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Contact:

Mr Courtney Robinson
Communications Advisor
T: 649 946 – 5314 ext 5061
E: CRobinson@tcifsc.tc
W: www.TCIFSC.tc

FSC STANDS FOR HOPE: COMMISSION DONATES TO MAHALA WYNNS EMPOWERMENT HOME



GRAND TURK, Turks and Caicos Islands – Friday, 16 January 2026 – The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) has made a meaningful donation of essential goods to the **Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home**, reaffirming its commitment to corporate social responsibility and to supporting the protection, care, and empowerment of vulnerable youth across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home is a government-operated safe house located in Grand Turk that provides a secure, structured, and nurturing environment for at-risk teenage girls who have been removed from harmful or neglectful situations. Formerly operated as a general safe house, the facility was officially renamed in May 2023 in honour of Hon Mahala Wynns, the first appointed Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands (9 August 2006 – 15 October 2013) and the second woman to serve as Governor of the Islands. Today, the Home focuses specifically on trauma-informed care, personal development, and long-term empowerment for young girls.

The FSC's donation included a range of practical items aimed at supporting the residents' daily needs, comfort, and overall well-being. These contributions complement the Home's mission to ensure residents can attend school, receive counselling and therapeutic support, maintain appropriate family contact, and participate in positive extracurricular and social activities that foster confidence, resilience, and healthy development.

Speaking on the initiative, **Kenisha Bacchus**, Managing Director (Ag.) of the Financial Services Commission, emphasised the importance of meaningful engagement beyond regulation. "At the FSC, our responsibility extends beyond overseeing the financial services sector. We recognise our role as a corporate citizen and the positive impact we can have when we invest in people, especially our most vulnerable. Supporting the Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home aligns with our values of integrity, care, and national development. These young girls deserve not only safety, but also encouragement, dignity, and the tools to envision and build a brighter future."

During the visit on Wednesday, 14 January, Ms Bacchus was given the opportunity to tour the Home with **Francis Arthur**, a caregiver. There, she observed the living conditions firsthand and gained insight into the daily routines and experiences of the residents.

The Empowerment Home is staffed by a dedicated team of caregivers trained in trauma-informed care, trust-building, and self-care practices. The facility is led by a Manager and Assistant Manager, Nichelle Durham-Simons, and supported by experienced professionals who work collaboratively to provide compassionate and consistent care as residents heal, grow, and regain stability.

The Home currently accommodates girls between the ages of 12 and 17, with the expectation that residents transition out of the system at 18 years of age. The facility has a capacity for ten residents and is presently home to nine girls.

To promote normalcy and dignity, residents receive a monthly allowance, have their hair professionally done, and are permitted to purchase clothing and personal items. Facility managers conduct monthly shopping to ensure all necessities are met, including food, toiletries, clothing, and other essential supplies. The girls maintain scheduled contact with their birth parents, speaking with them twice per week, and parents are encouraged to provide support where possible. The ultimate goal remains family reunification once behaviour patterns or home environments have improved.

Commenting on the importance of partnerships and support for the Home, **Ashley Adams**, Director of Social Development said: "Support from organisations like the Financial Services Commission makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the girls at the Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home. These contributions help ensure that our residents feel valued, supported, and empowered as they work toward brighter, more stable futures. We are grateful for the FSC's partnership and shared commitment to protecting our young people."

Through initiatives such as this donation, the Financial Services Commission continues to demonstrate that strong institutions are built not only on sound governance and regulation, but also on empathy, partnership, and service to the wider community. The FSC encourages other organisations, corporate partners, and community members to support programmes and initiatives that uplift and protect children and young people throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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About the FSC

The FSC serves as the integrated regulator for all financial services businesses operating in or from the TCI, with responsibility for supervising designated non-financial businesses and professions and not-for-profit entities. Through its Commercial Registry, the Commission also administers company formation and the registration of business names, patents, and trademarks.