

Open Door Ministry



April 2017

Because of God's love, Open Door Ministry will support individuals and families to remain stably housed through disability income management and food assistance, while empowering them to do more with their lives.

The Need

I would like to explain a little about our client needs. Approximately 1000 individuals a month come into Open Door Ministry for one or more of our three programs.

Our top program is our Payee Program, which keeps people from becoming homeless. Through this program, we manage the client's Social Security (SS), Residential State Supplemental (RSS) and or other government income.

The first goal of this program is to pay the rent and keep the client in housing. We feel that without our help they would be homeless and or in a shelter costing the county and or the state. We also make sure that the utilities are paid and that they have money for food.

We communicate with the client's case managers and family if we need to give them the best wrap around services. We also assist them in making funeral arrangements if they have the funds. We then give the client spending money. Most of the clients in the payee program either have a mental health diagnosis or have a developmental disability.

We have a food pantry that allows people in the local area to receive food assistance up to two times a month. Because we are a member of the FreeStore Foodbank we are able to purchase food and canned goods at a cheaper rate than you could at the store. If you would like to help us we would ask that you donate money so that we can spend less on the same product and make your money go further. We would ask you to purchase and donate things like paper products, including toilet paper, and Kleenex. We would also ask you to purchase feminine hygiene products and things like razors, shampoo, laundry detergent, and other household non-food product.

Our third program is a little hard to explain but very needed in the

community all the same. The program is our Welcome Center. We provide donuts and coffee on a daily basis and a hot meal on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. It is not always the meal that folks need: sometimes it is just coming in to be seen and to interact with others. Forty years ago when this program was started it was because someone felt that people with mental illness and or developmental disabilities needed somewhere to come and hang out instead of sitting closed off in their home or just roaming the streets. The Welcome Center provides that safe inviting space.

UPDATE:

On May 20th our facility will be painted by Crossroads Church. We are so grateful that 20 of their church members will be in to get the job done. Thank you Crossroads!

Success Story

In February, Mr. Alan (not his real name) came in for food. As we were assisting him the staff asked, "Are you okay"? It was at this point that Mr. Alan informed our staff that he did not have enough money for rent. He went on to explain that his rent money had been stolen from his account. After we made a phone call for help, Mr. Alan went home set up with an appointment

Thank You!

We wanted to take a moment and say thank you to our volunteers who helped while staff was on medical leave.

Volunteers include: Ken and Teresa Wright, Mary Schneider, Lou Puopolo, and JoAnn Morse.

Thank you for serving faithfully and without your help we would have been in a lot of trouble for those six weeks. **YOU ARE THE BEST!**

set with a friend of Open Door who was willing to help him with part of his rent. Although Mr. Alan did not show up to meet the man. He did call us a few days later and thanked staff for all her help then he proceeded to tell us the rest of the story. He apparently set up an account with a family member to create and hold family reunion funds. The reunion was put on hold but the family member took the money out of the account, which included Mr. Alan's rent funds. In the end, he was able to go to his church who paid his rent. He was so appreciative that we gave him food from our food pantry and that we were willing to call on donors to help him out of a problem. It was a tearful interaction on both occasions.

**Open Door Ministry
Hours**

Coffee & Donuts

Monday through Friday

9:30 to 11:30

Hot soup meal

Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday

10:30 to 11:30

Food Pantry

Monday through Friday

9:30 to 11:30 (last client
taken)

Can pick up twice a
month

Payee Program

Monday through Friday

9:30 to 12:00 or by
appointment after 1:00

**Open Door is closed
for lunch from 12:00
to 1:00**



Put on your walking shoes and join us for the Hunger walk on 5/29/17. We will have a team walking at the Freestore Foodbank Hunger Walk.

<http://cincinnatihungerwalk.org/2017/>

If you do not want to walk, please go on line to the website and support the Open Door Ministry. The funds will be used to purchase food for our food pantry. Thank you for your support.

Without You:

It is so amazing to think that the Open Door Ministry has been open for 40 plus years and we survive because of you. You are the folks who take time to come in and volunteer to help with the food pantry, hand out food, and donate money or other goods. Sometimes it makes us stop and be grateful for all that you do – not only for the staff here at Open Door but for all of our clients.

Just to let you know we have up to 1,000 individuals that walk through the doors every month. We not only serve them food, we have the food pantry and the payee program, but we take care of other things that our clients may need. A few weeks ago a young man came in and asked if I could help him put together a resume. He had a job interview in a few days. We were able to give him a resume to take to the interview.

Thanks to all of you!