

## A Brief Look at Beginnings...

**Darmstadt Homeless Shelters** – In the late 1960s Ralph Darmstadt was a minister in Long Island City, Queens, in a very rough neighborhood. His heart was torn with grief as addicts in desperation would frequently break into the church. In the early 1980s Ralph became Pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in Kingston and saw much of the same thing he had witnessed in his Long Island City years. Addicted individuals, were breaking into homes and the church, seeking relief for their pain. Pastor Ralph began to provide shelter in the basement of the church for some of these individuals. However, it didn't take long for a public outcry, "Not in our neighborhood!". The situation evolved into a court case, where Ralph teamed with Michael Berg from Family of Woodstock, and won approval to open a homeless shelter. The tide seemed to have turned when organizations such as IBM and the Bruderhof Community offered to help and Social Services became involved.

On Christmas Eve 1985, in conjunction with the Kingston Area Council of Churches and the United Methodist Churches, Family of Woodstock opened the Kingston Shelter for the Homeless. Five years later, when Pastor and Regional Program Director, Ralph Darmstadt, was moved by the Methodist Church to Fleischmanns, Family renamed the shelter "Darmstadt Shelter for the Homeless" to acknowledge the remarkable commitment and spirit that Ralph had embodied. Even while living in Fleischmanns, Ralph would travel into Kingston a few times a week to check on the Shelter.

Since 2001, the Darmstadt Shelter and the Family Inn have been located side-by-side on Thomas Street. Today the Darmstadt Shelters are staffed and operated by the Family of Woodstock. The Board of Directors is headed by President Evelyn Clarke, and Vice Presidents Sherrill Silver and Joan Eck. Phone: 814-331-7080  
Website: [www.FamilyofWoodstockInc.org](http://www.FamilyofWoodstockInc.org) . Email: [info@familyofwoodstockinc.org](mailto:info@familyofwoodstockinc.org)

Special Note: Pastor Ralph Darmstadt died on January 8, 2024 at the age of 93. We honor his tremendous contributions to our community.

**Transformation Life Center (TLC)** – TLC was founded in 1982 by New York City Pastor and evangelist, Tom Mahairas. Pastor Tom was involved with the hippie movement and drug culture during the 1960s, but had a life-changing experience at Word of Life when he submitted his life to Jesus Christ in 1968. After marrying his longtime girlfriend, Vicky, Pastor Tom went on to establish Manhattan Bible Church (MBC) and Christian Academy. During this time, he found himself broken-hearted by the large number of childhood friends struggling with and succumbing to life controlling issues. After performing funeral services for several of his friends, Pastor Tom decided that something had to be done.

Pastor Tom and Vicky graciously opened up their NYC apartment to those seeking refuge and freedom from their controlling issues. They shared the love and truth of Jesus Christ with them and out of Romans 12:1-2, "...and do not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind..." came the idea of metamorphosis – the total change that can be seen when a caterpillar enters the cocoon and after a time emerges as a butterfly. Tom and Vicky soon realized they needed a place away from the distractions of the city where those with life controlling issues could be healed and restored. The answer came when George Yphantides, a member of the Board of Directors for the Fort Lee Christian Home for Children, reached out to Tom to gift him with the property in West Park. TLC was founded in 1982 for \$1, under the covering of MBC. In 2003 MBC officially transferred the property to TLC.

Pastor Tom is still very active in outreach ministries around the world, and including Angola Prison in Louisiana. TLC is currently under the leadership of Bob Ivins, Executive Director. They receive no government funding and are very grateful for our support. Their slogan is "Transformation Life Center – Transforming lives to transform the world". Website: [www.tlcny.org](http://www.tlcny.org) Email: [tlcny911@gmail.com](mailto:tlcny911@gmail.com)