



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

Grateful for You

Your Thanksgiving Newsletter Enclosed

- Giving Thanks Together
- A Test of Greatness
- You opened doors for Sharon!

FROM _____

15795



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

N21091



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RESTORING hope CHANGING lives

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



Journeys of Hope

SEPTEMBER 2021

Living a
Blessed
and
Grateful
Life



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MISSION
RESTORING hope CHANGING lives

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

Director's Message



Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director

Giving Thanks Together

Dear Friend,

Last Thanksgiving was a wake-up call for many of us. Because of the pandemic, we could not celebrate with our extended families and friends as we had in years past. It helped us better appreciate those around us and reminded us to take nothing for granted.

It was the same at Open Door Mission, as we could not welcome our hungry neighbors to our table, but instead handed out meals to go. Our residents also had to spread out during our Thanksgiving dinner, and there were no volunteers serving and spreading cheer. Still, everyone was thankful and optimistic about the following Thanksgiving.

Now that it's almost here, we see our optimism was well-founded. This Thanksgiving, our doors will again be open to anyone who needs a hot meal and a kind word. Volunteers will heap plates with roast turkey, mashed potatoes and all the sides — and they'll bring the pumpkin pie and coffee around after dinner. It will be time to give thanks together, at last.

In this newsletter, you will read about people, like Sharon, who are so grateful for you. Your kindness and generosity improve lives and it is beautiful to see.

We thank God for faithful friends like you who make all of this possible!

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director



And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

— Colossians 3:15

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

You opened “so many doors” for Sharon!



Like many people, Sharon looks back on 2020 as a “bad time,” but not because of the pandemic. Instead, it’s because she was arrested and “things started going downhill from there.”

She had no job, no transportation and eventually, no place to live. Homeless and desperate, Sharon survived by making her way from one shelter to another.

But one very good thing happened to Sharon last year. She found her way to the Open Door Mission. “They interviewed me and moved me right in,” she remembers. Although she had been in other shelters, Sharon felt right away that Open Door was different. “When I was doing my intake, I felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I wanted to cry, I wanted to pray. I had never had a feeling like that before.”

Sharon tells us Open Door provided everything she needed to get her life back on track. With help from staff and counselors, she straightened out her legal issues, took care of all her paperwork, got a job and found a place to live independently.

“They have been such a blessing; they really opened so many doors for me,” Sharon says. “All I had to do was walk through them.”

One door Sharon walked through reconnected her with Jesus Christ. “I love God and I thank Him every day,” Sharon says.



“If you put Him first, He will always be there for you. He will put the right people in your life at the right time.”

To anybody who is experiencing hardship, who feels lost and hopeless, Sharon strongly recommends Open Door. “The people there will really care for you. You might have given up on yourself, but they will never give up on you! They’re very encouraging. If someone really wants to change their life, they should go to Open Door. It’s the place to be.”

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
— **Philippians 3:13-14**

A Test of Greatness

A large ship passing by leaves a great wake behind it. The larger the ship, the bigger the wake.

When a historian looks to measure the greatness of a person’s life, they ask, “What did that person leave behind that moved other people? Did they leave a big wake?”

No one left a larger wake than Jesus. When you leave a legacy promoting Jesus Christ you are part of the greatest life-changing revolution in history. As you lift Jesus up, He draws people to Himself and changes them forever.

If you would like to leave a Christ-honoring legacy, please contact us. We can start a conversation of how your legacy can help those in need for generations to come.

You can reach **NAME** at **EMAIL** or **PHONE** for more information on leaving a legacy.



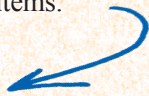
Thanksgiving is coming!



Last year, we gave out over 200 food boxes during the holiday season to those in need in our community. It was a busy year and this year could be even busier!

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

- Turkeys
- Stuffing
- Potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Butter



Donations can be dropped off at our Caring Center located on 156 North Plymouth Avenue, Rochester, NY 14608.

Thank you!



Our Clothing Room is now OPEN

For many years, Open Door Mission's clothing room has traditionally operated as a shop for those who needed clothes.

As a result of the pandemic, in March 2020 we made the difficult decision to close the clothing room and turn our clothing operation to a grab-and-go style.

We have great news ... the clothing room is re-opened and we need your help!

We are looking for groups of volunteers (up to 6 people per shift) to help operate the clothing room. Job responsibilities include: sorting, hanging, concierge services and assisting those in need. The shifts that need to be filled are 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM on Monday through Friday.

In 2020, we received 310,000 pounds of clothes so we need a lot of volunteers to process these wonderful and overwhelmingly generous gifts. If you or your community group can help, please contact volunteer@opendoormission.com.





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



Dear **Salutation**,

Thanksgiving is one of our favorite times here at Open Door Mission. There's nothing like the the joy of serving on this holiday, seeing heads bowed in prayer over the food — and you really can't find a more delicious turkey dinner!

But the truth is, we give thanks every day of the year for God's provision through you.

You give the men, women and children here so much to be thankful for. Every meal, every night of shelter, every class in our program is only possible because you care. And every time you give to your neighbors in need, you also give thanks to God.

God has been so good to us since last Thanksgiving, restoring much of what was lost during the pandemic. You have been good to us too, supporting us through the toughest months and while we all recovered from the shut-downs. Thank you and God bless you!

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director

15795

To send a gift please tear off the card below and mail it with your gift, or donate online at www.opendoormission.com. Thank you!

Yes, I want to help you prepare for the Thanksgiving season by sponsoring tables.

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 D21081

I've enclosed a gift of:

- \$21.04 for one table serving 8 people.
- \$42.08 for two tables serving 16 people.
- \$84.16 for four tables serving 32 people.
- \$ _____ to serve as many people as possible.
- God has overwhelmed me. I am sending an extraordinary gift of \$ _____.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

BACK by Popular Demand ... Trivia!

Test your general trivia knowledge in our Halloween themed virtual trivia event!

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$75 for a team. There will be amazing prizes (even one for best costume), exciting special guest appearances and fun competition. Join the fun from the comfort of your own home on October 27th at 7:00 PM.



You can register on opendoormission.com. Participants need both a computer/tablet and a smartphone to play.

Join us for Open Door Mission's Hope Lives Awards Breakfast!

Open Door Mission is hosting our first Hope Lives Awards Breakfast in September!

Please join us for an eventful morning honoring everyday heroes who have made a difference in the lives of Rochester's homeless.

Guests will have the opportunity to hear about our programs and exciting future plans for Open Door Mission.

1ST ANNUAL

Hope Lives
AWARDS BREAKFAST

The breakfast will take place on Thursday, September 30th from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM at Locust Hill Country Club. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased at www.opendoormission.com.

For more information, please contact Kate Munzinger, Director of Development, at (585) 645-0704

To send a gift please tear off the card below and mail it with your gift, or donate online at 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
- 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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