



Summer 2009

TRYAD Tuesday Afternoons

Every Tuesday afternoon, a diverse group meets at Open Door Fellowship for food, fun and friendship. Some walk to the gatherings and others roll, but however they arrive it's always a good time at the TRYAD weekly Bible study. TRYAD (**T**o **R**econcile **Y**ou **A**ble-bodied and **D**isabled) is an out-reach that provides opportunities for people with physical disabilities and those who are able-bodied to come together in fellowship. Facilitated by TRYAD Director, Laura Sheppard, the group meets weekly for lunch and a Bible study in addition to other opportunities throughout the week.

Vi Schultz, a long time member of the group, says

she comes for the friendships she's formed. "I love our trips to the zoo, hikes and reaching out to the community." Schultz related that the group gets together to provide out-reaches such as Christmas caroling at nursing homes during the holidays and an aspiring drama group.

The TRYAD crew has also been leading disability awareness trainings around town. This has been a powerful way for the group to pursue their mission of "breaking down barriers of fear and ignorance which separate the able-bodied and the disabled." The group recently spoke to the women of Still Water's Housing at their community meeting about issues of reconciliation and understanding.

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SAVE THE DATE!

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"EMBRACING OUR CITY"

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND DINNER

October 30th, 2009

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Meeting Needs and Making Disciples in the Urban Community



Open Door Ministries & Denver's Road Home

Most people who have been around Denver for a while have heard of Denver's Road Home (DRH), Denver's plan to end homelessness in 10 years. It's an exciting collaboration between government, business, non-profit, and the faith community. It started in 2005 and after four years of operation is posting some significant progress. Denver is on track to meet the initiative's ambitious goals. They state, "The progress is tangible and encouraging: over 1500 new units of housing have been created, 957 families have received eviction assistance, 3,278 homeless people have received employment assistance, and 415 families have been mentored through the faith initiative." This is certainly impressive.

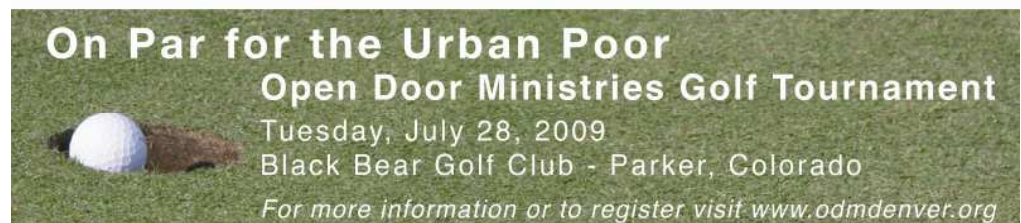
What might be less well known is that 350 cities and counties around the United States have 10 year plans to end homelessness. This is very exciting. Along with these plans there is a growing recognition that government cannot get the job done without the private and non-profit sector which includes faith communities, non-profits, and business partners.

Open Door Ministries is proud to work alongside many others in our city as part of the wider DRH collaboration. Our staff members have served on some of the DRH committees and thus have benefited from the networking opportunities. Still Waters Housing has participated in Project Homeless Connect for two years in a row. This project brings dozens of homeless advocates together at a central location for a one day "one stop shopping" venue for the homeless. Homeless individuals come from all over the metro area to find housing, jobs, attend homeless court, and even take care of community service hours all at the same time. Our homes have been full for months partly due to these new connections through DRH. Often when we have openings, we are able to put the word out to our DRH partners. When we do this, we immediately see more women come to Wednesday orientations. We've also seen the benefits in being able to refer individuals to other DRH partners when we don't have housing for them. One of the most helpful tools to help in this regard is the United Way 2-1-1 call line. A person can call 2-1-1 (just like 9-1-1 or 4-1-1) and immediately be connected to someone who can help them with emergency or transitional housing as well as a host of other issues. I've called this number several times myself as I've tried to help a homeless person find a place for the night.

Denver's Road Home, above all else, is committed to providing additional housing units for homeless individuals. This desire fits nicely with one of ODM's new strategic goals. At our strategic planning meeting in May, the Board of Directors approved us to move forward in our desire to own and operate an apartment complex. The hope is for this apartment to provide 10-20 units for low income families and do it in the context of a supportive community providing needed services such as education and employment assistance. We hope to be able to expand our involvement with Denver's Road Home to accomplish this next major initiative at Open Door Ministries.

In Christ,

David Warren
Executive Director



TRYAD, continued

One of the most exciting events for the year is the annual retreat every summer. The TRYAD retreat is a way for the Open Door group to connect with other people in the area who are committed to similar goals and many who live their lives with physical disabilities. The retreat is located in the Rocky Mountains and offers attendees the opportunity to go fishing, hiking and even ride on a zip line! TRYAD member Randy Milliken expressed that one of his favorite activities of the retreat was the closing session, which includes communion with the whole group.

The members of TRYAD are consistently growing and learning together. Dave Kissling, who has been coming for over two years, says he appreciates "the humble spirit" of the group and "the way people think about others." Clearly, God is working through this group. *For more information about TRYAD or to help out at the upcoming retreat, contact Laura Sheppard at lashank@alumni.cedarville.edu.*

Open Door Preschool

One of the largest barriers single parents face when looking for work is finding a safe place for their children during the day. The Preschool at Open Door exists to remedy this dilemma by providing safety and education at an affordable price. The preschool serves children age 3 through Kindergarten from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday - Friday. The program enrolls more than 20 kids, most of whom are from single-parent households. The school's Colorado state-certified teachers provide daily lessons in a God-centered environment and the program, already licensed by the state as a quality school, has also earned three out of four stars through the Qualistar Early Learning Rating Program. Jessica Mayle, one of the single moms at the



center, remembers when she first brought her daughter, Kyanna, to the preschool. "I never wanted to take her to preschool because I don't trust anybody to care for my child as well as I would." When Kyanna first came to the preschool she was 4 years old and Jessica had been leaving work in the middle of the day to accommodate the lack of child care, a practice her boss was growing tired of. That was almost four years ago and Jessica says that ever since her daughter's first day she has felt at peace about leaving Kyanna with the staff. "This is her first daycare and it's her last," she says with a smile. "I don't know what I'd do without them." Kyanna has since graduated from the Preschool program into the Before-and-After School program.

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There is a house next to the Open Door main office that has been home to many ministries and people throughout the years, but, despite it's significant role in the ministry, the house has officially been known only by its address – "1520." This home is used as an office for inner-city ministries, a meeting spot for recovery groups, emergency housing, dorm space for urban missions groups and as an art studio – many days all at the same time!

Nameless no more, this important house will now be known as the "Antioch House." Named after the early church in the city of Antioch, the house will have some impressive associations to live up to. Antioch was traditionally known as a very diverse church and the location where followers of Jesus were first called "Christians." It was also a central launching point of many of the early apostles' missions. The building seems suited to the new name as it houses several different ministries and provides a place for Christian community and education.

One ministry that calls the Antioch House home is Here's Life Inner City (HLIC), which is an organization under the umbrella of Campus Crusade for Christ. The mission statement of HLIC is "Engaging the Body of Christ in Urban Youth Ministry" and they view their presence in the Antioch House as an important piece to pursuing their ministry goals.

Old House gets New Name "Antioch House"



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Preschool continued,

Jessica, along with many other parents, has also taken advantage of another program offered through the Childcare Center – MoreThanMom (MTM). This group started in January 2008 with the intention of offering additional supportive services to mothers. The group gets together monthly for dinner (childcare is included!) and discussion. They talk about parenting techniques such as discipline and nutrition and form relationships with the other parents. Through these interactions, parents are able to learn important lessons and discover that they are not alone in their parenting successes and struggles. The camaraderie formed during these groups has been very important to the parents. Jessica says she has learned a lot from attending the group. “It’s such a positive inspiration for me.” The group is currently planning for their first fundraiser, a youth talent show on July 30th at 6:00 in the Open Door Fellowship sanctuary. Everyone is invited! “That’s why we’re here- to love the kids and equip the parents,” says Ida Mae Custer, director of the Preschool program. “We spend lots of time creating fun and educational lessons and work hard at being the best school we can be but, really, when it comes down to it, it’s the staff’s love for the children that makes our center run. And because we love the children so much, we want to help the parents be the best parents they can be. It can be a very difficult job sometimes but watching the families in our school evolve and grow makes it all worth it!”

Antioch continued,

One of the key programs of HLIC is called Summer in the City. This five week experience brings students from around the world to Denver with the aim of supporting local youth ministries and educating the students who attend. Sean Taylor, HLIC Staff, says the house is a great fit “because it has bunks and a kitchen, in addition to the offices, it is a central part of what we’re trying to do.” In addition to the Summer in the City program, HLIC also supports Say Y.E.S. after school programs around the city, offers inner-city ministry experiences and connects suburban churches with urban opportunities. “Being in the heart of the city really gives the people we work with a true urban experience,” Taylor adds.

Open Door’s own Ezra is also located in the Antioch House. Ezra’s outreach to youth on the streets and their art studio have seen steady growth in the past years. They have grown from one room in the house to currently occupying almost the entire third floor. The room they grew out of is now being used to house some of the Here’s Life Inner City interns for the summer. Next time you’re on the block, stop by and visit the new, old building on the street – the Antioch House.



Welcome
to the 2009 Summer Interns!
Amber Prince
Kaitlyn Egbert
Ini Edet
Crystal Groves
Maggie Johnson

Open Door Ministries is an outreach of Open Door Fellowship Church:
Chayah House: Serving single women by providing housing, life skills, and basic Christian discipleship.
Cornerstone Home: Providing housing and companionship for disabled men.
E.A.T.: (Eating All Together) Reaching people through eating a meal together after church services on Sunday evening.
Esther House: Providing transitional housing for women leaving the sex-trade industry, addictions, and other dangerous lifestyles.
Ezra: Building relationships with street kids through art.
Nehemiah House: Providing housing for staff, low-income families, and dorm space for Urban Mission teams.
Preschool: Providing inner-city children a quality education founded upon high academics and Christian character development.
School-Age Program: Providing elementary-age children with before-and-after school care, including tutoring and mentoring.
Treasure House: Serving single moms and their kids by providing housing, parenting skills, and basic Christian discipleship.
TRYAD: (To Reconcile You Able-bodied and Disabled) Reaching some of the many disabled in our community through needed companionship and evangelism.
Urban Missions: Bringing youth and adults to Open Door Ministries for an inner city, short-term mission trip.
Youth: Sharing the message and love of Christ to urban youth through Bible studies, activities, and one-on-one relationships.

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contact Janice Baker at
jbaker@odmdenver.org or visit the
Open Door Ministries website to
download a volunteer application

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