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THE
MUSIC
MAKERS
ISSUE

Sway

THE POWER AND PULSE OF A PEOPLE

21 men & women

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Canada's
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plus

**ALONZO THORNHILL:
THE MAN BUILDING
DRAKE'S CHISELED BOD**

*Kreesha
Turner*

**DON'T CALL HER
BABY, ANYMORE!**

A home of our own, and a dream come true for the community.

BY PAULA A. MORRISON

Tropicana Community Services has found a home for its Centre of Excellence. In 2013 the organization will be making a move from its current operations on Progress Avenue to its new home at 1385 Huntingwood Avenue in Scarborough. The 28,000 square foot structure will bring together much of the agency's core programs which are currently spread across six separate sites in East Toronto.

In 2005, Tropicana established a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase a Centre of Excellence. The community stepped up and worked to generate funds to contribute to the campaign. Then with a boost of \$2 million through a grant from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in September 2011, Tropicana was able to transform its dream into a reality.

"We are extremely grateful to all of our donors as this building is the result of hard work, perseverance and the support of those who donated everything from \$2 right up to \$2 million," said Sharon Shelton,

Tropicana's Executive Director. "It is rewarding for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and other government figures such as Minister Margaret Best, to recognize the value of the service Tropicana provides to the city and to support our vision in such a public fashion."

This is an exciting time for Tropicana. Founded in 1980, the organization began with humble

as well as all the staff and community whose commitment never wavered.

After renovations, the Centre will house community and social service facilities such as counselling rooms, resource and employment training facilities, a teaching kitchen and multi-purpose gymnasium. As our motto says, "*working together to help each other*", we realized our dream.

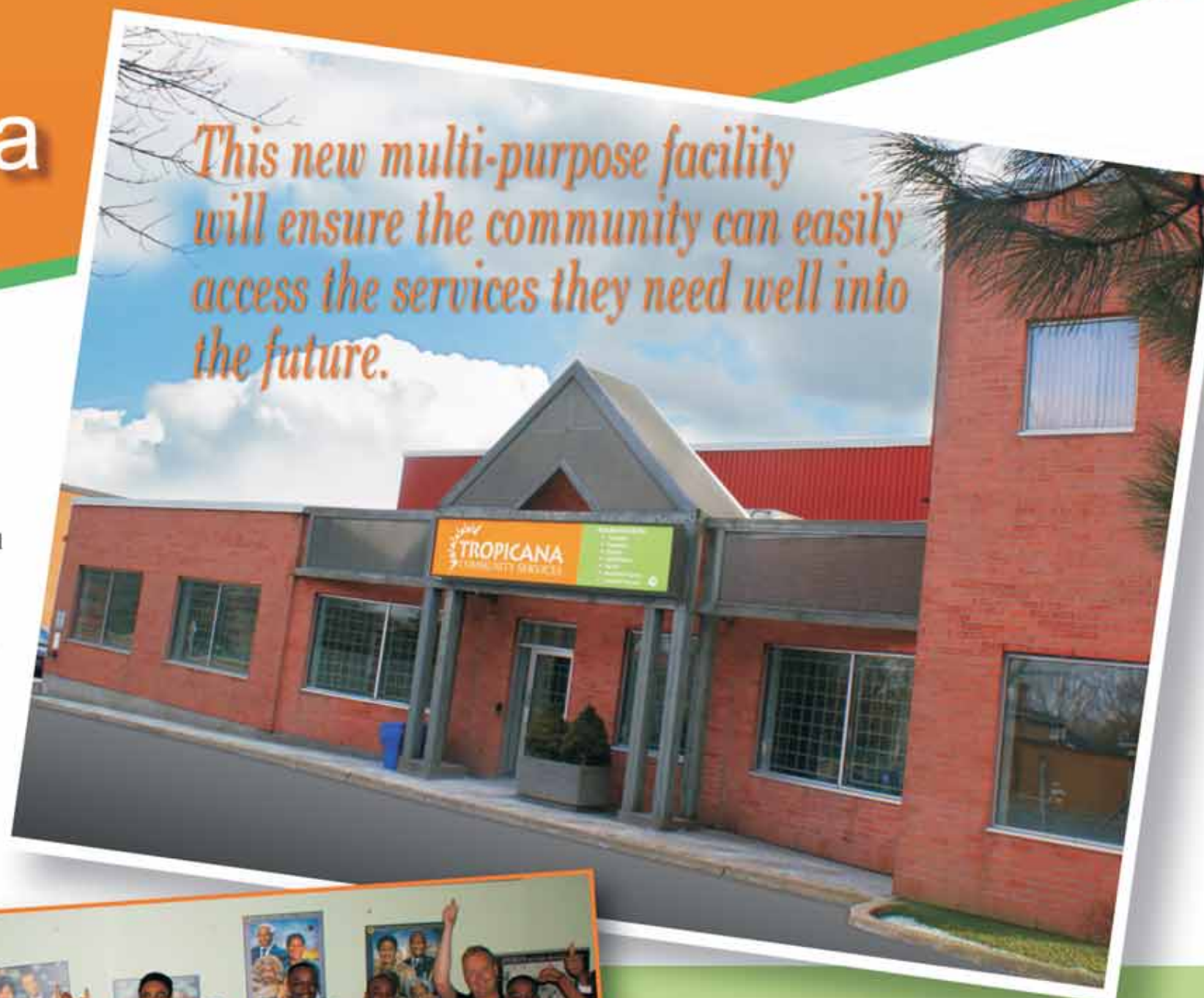


beginnings operating out of the basement of a strip mall. Today, the organization serves more than 20,000 individuals with a variety of services including counselling, child care, educational and employment services and youth development. The Centre of Excellence will be a testament to the founder and creator of Tropicana Community Services, Mr. Robert Brown,



Photos by: Patrick Halsall

This new multi-purpose facility will ensure the community can easily access the services they need well into the future.



Fundraising continues for renovation costs and there are still many opportunities for individuals and organizations to get involved and have a presence in the Centre of Excellence.

To get involved, or for more information, contact Tropicana at (416) 439-9009 or info@tropicanacommunity.org.