



Open Door Mission, Inc.  
156 N. Plymouth Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14608-1834

**Who cared for Eric when  
all of his hope was gone?  
You did ... thank you!**



**Your Christmas newsletter enclosed.**

FROM \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16539



Thank you for helping  
hungry, hurting people.  
May God bless you!

N22102



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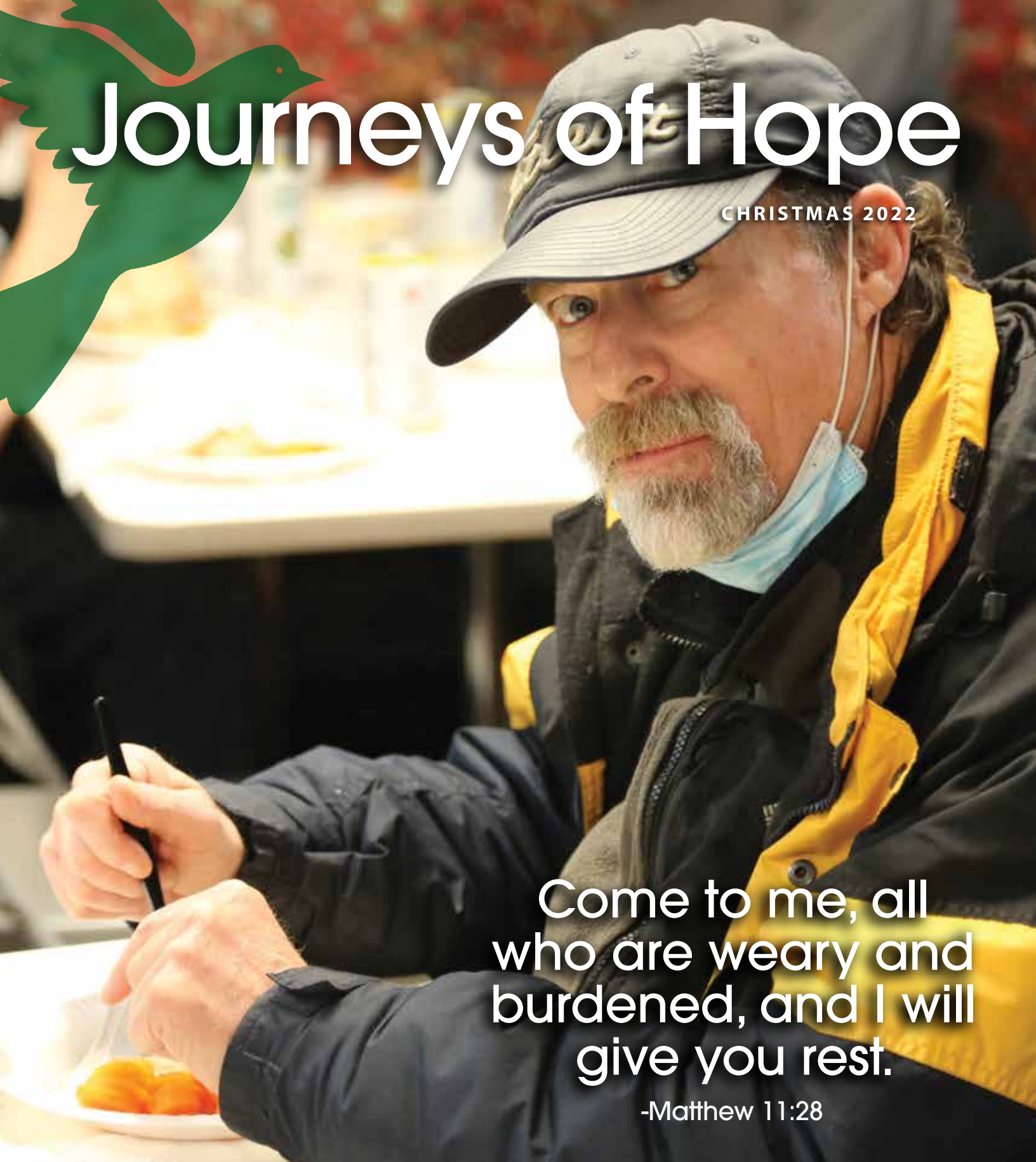
OPEN DOOR MISSION OF ROCHESTER c/o M&T BANK  
PO Box 8000, Dept. 053  
Buffalo, NY 14267-0002





# Journeys of Hope

CHRISTMAS 2022



Come to me, all  
who are weary and  
burdened, and I will  
give you rest.

-Matthew 11:28

opendoor  
MISSION  
CELEBRATING 70 years OF RESTORING hope CHANGING lives

156 N. Plymouth Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14608  
(585) 454-6696  
[www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com)



# Director's Message



Anna Valeria-Iseman  
CEO

*This is love:  
not that we  
loved God, but  
that he loved  
us and sent his  
Son as an atoning  
sacrifice for  
our sins.*

— 1 John 4:10-11

## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

*Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!*

Dear Friend,

The classic poem 'Twas the Night before Christmas is well known around the world.

At the Mission we read it and look beyond a jolly Santa coming down the chimney with a bag of toys. We see the King who came to a world, which He loved deeper than we can fathom, bearing gifts of wonder beyond our imagination.

Yes, the story is told by mothers here tucking their children in bed but with the assurance of the Lord Himself looking over us.

Meanwhile, crucial Open Door Mission volunteers are busy preparing for the festivities of Christmas day. Decorations are going up for an inviting welcome to those coming here in hopes of Christmas warmth and friendship.

For those lonely and homeless, Christmas can be a difficult time. Few can celebrate the coming of the Lord, when like Him, they have nowhere to lay their head.

But there is comfort in knowing God himself knows what it is like to be homeless, poor and rejected. Knowing and believing that God feels our suffering and cares makes the world a warmer place.

Most come here with no promise of a hopeful tomorrow. But your kind support and generosity with your time this season gives a reason to celebrate, starting with a hot meal, a warm place to sleep and a warm welcome from kind volunteers.

Your gracious gift demonstrates the power of Christ's love. It is because of your kindness that many of your neighbors in need will have a good Christmas night and many more!

Thank you for all you do to bring the light of Christmas to those who struggle in dark and difficult times. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria-Iseman  
CEO

## Volunteer Opportunity

**We are seeking volunteers interested in providing structured workshops for guests in our shelter.**

Workshop topics include:

- Basic Financial Education
- Health Education
- Resume Writing
- Nutrition
- Interviewing Skills/Practice
- Sunday Morning Chapel

If you have expertise in one of these areas and would like to lead a workshop, please email [sbaldwin@opendoormission.com](mailto:sbaldwin@opendoormission.com)



# Here Comes The Holiday Season!

Thanksgiving and Christmas are around the corner and preparations are moving ahead for our big celebrations.

This Thanksgiving and Christmas will likely bring many of our neighbors in need to our door.

Everyone is welcome. There is a seat at the table prepared with a colored placemat or welcome note from a friend. We want everyone here to feel safe, provided for and loved.

We will celebrate with plenty of food. People will share their stories. We will thank God for family, friends and our bright future. And some gifts may even be handed out.

This is a time to give thanks and offer a helping hand to all. God has been good to us.

Please see below for information on how you can provide food or a gift to make the holidays even brighter. We need you. Thank you!

## Donate food and clothing

Please help us care for all who are in need this holiday season by dropping off any of these items.

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| ✓ Socks        | ✓ Blankets        |
| ✓ Underwear    | ✓ Boots           |
| ✓ Hats         | ✓ Coats           |
| ✓ Gloves       | ✓ Pasta Sauce     |
| ✓ Scarves      | ✓ Soup (any type) |
| ✓ Hand Warmers |                   |

Other much-needed items can be found at [OpenDoorMission.com/donate-food-and-clothing](https://www.opendoormission.com/donate-food-and-clothing)

**To drop off a donation, please bring it to:**  
**156 N. Plymouth Avenue**  
**Rochester, NY 14608**  
**9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday**



## A blessed time with Open Door friends.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Hope Lives Awards Breakfast. We are so grateful for the love and generosity from all our friends and sponsors. It is always a blessing to gather together and pray for the future of Open Door Mission.



# God had a wonderful gift for Eric.

***“I’m not the same person I was.”***

At just 13 years old, Eric fled his alcoholic father and abusive stepmother. He spent his teen years on the street, where he dealt with his loneliness by taking drugs.

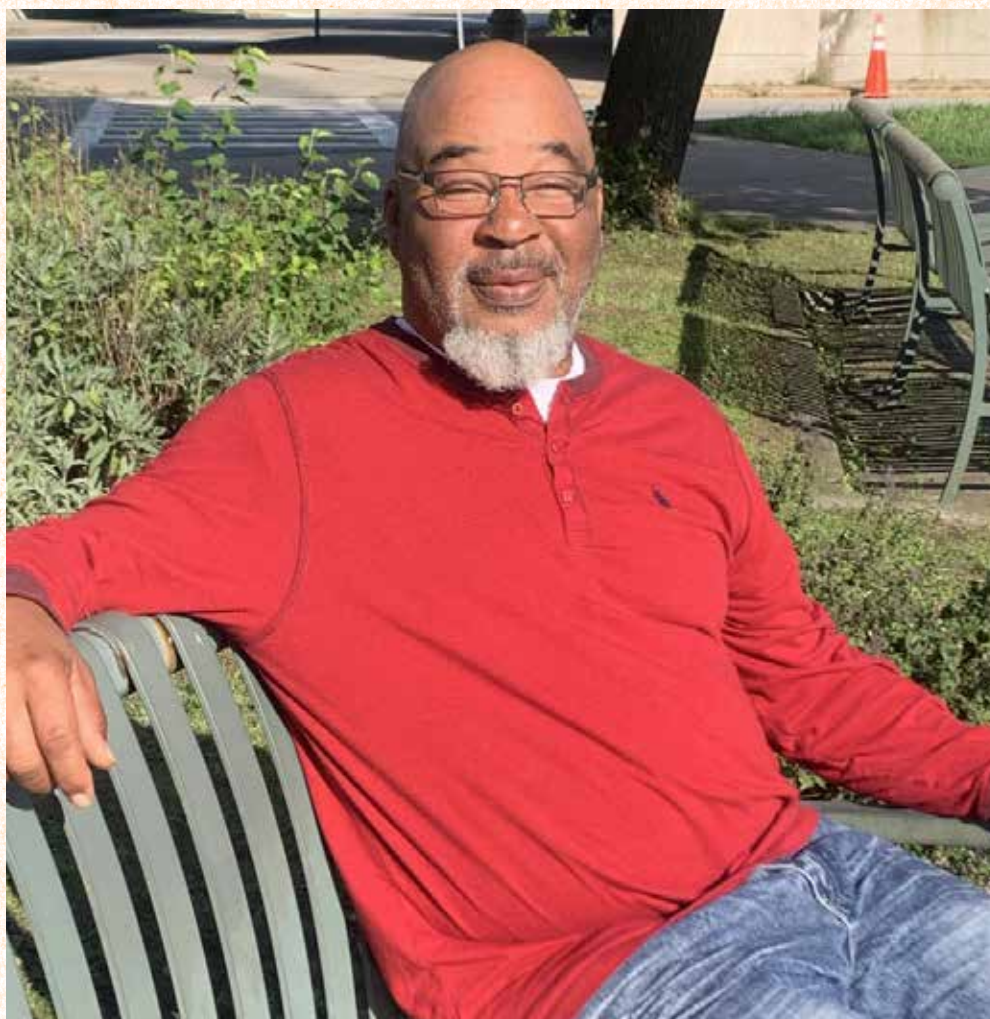
Then, Eric became a father himself and vowed that his family would have a better life than he’d had. He became sober, but his wife did not. When they divorced, Eric was left to raise five children on his own. He worked three jobs to provide for them, but admits, “They had what they needed, but they didn’t have me.”

Eric’s children grew up and moved on, leaving him to battle his old sense of loneliness again. “My kids were my life. I did everything for them.”

Deep in depression, Eric relapsed ... and he fell hard. “I was terribly ill,” he recalls. “I lost 100 lbs.” He tried several rehabs, but none of them worked. Then he was referred to Open Door Mission.

When he arrived at Open Door, Eric was beating himself up for relapsing and says, “I just wanted to disappear.” But as time went on, he felt something he hadn’t had in a very long time: hope. Just over a year later, he says, “I’m not the same person I was. This place is unbelievable!”

Looking back, Eric sees what was missing from his previous attempts at rehab: Jesus Christ. “Knowing Jesus is here to help me means a lot!” he says. “We always cry for help without realizing Jesus is here the whole time, watching over us.”



As leader of a men’s group at Open Door Mission, Eric shares that good news with new residents. He also tells them, “Don’t worry about getting a job or getting an apartment right now. Get yourself together first. Get your mind clear and yourself stable. This is your best opportunity to work on yourself.”

Eric made the best of that opportunity. In addition to the men’s group, he has a job and is active in his church, where he has a mentor. “I also do my devotions, I read my Bible, and I listen to a lot of Gospel music,” he tells us. He is also opening up communication with the children he had worked so hard to raise.

***“If I hadn’t come to Open Door, I wouldn’t be alive today,” Eric says. “This place gave my life a whole new meaning. I feel like a have a purpose now.”***





Open Door Mission  
156 N. Plymouth Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14608



Dear **Salutation**,

This Christmas, we will gather together at Open Door Mission to celebrate our Lord's birth with an excellent dinner, warm fellowship and plenty of songs and praise. It will be a good and cheerful time for the men, women and children here.

This holiday season, we have been blessed with many gifts ... food, shelter, the love and closeness of God, and the friendship of kind people like you. We never take those gifts for granted and are only too happy to share them with others.

Thank you for supporting our work throughout this past year and especially now, during this busy season when so many of our neighbors need care. Your compassion is greatly appreciated, not only by our staff and volunteers, but by everyone we serve. Sometimes kindness is hard to find, but with your generous partnership, there is enough for all here at Open Door Mission.

I wish you joy this Christmas and in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria-Iseman  
CEO

**P.S.** May God hold you with the strength of His love. Please continue to give as you can. You are making a real difference! We are 100% donor supported. That means the people coming here for help need you. They really do.

16539

To send a gift please tear off the card below and mail it with your gift, or donate online at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com). Thank you!

**Yes,** here is a gift to continue God's work. Use it to provide meals, shelter and care for those in need.

Please correct your name and address if necessary.

Sample A. Sample  
Milwaukee Direct Marketing  
675 North Barker Rd., Suite 130  
Brookfield, WI 53045-5937



12345678 N22102

**I've enclosed a gift of:**

- ☐ \$26.30 for 10 meals or care.
- ☐ \$39.45 for 15 meals or care.
- ☐ \$66.75 for 25 meals or care.
- ☐ \$131.50 for 50 meals or care.
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to serve as many people as possible.

To use your credit card or give online, please see other side. Please make checks payable to **Open Door Mission**. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your email for Mission updates

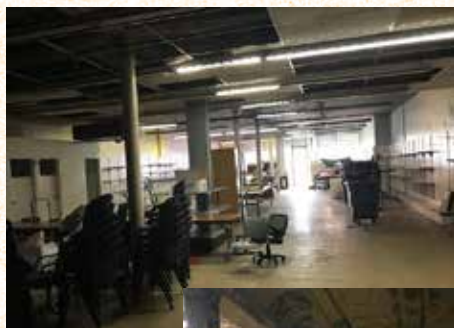


# We're moved in to the Miller Building!

The newly renovated Miller Building is now occupied. The building was originally built in 1900 and acquired by Open Door Mission in 1995.

This beautiful building needed a lot of love and care. Because of your generosity and a grant from New York State's Homeless Housing and Assistance Program, we were able to do \$6 million of renovations to create 13 studio apartments and 11 one bedroom apartments.

A big thank you to our partners on this project - Hamilton Stern Construction, Passero Associates and MM Development Advisors and all our generous donors and friends. Because of you, lives are changing for the better.



*Before*



*After*





To send a gift please tear off the card below and mail it with your gift, or donate online at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com). Thank you!

## Thank you for helping our hurting neighbors!

### How to send your gift:

- BY CHECK made payable to **Open Door Mission**
- BY DONATING ONLINE at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com)
- BY TEXTING Open Door to (585) 207-3077
- BY CREDIT CARD (please fill out the information below)

Charge my: ☐ VISA  ☐ MC  ☐ AmEx 

Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Amt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Give Online**  
Scan the code with  
your smartphone camera  
to get a direct link to  
our donation page.



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MISSION  
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