

# Journeys of Hope

FALL 2024

## Grateful *for His Blessings*



opendoor  
MISSION  
RESTORING hope CHANGING lives

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# Gratitude Timeline—

## Message from our CEO

### Grateful Hearts. Open Doors.

Dear Friend,

Open Door Mission is launching a year-long gratitude campaign entitled “Grateful Hearts. Open Doors.” The gratitude campaign is an organization-wide effort to thank the community for its support in growing, developing and expanding our services.

On Thanksgiving Day 1952, Open Door Mission began by handing out approximately 15 meals on the corner of North Plymouth and West Main Street. As you will see in the timeline, there has been tremendous growth over the years! With the recent acquisition of 80 West Main Street, Open Door Mission has returned to its roots at the original spot where it all began 72 years ago.

From this exact spot, Open Door Mission has come full circle. As God provides, the work continues to address the needs of homelessness, emergency food and addiction recovery in the Rochester community. This Gratitude Campaign is our way of thanking the community for their support and thanking God for His provision.

We are profoundly grateful for you and this significant transition. Our team expresses our deepest gratitude to the community while we actively plan for the future.

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria  
CEO



Open Door Mission opens a 20-bed women's shelter at the Caring Center named Selah House.

2023



2023

Open Door Mission purchases former Church of the Holy Ghost's rectory, neighboring Coldwater Women and Children's Home.

2023

ODM Clothing Room is relocated from the Caring Center to the Wegman Building and opened to the public. The clothing program receives over 300,000 pounds of clothing annually and distributes to thousands of Rochester families.

2022

Open Door Mission acquires 30,000 square foot “Wegman Building” on the corner of Plymouth Ave and Main Street. The Lord blessed us with the same spot Open Door Mission first began services in 1952.

Open Door Mission converts storage facility (Miller Pharmacy) into 24 supportive housing units for formerly homeless individuals with a grant from the NYS HHAP program.

2022



Open Door Mission temporarily expands shelter service to Rodeway Motel in Town of Gates to adjust for the COVID pandemic. ODM staff is serving a record 120,000 meals annually and providing shelter to 150 homeless guests each night.

2020

2018

Open Door Mission opens Coldwater Women and Children's Home to provide women and their children transitional housing. Coldwater Women and Children's Home can house between 8-11 families at a time.





# For the last 72 years, Open Door Mission continues to grow with God's blessing and your support!

**1952**

Open Door Mission was founded by Executive Director Grant Speicher to provide clothing and food to Rochester's homeless. The journey begins from its start-up location at the corner of West Main Street and North Plymouth Avenue.



**1954**

Open Door Mission moves from its start-up location to 210 West Main Street.

**1958**

ODM expands services and begins providing clothes, evening meals and chapel services to an average of 15 people a day. (Harold Oswald 1958-1974)



**1981**

Men's Rescue Shelter established at 210 West Main Street becomes known as Samaritan House.

**1984**

A clothing distribution program is established.

**1986**

ODM purchases 156 North Plymouth (Caring Center) to accommodate the growing recovery program and the residential men's recovery program begins. The clothing room and food program also move to this location.

**1995**

ODM purchases the former Archie Department Store building on West Main Street and begins using it for storage.



**2017**

Open Door Mission purchases convent from Holy Ghost Church in the Town of Gates on Coldwater Road.

## Please Pray

As Open Door continues to quickly grow, it is clear a new building needs to be purchased for shelter. Meetings with the city are happening, but zoning issues are holding back a purchase.

Please pray that we connect with the right, qualified staff that shares our spiritual commitment.





# What are you thankful for?

As Thanksgiving draws near it's good to look at the blessings God gives. Here are some friends at Open Door Mission who would like to share their blessings with you.

*"I am grateful that I get to see the Lord work every day, not only in my life, but in the lives of my staff, and the people we serve."*

– Jeremy Hinz  
Director of Emergency Services



*"Being the New Clothing Room Coordinator, I am granted daily the opportunity to meet and serve different people from all walks of life."*

*The Open Door Mission, its values and the core of what we do here enhance both the gratitude I receive and that I give. I am excited to say that my grace, growth and GRATITUDE continue to grow daily and Open Door Mission is a heightened factor in that!"*

– Nicole Coleman, Donation Center



*"I am grateful that I was led to Open Door Mission. I am blessed to be able to be my authentic self and serve The Lord. During my time at Open Door Mission, I have gained strength, community, fellowship, growth and development. There is no greater joy than to serve alongside people with the same spirit and the same heart!"*

– Kaylin Schlonski, Senior Manager



*"Having been blessed, tremendously, through His redemptive spirit: 'To whom much is given, much will be required' ... that I benefit others."*

– Robert Williams, VP of Operations



*"As I celebrate 25 years in my role at the Mission, I've seen how God has preserved and advanced this ministry in miraculous ways. I'm grateful to have witnessed the goodness of God during my time in the fundraising department. I'm also very thankful for the many friends and financial partners that I've come to know over these many years."*

– Christopher Scribani, Director of Development



*"Let go of the past and live every moment."*

– Esther Vargas,  
Women's  
Emergency Shelter



*"I am very grateful for Open Door Mission, most importantly for giving me the opportunity to help those in need in my community."*

– Starsha Flamer, Case Manager



*"I am grateful to work in an environment that places an emphasis on helping the greater good for others, where teamwork makes the dream work!"*

– Terrie Palermo, Finance Specialist



*"Open Door Mission gives me the opportunity to make a difference."*

– Gavin Palo  
Development Coordinator



## A Note of Gratitude

A big "Thank you!" goes out to all of the staff and volunteers who give their time and energy so generously.

Your work does not go unnoticed and Open Door Mission is grateful for you! May God bless you!

