



OVERTHEHILL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

RESTORING THE SOUL OF THE BAHAMAS

A heritage once lost is lost forever. Only **YOU** can save it





What makes The Bahamas special to you? Everyone who loves this country connects with something - the breathtaking natural beauty, the mouthwatering food, the laid-back lifestyle. However, we've found that, when you ask around, both visitors and residents agree that what really connects them to The Bahamas is the people. People like you, who love this country, are who make it unique - who make it what it is.

If the people make The Bahamas what it is, then the soul of this country, everything that The Bahamas is today - it owes to the collection of streets, neighbourhoods, and constituencies called Over-The-Hill.

But we are losing this special and historic community along with the current generation of people that call it home. And they cannot be saved without your help. If together, we don't act quickly, this most prestigious heritage will be gone forever. If you love The Bahamas, this unique, historic community is a part of your heritage.

The Over-The-Hill Community Development Foundation asks you to join us in the fight to restore this soul of the country. To save your heritage and rebuild the lives of the people of Over-The-Hill.



FROM HOPEFULNESS TO HOPELESSNESS

Some of the most accomplished and noteworthy Bahamians in modern history hailed from Over-The-Hill. The man reverentially called the “Father of the Nation,” The Right Hon. Sir Lynden O. Pindling was born and raised Over-The Hill. Percy “Vola” Francis, who some might argue is the

father of modern Junkanoo, was too. The list of Bahamians who aspired to and achieved greatness despite humble beginnings in the area settled by freed African slaves in the early 1800s is long and impressive. You know the family names and faces. One of them might be yours.

SOME OF THE GIANTS FROM OVER-THE-HILL

- **The Right Honourable Sir Lynden O. Pindling** – Prime Minister of The Bahamas – 1967 – 1992, visionary, attorney, political leader, civil rights activist
- **Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield**- attorney, political leader, Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister
- **Sir Milo Butler** - First Bahamian Governor General - 1973-1979, political activist
- **Sir Randol Fawkes** – attorney, trade union pioneer, Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister
- **Paul Adderley** – First Attorney General of an independent Bahamas, longest serving Attorney General in history, senator, Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister
- **Archdeacon William Thompson** – former Rector of St. Agnes Anglican Church, community leader
- **Dr. Claudius Roland Walker** – social and labour rights activist, political leader, educator, doctor, musician, and entrepreneur
- **Mabel Walker** – suffragette, educator, union leader and founder of the Bahamas Union of Teachers
- **John “Chippie” Chipman** – entertainer, internationally-renowned musician, Junkanoo pioneer, and cultural icon
- **Edmund Moxey** – activist, political and community leader



These are just some of the outstanding Bahamians who hailed from Over-The-Hill and used their lives to shape The Bahamas into the country it is today. If they were still alive, how would they feel about what’s become of their beloved home community? The Over-The-Hill community is a central part of

their legacy. They gave so much to this country. We cannot let them down by allowing their community to be lost. Every day that it stands in disrepair, the heritage they left behind slips further away.

Will you act now to help save it?



Dr. Claudius Roland Walker



Archdeacon William Thompson



Paul Adderley



John "Chippie" Chipman



The Right Honourable Sir Lynden O. Pindling



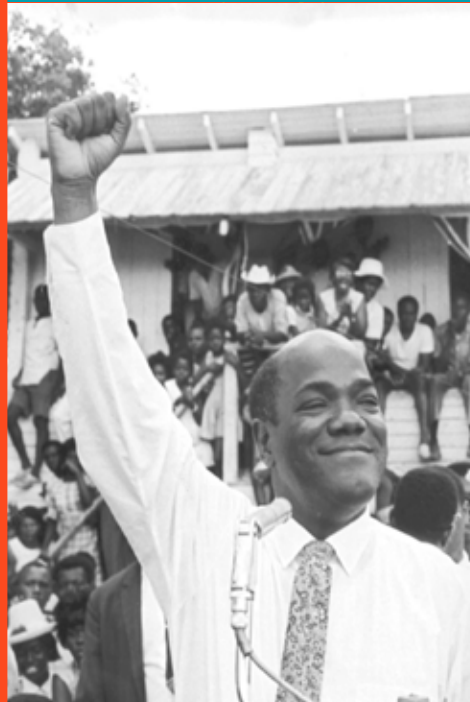
Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield



Mabel Walker



Sir Milo Butler



Sir Randol Fawkes



Edmund Moxey

“The People of the Over-The-Hill community built The Bahamas”

Rosemary Hanna,
writer, historian,
Over-The-Hill descendant.

“Over-The-Hill was really the belly of many of our movers and shakers within this country. Our leaders came from Over-The-Hill. Over-The-Hill gave birth to them.”

Haddassah Deleveaux, writer, storyteller, Over-The-Hill descendant

But sadly, today’s Over-The-Hill community resident experiences a markedly different life than residents of the past. The community which once represented hope and achievement is now a place filled with hopelessness, spirit-crushing poverty, garbage, and violence.





Dawn lives in a crumbling two-bedroom house on Gaol Alley. She shares her home with her daughter, five grandchildren, and rats. The rats are not welcome occupants, but there's little Dawn can do to keep them at bay. The neighborhoods of the Over-The-Hill community are bursting with rats. They're every residents' roommates. One of Dawn's granddaughters is very sick. She suffers from body-racking seizures. Dawn uses her pension money, the only income the family has, to buy the medication that gives her granddaughter relief from her debilitating condition and allows her to just be a normal kid.

There isn't much left over after her medication is paid for so many nights Dawn and her family go hungry. But at least the rats eat. There is enough garbage littering the yard and streets where Dawn lives to keep them fat and frightening. Right now, the rats in Dawn's neighbourhood eat better than she does.

**Dawn needs your help.
Please help Dawn.**

DID YOUR FAMILY TREE TAKE ROOT OVER-THE-HILL?

Did your family tree take root Over-The-Hill? Many of the families that were once (and in some ways still are) the backbone of The Bahamas were born and bred in the Over-The-Hill community.

Do you see your family name on the Over-The-Hill tree? Are you a descendant of this historic area? Let us know! We'd love to hear your family's story. If you are a descendant of an Over-The-Hill family, then we know it holds an extra special place in your heart. Each day the Over-The-Hill community stands in disrepair, your heritage slips further away. Would you consider donating to help the new families that live there now and restore this community to its former dignity?



HARD CHOICES AND HEARTACHE FOR OVER-THE-HILL MOM

Clarissa is a mom of four. Like you, she loves her kids and wants to give them the absolute best she can. Sadly, many days she can barely give them food to eat. Despite her best effort, Clarissa's been struggling to find full-time work. But she's grateful that she's regularly able to earn fifty dollars cleaning the house of a family out West one day a week. But every week, Clarissa faces a soul-crushing dilemma. You see, because she lives Over-The-Hill, but her cleaning job is in the West, Clarissa needs to save \$10 of her weekly pay to put gas in her car to get to work. More often than not, the remaining \$40 isn't enough to feed her family. So, every week she must make the sad choice. Feed her kids or keep the \$10 she needs to buy gas so that she can get to work to earn the next fifty that her family desperately needs to make it through next week. Clarissa has never missed a day of work. Her children can't say the same about their meals.



What choice would you make if you were Clarissa? By choosing to donate to the Over-The-Hill Foundation, you can end Clarissa's dilemma. **Your generosity will ensure that she will never again have to choose between fueling her car or feeding her children.**

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage. The trunk is covered in a dark, vertical list of names in gold-colored capital letters. The background shows a residential street with houses and a clear sky.

ALLEN
ARCHER
BAIN
BARTLETT
BETHEL
BLYDEN
BOSTWICK
BRICE
BULLARD
BURNSIDE
COAKLEY
COOPER
CULMER
DESTOOP
ENEAS
FAWKES
FRANCIS
GIBSON
GLINTON
GRANT
HANNA
JOHNSON
KEMP
MCCARTNEY
MCPHERSON
PINDLING
SARGENT
SMITH
THOMPSON
TOOTE
TURNQUEST
VIRGIL
WALKER
WILLIAMS
WINDER

WHAT ARE YOUR BOUNDARIES?

If you ask 10 people which streets and neighbourhoods make up Over-The-Hill, you may get 10 different answers. While anecdotally, the community's boundaries vary technically, Over-The-Hill is defined as the area of New Providence bound by School Lane to the north, Collins Wall to the east, Nassau street to the west, and Wulff Road to the south. The most well-known settlements in the area are Bain and Grants towns. Can you link your heritage



NOT YOUR TYPICAL INNER-CITY COMMUNITY

There are several poverty-stricken crime-filled urban communities in this country. Infamous streets and subdivisions, with trash-filled yards, burnt-out cars, and hungry men, women, and children. But Over-The-Hill stands apart from all other inner-city communities for two compelling reasons.

AN UNMATCHED HISTORY

The Over-The-Hill community is not just some “ghetto.” It is far, far more than that. The Over-The-Hill community that you see today are the ruins of a heritage village of extreme historical importance. It is the place that gave birth to many of The Bahamas’ most influential leaders, educators, and activists. Many of the cultural movements that bring us pride, joy, and the goat-skin drum’s deep beat climbed into our hearts from Over-The-Hill. That community shaped this country like no other. The Over-The-Hill story is an integral part of The Bahamas’ story. It is truly a national treasure. But the level of deterioration that has taken place in this once charming and dignified community is heartbreaking. The historic homes that should rightly be museums and landmarks cherished by residents, enjoyed by students, and sought-out by tourists are crumbling shells that barely provide decent shelter to the rats that inhabit them, let alone the people. We cannot neglect this significant area any longer. If we do, it will slip through our fingers and be lost forever. The longer we ignore it, the harder it will be to restore it. We must work together to safeguard this unparalleled part of our collective history.

The Over-The-Hill Community Development Foundation gives grants to passionate people, forward-thinking organizations, and impactful initiatives focused on restoring and revitalizing Over-The-Hill. The area desperately needs rehabilitation. No, it desperately needs a

renaissance. Please donate to this urgent work because your gift can help to save this national treasure and restore it to its former glory.

AN UNMATCHED NEED

The Over the Hill community also stands apart from other low-income areas because of the saddening depth of the need. Over-The-Hill is one of the poorest places in the entire country. Every day is a struggle for the people who live there. When you walk around the area, which is home to roughly 40,000 people, the despair and disrepair you see are staggering. Unemployment levels are alarming. One community leader summed it up this way “For every 100 employment-age residents you meet, five may be working.” Residents feel forgotten and hopeless. No human being should feel this way.

Many families live in structures that are barely fit for human habitation. Calling them a “home” or “shelter” would be a very loose use of the words. Many of the homes people live in aren’t safe and don’t protect them from the elements. Neighbourhoods are filled with garbage and overrun by rats.

Crime is rampant and fueled by the hopelessness and heart-hardening experiences that have shaped the attitude of many residents. Dejection is in the air. Often the exhalation is violence. The people who live in the Over-The-Hill community are hurt and, as the saying goes, “Hurt people, hurt people.”



Eric is hurting. He is only 14 years old. He feels alone and unloved. He cries every day because he is teased mercilessly by his peers because of his family's challenges. He deals with the teasing by acting out, fighting. And his behavioral problems are quickly getting worse. How long do you think it will be before he joins a gang? What will happen to him then? If Eric stays on the path he's on, the outcome won't be good. How long before his pain permanently impacts the life of an unsuspecting stranger as she walks away from an ATM miles away from his Over-The-Hill neighbourhood? How long before Eric's path leads him to the shadows of your front door? To lie in wait for you in the middle of the night. It's what many people fear and why they want to act quickly to help young people like Eric in the Over-The-Hill community.

But you act not out of fear but out of fairness. You believe that young people like Eric deserve a shot at making the best possible life for themselves. You know that, sadly, their circumstances never allow them that opportunity. This lack of fairness doesn't align with your value system. It doesn't align with

ours either. That's why we invite you to join us in helping Eric and the many young people like him who live Over-The-Hill. We don't have much time. Eric may only be 14 now, but he won't be 14 forever.

Young people have tremendous gifts and potential to offer their communities, but they require special attention and support to navigate their unique challenges. Our goal is to empower young people in the Over-The-Hill community. Engage them in meaningful activities and improve their quality of life.

We fund programs designed to:

- Identify at-risk youth and offer positive intervention in their lives.
- Provide support to youth, helping them to improve the quality of their lives
- Help young people contribute to the community in productive ways
- Help young people feel safe within the community

Eric desperately needs support and intervention before the window to help him closes. You can make a difference in Eric's life by helping him gain access to the support he needs. **Will you consider donating to help Eric today?**





THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF THE OVER-THE-HILL COMMUNITY

NOLA - New Orleans, Louisiana - famous for its culture, cuisine, and of course, Mardi Gras. Providing the backdrop to this famously fun and unique city's excitement and flavour is its French Quarter. The French Quarter is the oldest neighbourhood in New Orleans. The city's historic heart, a massive touristic draw, and money-maker that drives the New Orleans' economy.

What the city of New Orleans has done in its focus on and preservation of the French Quarter provides an intriguing model for the Over-The-Hill community.

The Over-The-Hill neighbourhoods, with their historic homes, nationally significant backstory, and proximity to Bay Street, Nassau's primary visitor destination, are well-positioned to be developed and marketed as a must-see tourist attraction. While the offerings would most likely be much less risqué than those of New Orleans' French Quarter, they could be just as electrifying for visitors. Imagine the homes now

dilapidated and leaning restored and standing proudly as historical examples of old Bahamian architecture for eager visitors to admire. Imagine the unique and exciting tours, cultural experiences, performances, and exhibitions that can be created to thrill curious cruise ship passengers and proud residents alike.

A renaissance could result through the development of the Over-The-Hill community as an exciting tourist attraction. It would create jobs for community residents, stimulate new business, and produce a robust sub-economy that has the potential to breathe new life into a dying part of our country and put real dollars in the national treasury. The benefits would be felt not just by the people who live Over-The-Hill but also by every person who calls The Bahamas home.

To establish the Over-The-Hill area as a genuine heritage village and income-generating attraction, we must adopt the approach that underpins the success that



the city of New Orleans has achieved in the French Quarter. They triumph because they value the past. New Orleans is often described as a city with a living history. By protecting and paying homage to the past while looking forward to the future, the people of New Orleans never allow the French Quarter to die. They ensure that it remains a living monument to their history.

The Over-The-Hill community extends an offer to every lover of The Bahamas that is ripe for taking. If we work together to restore this neglected area and establish it as an authentic heritage village and attraction, it will give to us just as much as we give to it.

Just imagine the possibilities for this area, the birthplace of so many nation builders, cultural icons, and political activists. Because of this historical significance, the community could qualify as a United

Nations World Heritage Site. The first World Heritage site in The Bahamas.

Imagine the prestige of such a designation. The touristic draw such a site would be. The potential that the Over-The-Hill area has to benefit the country is truly significant and untapped. But we need your help to realize this vision. We ask you to join us in laying the groundwork for this exciting restoration. Your investment will create jobs and economic opportunities. You will help to put Over-The-Hill on the world's stage and food on the table of the people who live there and struggle daily to survive. We cannot transform the community and tap into the economic potential it has to benefit this country without your help. **Please help by making a gift today.**



WHO WE ARE

The Over-The-Hill Community Development Foundation is a nonprofit organization led by people like you. Generous, civic-minded people who love this country and want to see it overcome its many challenges and progress. But we know that our country cannot progress if we leave people behind. We believe that every human being deserves a shot at a decent life and opportunities, regardless of where they're from.

OUR FOCUS IS OVER-THE-HILL

Our foundation is dedicated to rebuilding the historic Over-The-Hill community and the lives of the folks who live there. Not just for today but for generations to come.

We focus on the Over-The-Hill area because we believe that community is too special and significant to our country to be neglected and forgotten. Like you, we feel passionate about The Bahamas, and we value Bahamian heritage. The founders of the Over-The-Hill community gave this country so much. We should honour them by not allowing the community that was their home to be a ghetto. After all, their legacy is our legacy.



The Over-The-Hill community should matter to all who love or live in this country. It tells a vital part of the Bahamian story and history, and we must preserve it.



“We believe in helping the people of Over-The-Hill. This historic community deserves our best. Investing in it is a great investment in the future of The Bahamas”.

Robert Turnquest, Chair, Over-The-Hill Community Development Foundation, Over-The-Hill descendant.

YOU CAN HELP TO RESTORE THE OVER-THE-HILL COMMUNITY AND REBUILD THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE

Donating to the Over-The-Hill Community Development Foundation gives you a way to help the poorest, most desperate people in the country and restore a rich part of Bahamian heritage before it is lost forever. By supporting our grants program, you can directly help struggling people in the Over-The-Hill community and the organizations working on the ground to bring them relief, hope, and lasting improvements to their quality of life.

By donating to the grant-making work of our foundation, you support initiatives that will:

- Help hungry people in the community buy food to feed themselves and their families by improving their access to employment and income opportunities

- Create cleaner, healthier, and safer surroundings for residents by removing the trash and derelict cars that deface and devalue the area
- Provide residents with access to decent and more affordable housing
- Get rid of the rats that run rampant and protect vulnerable residents from rodent-borne disease
- Empower community leaders to drive progress and gain buy-in from members of the community
- Provide residents with access to entrepreneurial opportunities
- Encourage business ownership or expansion within the community
- Transform the Over-The-Hill community into a moneymaking tourist attraction that will benefit not only Over-The-Hill residents but the entire country
- Honour the legacy of the Bahamians who emerged from Over-The-Hill to profoundly shape and propel this country
- Help to restore the history and pride that Bahamians have for the Over-The-Hill community
- Protect the heritage of The Bahamas



OVER-THE-HILL NEEDS YOUR HELP, URGENTLY

With the challenges that our country and economy face, the government has fewer and fewer dollars to put into community development. But community development is needed now more than ever. And the benefits that come through development are needed by the Over-The-Hill community more than anyplace else.

The country and the people of Over-The-Hill need people like you, who care, and who want to

give back by picking up the torch because they understand that the government cannot carry it alone.

Every day the situation in the Over-The-Hill Community gets worse. The people get more desperate, and the buildings get more dilapidated. But every gift makes a difference. And, of course, large gifts move things along much faster. Large gifts also inspire and encourage additional community support. **Will you consider making a gift, today?**

Mudlene sits in the tiny living room. She runs her hands over the dingy, lumpy little couch in her rundown rented house on Maycock street. She lives there with her two young grandchildren. Her “home,” if you can really call it that, has no running water or electricity. She sighs heavily as she thinks about the nightly walk she has to make to the neighbourhood pump to get water. It’s time for the family’s nightly bath. Mudlene has been making the trek for years. She looks down at her hands calloused from manual work and from toting the large, heavy

buckets from the water pump. She and her grandchildren bathe in those buckets behind her house, next to her outside toilet. Every day is a struggle for Mudlene. She is tired. She would love to be able to afford to get the water and electricity reconnected to her home, but she can’t. To her, a hot meal at the end of a long, hard day is more important than a hot shower. Mudlene needs a helping hand, but she is looking for a hand up not a handout. Will you give Mudlene a hand up?





We hope that you'll reflect on your personal Over-The-Hill story. Are you a descendant or former resident of the community? Has one of the legends from the community impacted your life or the lives of those you love? Or are you someone who simply loves The Bahamas? We hope that you'll choose to take action by supporting the Over-The-Hill Community Development Foundation today. Actually, we more than hope that you will. We ask you to contact our board Chair Robert Turnquest today to start a conversation.

You love The Bahamas. It is your home, either by birth or adoption. You care about the future of this country and its people. And when you care about something, you want to protect it. You want to see it progress and thrive.

That's the kind of person you are.





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