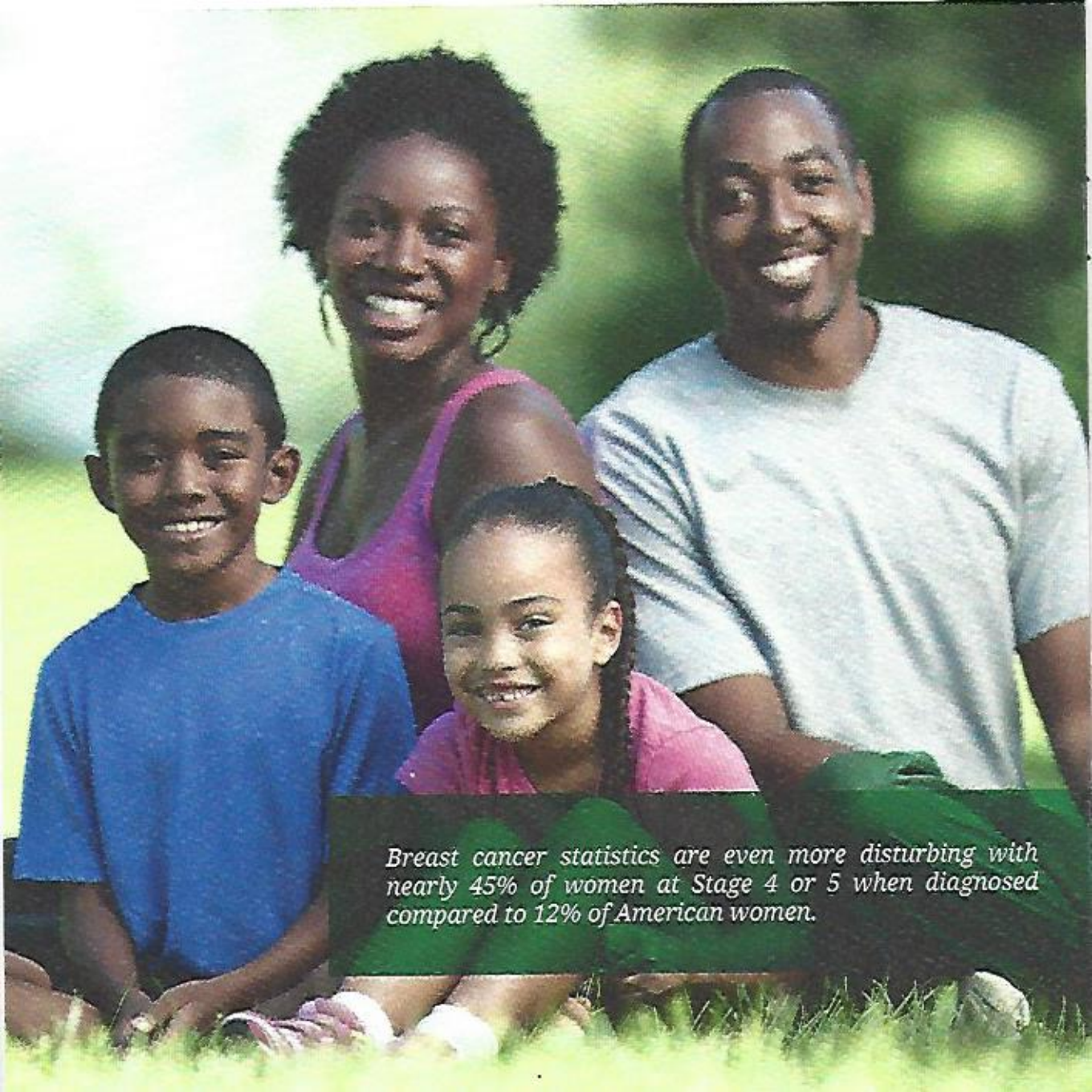


**TOGETHER
WE ARE
BUILDING**

hope.



THE CANCER
SOCIETY OF
THE BAHAMAS



Breast cancer statistics are even more disturbing with nearly 45% of women at Stage 4 or 5 when diagnosed compared to 12% of American women.

"I thank God for this place. The name speaks for itself, they really care. If there is one place God lives in Nassau, it is at the Cancer Caring Centre." Lady G from Abaco

In The Bahamas where cancer rates are alarming, there is virtually no family untouched by the disease. Collectively, various cancers are the number two cause of death in the country. Despite the statistics, there is reason for hope.

The diagnosis that once divided life into two parts, before and after, today may be the beginning of a journey to healing.

The Cancer Caring Centre is playing an increasingly important role in that journey for Bahamians.

A Positive Changing World

In 2006, the Cancer Caring Centre, the most ambitious project ever undertaken by The Cancer Society of The Bahamas, opened its doors. Rising three stories high, set among the mature trees on property just off Collins Avenue, it was located near hospitals, laboratories, medical professionals and facilities.

The Centre was created to provide a home away from home, particularly for patients from Family Islands undergoing treatment in Nassau. For many, having a place to stay made the difference between proceeding with treatment and giving up.

Each of the Centre's 10 rooms was bathed in light, equipped with a small patio overlooking the garden, and furnished to make patients and their families feel at home. Those staying at the Centre help out making meals in a communal kitchen. They share stories and lend support to one another. Volunteers who staff the Centre along with administrative and medical professionals are never far away. There are talks and exercise classes, sometimes just hand-holding and confidence building.

The Centre has been the heartbeat providing comfort, care and resources for those who need it when they need it most.

The Cancer Caring Centre

An oasis of tranquility. A place where healing has a chance.

Nearly 800 patients have passed through the Centre's doors and benefitted from its presence. But there are still only 10 rooms, a number that is insufficient to begin to meet demand.

The figures tell the story. Princess Margaret Hospital reported 1610 medical oncology clinic visits in 2012, the last year for which statistics were available by the end of the 1st quarter 2015. More than 2,050 persons underwent chemotherapy.

The need to expand is urgent.

Progress

Overall, great progress has been made in the fight against cancer in The Bahamas. Massive education efforts have led to better diet, exercise and lifestyle habits, leading to an increase in regular testing and screening, which in turn lead to earlier detection, improving chances of recovery and remission. Treatment options have expanded with far more individualized programs for radiation and chemotherapy.

For Family Island patients and for Nassau patients who seek its ancillary services, the Centre has become a personal sanctuary during a time of anxiety, a retreat where receiving treatment no longer has to be borne alone, where the struggle is shared and where family members may stay.





A home away from home. An oasis in a sea of anxiety. Where despite all, peace comes to the heart and the healing process has a better chance.

Staff and Volunteers

The Cancer Caring Centre is staffed full time by an administrator, caregivers and security. A doctor is on call. An extensive network of volunteers – dedicated and devoted – lends compassion, helps with just being there, enriching lives by

- visiting
- leading daily exercise classes
- giving talks on nutrition
- providing transportation
- arranging home visits
- assisting in a thousand and one ways that add up to a million smiles

The Building Fund

Today, the Cancer Caring Centre is embarking on a \$3 million building fund campaign aimed at constructing 16 new rooms, more than doubling the size of the facility and, for the first time, making hospice care available.

Your help is urgently needed. Please, donate or pledge as generously as you can. Your donation or your multi-year pledge could help save the life of a mother whose children need her, a father, child, sister or brother, a friend, even someone in your family.



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Telephone: (242) 323-4441
Web: www.cancersocietybahamas.org
Email: info@cancersocietybahamas.org
Facebook: Cancer Society of The Bahamas