

Journeys of Hope

SPRING 2024

A Season of Blessings and Joy

opendoor
MISSION
RESTORING hope CHANGING lives

156 N. Plymouth Avenue
Rochester, NY 14608
(585) 454-6696
www.OpenDoorMission.com

Message from our CEO



Anna Valeria-Iseman
CEO

*We were buried
therefore with
Him by baptism
into death, in
order that, just as
Christ was raised
from the dead by
the glory of the
Father, we too
might walk in
newness of life.*

— Romans 6:4, ESV

Easter Brings New Life

Dear Friend,

Spring comes slowly here in Rochester. Winters are harsh, and the snow sometimes lingers into the Easter season. But even with a few false starts, the days do get longer and the sun warmer. Before long, I spot the first signs of new life around Open Door Mission: patches of grass, crocuses poking through the last of the snow. I know brighter, warmer days are ahead. The hope I'd held onto through the winter is finally realized.

I think our guests and residents feel something similar when they finally trust the Lord Jesus Christ. They've made it through a long, tough winter of hardship, looking toward a season of hope. And when it finally comes, it's well worth the wait. They are ready to embrace the new life, the eternal life, God has freely given them — and that He paid for on that first Easter.

The new Women's Dorm is also long-awaited. Now, Open Door Mission can accept more women in need of a safe place to sleep. There are now 20 warm and clean beds including a hot shower and room to study and pray.

Your support for Open Door Mission makes that possible. Our guests and residents rely on your gifts and prayers as they work toward becoming the men and women God created them to be. It's really a joy to celebrate their transformation — a lot like celebrating Easter.

I hope you and your loved ones have a blessed Easter season. Please thank God for the men and women at Open Door Mission. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria-Iseman
CEO

You helped Marc find light in the darkness.

When you meet Marc, you see the joy in him. He has an enthusiasm for life that helps people open up to him.

Conversations start easily, even with strangers on the street. He listens, and he genuinely cares. It has not always been this way.

Marc grew up in a faith-based family with plenty of trauma and pain going on. Drugs and alcohol numbed the pain for a while but things went from bad to worse. His marriage collapsed, driving him into a deep depression.

He knew God was there for him, but he described his relationship with God as like a balloon on a long string ... slowly drifting further and further away.

Marc knew he had to take action, so he entered a strict recovery program, but something was still missing. He couldn't face the world. There was no confidence. No love. No joy. Then he came to Open Door with a conviction to draw closer to Christ.

Marc says, "Open Door has helped me change my perception of life. I am learning how to call on Christ and use my past to help others."

Today, he is a changed man with a light inside him. He has a new job and is active in his church. He loves to talk about Jesus. It just seems to happen. "Most times, people don't want to talk about Jesus right away. But I spend some time with them, get to know them, and then I can share the joy God has given me!"

As Marc continues his time at Open Door Mission, he has plans to help others. "I want to start a program where kids

can get a free breakfast and people can get the things they need to get through their day."

His generous nature has a lot to do with you, the donor. He tells us, "Without the donors, the people at Open Door would not be getting the help they really need. Thank you for the help you give me, so I can learn how to give it back to others."



Thank You!

Recently, volunteers from Roberts Wesleyan University came to help paint the Mission's newly acquired space, which will eventually serve as the Community Resource Center.

Thank you to all who came to help out! You make a difference to people in our community who need a friend like you.

Please join us and find out why we earned the Top Workplace Award. For more information about job opportunities, visit www.opendoormission.com.



A new blessing for more women.

From the first day it opened on November 27th, 2023, the new women's shelter was a blessing to the women who need it.

With your support, our old clothing room was repurposed into a 20-bed women's shelter. Now, more women can join our program and find the peace and care they need.

God has worked so quickly through this ministry, creating strong bonds between guests and staff — it is truly amazing.

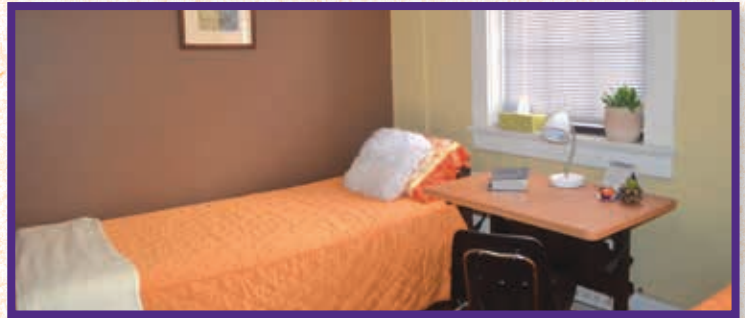
Since opening, women are already finding permanent housing and rehousing, and others are joining recovery programs. Still others are finding refuge from dangerous situations.

Women are rebuilding their lives and reconnecting with children and families. Many tell us they draw close to Jesus. **Thank you for caring about the women in our community who need secure shelter and encouragement to heal. You are making a big difference in their lives.**

Thank you for caring about the women in our community!



Kaylin - our new case manager in our women's shelter.



Congrats, Grads!

Please join us in congratulating these graduates for their hard work and dedication. They are excited to follow the Lord and begin new lives. Your generosity helps provide the meals, housing and care they need to leave old habits in the past and become self-sustaining and upstanding leaders in their church and community.

