

Our World and Community

Are a Better Place Because of
**SPACE COAST CENTER FOR
MOTHER'S WITH CHILDREN**

When Lila Buescher attended a county commissioner's meeting on homelessness in Brevard County, she was shocked to learn that single women with their children made up over half of the county's homeless population and that there were very few places in the area they could call for assistance. It was on that day the idea was born for Space Coast Center for Mothers with Children, a shelter where women and children in transition could come to rebuild their lives.

Work began in 2008. They acquired property and began a large-scale renovation to prepare the facilities and bring them up to code. "We were working under pressure because we were already receiving so many phone calls from mothers in crisis," said Buescher. "The community really stepped up and embraced us then." People donated labor, materials, and time, and in 18 months, the first phase was complete - including a house that would hold twelve individuals, and a playground. The Space Coast Center for Mothers with Children held its grand opening in October of 2010. Today there are ten people, mothers with their children, living at the center, and plans are in the works to add more housing to bring the maximum capacity up to 47.

The center provides for its residents rent-free living, transportation assistance, on-site mental health professionals, assistance with employment and job training,

access to health care, self improvement services, literacy support and individual tutoring for children, as well as regular Bible studies and the option to attend the church of their choice. "We are a faith-based organization and our environment fosters the opportunity for mother and child to discover or rediscover a faith in God," said Buescher.

But perhaps the greatest gift Space Coast Center for Mothers with Children gives its residents is the chance to reconnect as a family. "The most rewarding thing is probably watching the mothers and children interact in a safe, carefree environment. Being able to look out and see kids just being kids within two weeks of coming here. The rebuilding begins as soon as they arrive."

There are many ways to be involved with the mission of the Space Coast Center for Mothers with Children. The center is in need of transportation assistance, office assistance, tutors, Bible study leaders, help with lawn and building maintenance, or monetary gifts. For more information about the Space Coast Center for Mothers with Children, visit their website at <http://www.spacecoastcenter.org>.

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