



Journeys of Hope

EARLY SUMMER 2022

Beautiful Things Are
Happening!

"I knew God was at Coldwater House."

opendoor
MISSION
CELEBRATING 70 years OF RESTORING hope CHANGING lives

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Director's Message



Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director

*And God is able
to make all grace
abound to you,
so that having
all sufficiency in
all things at all
times, you may
abound in every
good work.*

— 2 Corinthians 9:8, ESV

Bursting Forth Beautifully

Dear Friend,

If spring is a time of new beginnings, summer is a season of bursting forth! One sure sign of summer is the colorful plantings outside our Samaritan House Emergency Shelter. They make the shelter look so welcoming to our guests ... and it really is! As the first step toward recovery from drug and alcohol abuse, or just a source of support during a tough time, it's a place where people feel comfortable and cared for. And within a few months, those who come to us troubled and discouraged will begin to blossom themselves.

In fact, as you'll read in this issue of Journeys of Hope, so much is coming to fruition at Open Door Mission this summer. For one thing, our clothing room is open and blessing our guests and our community. There are more opportunities for you to share your time and talents through our new Volunteer Hub. We are nearing completion on the renovation of our Miller Building. And we've just released our Annual Report, so you can see the impact you've had on men, women and children in our community.

Even when summer is past, when the leaves begin to fall and the colors to fade, beautiful things will still be happening here. Our hurting neighbors will find their way to Jesus Christ and set out on satisfying, productive lives. And it's all because you care. Thank you for all you do — and have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anna Valeria-Iseman".

Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director

**Thank you for your continued
prayers and support!**

God Answers a Mother's Prayers at Coldwater House



Shenel will never forget Mother's Day in 2016. That was the day her beloved mother suffered a stroke and passed away just a week later.

Shenel, separated from her husband and trying to raise four children on her own, had lost the one constant in her life. Overwhelmed by grief, she fell back on her coping mechanism: to shut down and go on autopilot.

"I was struggling," Shenel admits. "I was trying to work, but I didn't have enough money to keep things going, and I was really behind with the rent."

Eventually, she lost her apartment. Shenel was sleeping in her car with her children when she connected with a childhood friend who told her about Open Door Mission and Coldwater House.

Coming to Coldwater House was a relief for the single mother.

"There was a peace I felt the whole time I was there. I got a chance to heal." Recalling the many times she had seen her mother praying in the year before her death, Shenel says, "Prayer is like a hand that goes out to the future. This was her prayer."

Today, Shenel has an apartment and a full-time job as a motor coach driver. Most importantly, her family is together and doing well. "At Open Door Mission, this all became possible," she says. "Coldwater House is a connection God put into my life so I could move forward."

And Shenel has hopes to move even further forward — first as a homeowner, then as the author of a graphic novel and eventually, as a pilot! She still comes back to Coldwater House, often donating the great bargains she finds on clearance at Macy's.

"I am not rich with money, but I am so wealthy because of the people God has placed in my life at Coldwater," Shenel says. That includes you. "Everything you give is truly working because God is here."

With her children safe, Shenel was able to concentrate on getting her life in order, financially, emotionally and spiritually. "I couldn't believe the support. It was amazing."



And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. — 1 John 5:14, ESV

Save the Date for our 2nd Annual Hope Lives Breakfast with Dr. Ben Carson

Thursday, September 29, 2022

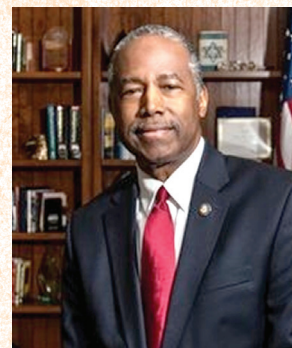
Locust Hill Country Club

Join us as we welcome Dr. Ben Carson to recognize Open Door Mission's 70th anniversary and honor those who have impacted the lives of our homeless neighbors.

Dr. Carson, former Presidential candidate and 17th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was born in Detroit to a single mother with a 3rd grade education who worked multiple jobs to support their family. Raised to love reading and education, he graduated from Yale University and earned his M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School. For nearly 30 years, Secretary Carson served as Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center, a position he assumed when he was just 33 years old, becoming the youngest

major division director in the hospital's history.

Dr. Carson received dozens of honors and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He is also a recipient of the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and has been awarded over 70 honorary doctorate degrees. Dr. Carson has authored nine books.



For more information, please contact Kate Munzinger at kmunzinger@opendoormission.com. Or visit www.opendoormission.com.

Thank You! for Restoring Hope and Changing Lives

Last year brought tremendous blessings to Open Door Mission. Your gifts, prayers and donations of food and clothing kept us going as we continued to welcome homeless guests and families in need.

In 2021, you helped us:

- Serve more than 70,000 meals
- Provide 13,228 nights of safe shelter
- Collect nearly 300,000 lbs. of clothing
- Care for 31 men in our recovery program
- House 37 families at our Coldwater home

**You can read our entire 2021 Annual Report at:
opendoormission.com/annual-report-2021**

Open Door Mission was voted "Top Workplace"



Open Door Mission was voted "Best Charity" in Rochester's 20th Annual Community Choice Awards and was selected by its employees as a top workplace among area employers in the Democrat's & Chronicle's 2022 Rochester Top Workplaces.