



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

Merry Christmas!

Your Thanksgiving Newsletter Enclosed

- Home for the Holidays
- Christmas ... and winter on the way.
- Carolyn is a Survivor

FROM _____

15798



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

N21102



Please
Place
Stamp
Here



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





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



Dear **Salutation**,

Christmas comes only once a year, but I'm delighted to say your spirit of generosity sustains us all year long.

Because you care, our guests and residents are blessed with meals, shelter, clothing, counseling, education and more. This place overflows with generosity. I believe everyone coming here knows that you, the staff and the volunteers all want the best for them.

The truth is that God is at work in this place, moving through us all to care for each other. Thank you for your gracious part in this. We appreciate you so much.

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director

P.S. When you give to Open Door Mission, you offer a warm and welcoming place for those in need at Christmastime. Thank you!

15798

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, here is a Christmas gift
to continue God's work.
Use it to provide meals, shelter
and care for those in need.

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 N21102

I've enclosed a gift of:

- ☐ \$26.30 for 10 meals or care.
- ☐ \$39.45 for 15 meals or care.
- ☐ \$66.75 for 25 meals or care.
- ☐ \$131.50 for 50 meals or care.
- ☐ \$_____ to serve as many people as possible.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATIONS AT COLDWATER

On average, a family will stay at our Coldwater Home for Women and Children for about three months.

And sometimes we have the joy of celebrating the birthdays of the sweet children staying here.

To make sure these birthdays are extra special, we rely on generous donors, like you! When a new family checks in, our social worker will find out if a birthday is approaching and we will make a plan to celebrate.

If you are interested in donating a gift, wrapping paper or decorations, please contact Kate Munzinger at kmunzinger@opendoormission.com. Thank you for being part of the celebrations!



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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Journeys of Hope

DECEMBER 2021

Living a Blessed and Grateful Life



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156 N. Plymouth Avenue
Rochester, NY 14608
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Director's Message



Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director

Home for the Holidays

Dear Friend,

For many people, the hardest part of the pandemic was not being able to go home for the holidays. This year, we all hope to reconnect with the family and friends we missed last Thanksgiving and Christmas. We'll make up for last year's lean celebrations with more food, more gifts, more love.

As we make our plans, let's remember the men and women right here in Rochester who don't have any family to go home to. In fact, many of them don't even have a home of their own. For them, Open Door Mission is their family. We're their home for the holidays. And we will do our best to make our guests feel special.

We'll make the Mission even warmer and more welcoming than it already is. Our guests will be provided with everything they need – a good meal, warm clothes and basic necessities. We will also make sure the Mission is filled with Christmas cheer by providing decorations, gifts, cookies and holiday carols.

There are many ways you can make this season bright. Share your decorating skills. Donate gifts or gift cards for our guests and help us wrap them up. Bring food, lend a hand in the kitchen or serve meals. Or just come by and wish someone a merry Christmas. It'll mean a lot.

Thank you for all you do. Our guests appreciate you and so do we. I wish you all the best this holiday season, wherever you celebrate it.

Sincerely,

Anna Valeria-Iseman
Executive Director



*May the God of
hope fill you with
all joy and peace
in believing, so
that by the power
of the Holy Spirit
you may abound
in hope.*

— Romans 15:13, ESV

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Carolyn is a Survivor

You helped by giving her a safe place to start over.

Carolyn had a child at age 15. She then returned to school after her son was born. Then she had another son a year later. "People doubted me," Carolyn tells us. "They said I wouldn't finish school, but I did." In fact, Carolyn wanted to go to college and get a nursing degree, but her mother made her stay home and care for her children. Even so, she never let go of her dream, later becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Carolyn had one more son and raised all three boys on her own. "I never received child support," she says proudly. "I always believed in working." She set a good example: all her sons finished school and are doing well today.

However, there was one area of Carolyn's life she wasn't proud of. Her brother had introduced her to drugs when she was 28. For years, she managed her addiction. Then, last year, her brother passed away after using heroin laced with fentanyl.

"I'm not taking that same path," Carolyn insists. "I knew I had to stop. I wanted to get clean." She went to rehab, but she didn't want to return to her apartment building, where drug use was commonplace. "It wasn't a safe place for me." Instead, she came to Open Door Mission.

Here, Carolyn found loving support as she embraced her sobriety and prepared to start a new life. She enjoys



being in a Christian community and says Open Door is a wonderful option for women who struggle with addiction. "It's a good place to get your head together. But you've got to want to get clean. If you don't, there's no sense in coming here," she says.

"I've been through a lot, but I'm making it," Carolyn says. She looks forward to finding an apartment in a quiet neighborhood. And she hopes to help other women by sharing her story. "If anyone is still using drugs, I pray to God they can stop. It took me a long time to come to where I am now, and I'm not going back!"

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. — Romans, 15:4, ESV

Congratulations, Anna!

Open Door Mission's Executive Director, Anna Valeria-Iseman, recently received The Marilyn Farmer Women in Leadership Award at Citygate Network's 107th Annual Conference in Baltimore!

Citygate Network is North America's oldest and largest community of independent, faith-based crisis shelters and life-transformation centers.

This award is presented to an outstanding female leader within this network of Gospel shelters and centers. This is a tremendous honor that recognizes the passion, dedication and care of Open Door Mission's fearless leader. Congratulations, Anna, this award is well-deserved!



Our Executive Director, Anna, recently received The Marilyn Farmer Women in Leadership Award and a standing ovation.

Christmas ... and winter on the way

This past year was difficult for many. We are so grateful that you continued giving through the year, and no one here went hungry. Thank you for being faithful.

Now, our joyful Christmas celebrations are fast approaching. We will celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ with delicious food and wonderful company. It truly is a happy and heart-lifting time for Open Door Mission's guests.

We are also preparing for winter. As a warming shelter, we offer a safe place for those on the streets to come in from the cold. The shelter offered can be life-saving!

This means the list of needs keeps growing! You can bring any of the items listed below directly to us or you can donate funds to buy much-needed items by detaching the giving card and mailing it in with your donation.

God uses you to turn lonely and hurting people to Jesus to receive peace and everlasting life.

Thank you for making a difference. God bless you!

Donate food and clothing

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

Socks
Underwear
Hats
Gloves
Scarves
Hand Warmers
Blankets
Boots
Coats
Pasta Sauce
Soup (any type)

Thank you!

Other much-needed items can be found at
opendoormission.com/donate-food-and-clothing.

To drop off a donation, please bring it to:

156 N. Plymouth Avenue

Rochester, NY 14608

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday

