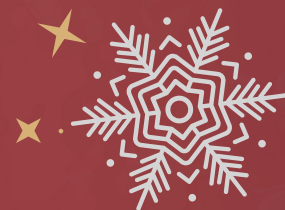


# Journeys of Hope



## Brian's journey has inspired us all.

Like most kids, Brian wanted to be accepted.

But his journey took a bad turn as early as high school: "I was the kid who would do anything to please the crowd – lie, steal – things that would get me into trouble."

What Brian didn't understand at that early age was that his actions were also self-destructive and would lead to much bigger problems later on.



## Just for you...

Disaster: Prevented!

"Freed from addiction."

ROC the Day/Giving Tuesday

opendoor  
MISSION







## Director's Message

A MESSAGE FROM ANNA VALERIA-ISEMAN



### Disaster: Prevented!

COVID-19 was supposed to hit the homeless particularly hard. It would have been devastating to the men, women and children you help us serve.

#### But that didn't happen.

Precautions were taken to protect everyone here at the Mission, as well as those who depend on us for meals.

As the pandemic escalated, those who were hungry were fed, those who were homeless were sheltered, and the hope of Jesus was brought to those in despair.

Thanks to partners like you, Open Door Mission was able to continue being a beacon of God's love shining in the darkness!

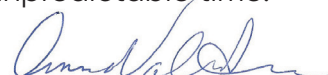
#### What happens now?

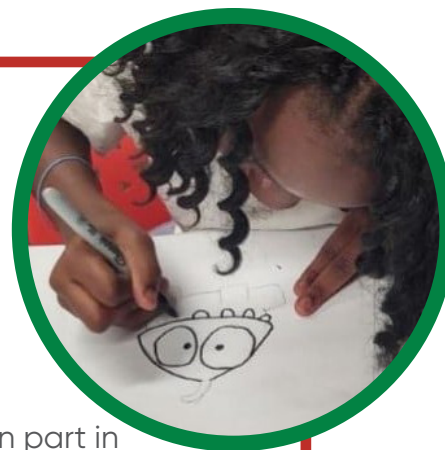
Neighbors hit hardest by COVID-19's economic fallout now face another hurdle as evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs begin. Many may be facing homelessness for the first time!

They need your help now more than ever.

Please join in praying for those facing hardships during this difficult season – and if you're in a position to send a gift, please do so today.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we continue through this unpredictable time!

  
Anna Valeria-Iseman, Executive Director



### A lifeline for women and children

Now entering our third year of operation, Coldwater House for women and children has successfully helped families transition from homelessness to home.

With capacity for eight to 11 families at one time, 40 families have taken part in this life-changing program, 22 of whom are now in permanent housing of their own!

Your support has provided more than 12,591 nights of safe shelter, home-made meals, tutoring for nearly 100 children, and helped 17 residents gain, or better their employment.

**THANK YOU!**

## Freed from addiction!

Brian's "youthful indiscretions", designed to get him noticed by his classmates, not only led to him dropping out of school, but gave way to more serious problems including drugs and alcohol.

He stopped using for several years when he started a family, and in his early 20's, he became a "child of God."

"For two years, I did everything I thought a good Christian should," Brian says today. But in the end "compromises were made." Brian had been drinking again, which resulted not only in the loss of several jobs, but a divorce.

Thinking that "starting over" would fix everything, Brian moved away from Rochester. But the drinking returned, and in 2012, Brian came back to the city and into the Christian Life Recovery Program here at the Open Door Mission.

"It was amazing," he says. "I thought I was getting the help I needed...but I did leave...it was all on me."



**"Stop what you are doing and wake up! Turn to the Lord!"**

Brian relapsed and ended up in prison. But he believes God put him in prison for two and a half years to not only protect him, but end his addiction to alcohol and heroin. A caseworker from the Mission kept in touch with him, telling him those at the Mission were praying for him. When he was released, Brian returned to the Mission to complete the program!

**"Doing the Lord's work!"**

Today, Brian is taking counseling courses and has started an addiction ministry at his church.

"Most people only know the Mission because of food or clothing, or as a homeless shelter," Brian says. "But they do so much more. Because of the Mission and the Christian Life Recovery Program at the Open Door Mission, I became free!"



### Remind me to ROC!

You don't want to miss the big day!

On ROC The Day/ Giving Tuesday several anonymous donors of the Mission will match all donations that day up to \$50,000.

Go to [OpenDoorMission.com](https://OpenDoorMission.com) and make sure we have your email address.

**#GIVING  
TUESDAY™**





## 2020 Golf Classic – Re-imagined!

With the many challenges of COVID-19 we've all faced, the Open Door Mission is so very thankful for the tremendous generosity of those who believe in the life-impacting work provided for people in crisis everyday.

Thanks to our "re-imagined" 2020 Golf Classic, \$35,550 was raised to support the programs and services provided for men, women and children in need.

### THANK YOU to our 2020 Golf Classic Sponsors:

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## LET'S BE FRIENDS

[OpenDoorMission.com](http://OpenDoorMission.com)

### Here's my gift to bless people in need during the holidays:

- ☐ \$34.19 for **13 meals and care**  
☐ \$65.75 for **25 meals and care**  
☐ \$97.31 for **37 meals and care**  
☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as many people as possible

☐ Bill my credit card ☐ Make this a recurring gift

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It's easy to help: ☎ (585) 454-6696, ext. 132 [OpenDoorMission.com](http://OpenDoorMission.com) Text OpenDoor to (585) 207-3077

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