

# Open Door Ministries



Penny & Crystal holding the two newest Treasure House residents. Cherise recently moved into Treasure House and within a week gave birth to twins!

## As I Lay Me Down To Sleep...

Most people reading this newsletter had someone to tuck them in at night when they were a child. Usually mom or dad would come in before we fell asleep, maybe say a prayer with us, check the closet and under the bed for monsters and bid us a good-night's sleep. What if, instead of those childhood memories, your first memories are those of being physically and sexually abused? People that were supposed to represent safety and love alternatively represented fear and hurt.

For many of the Treasure House residents, the latter story is the one that rings most true. In particular, a dear woman named Nicole struggles daily with the affects of childhood abuse. She struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that will often lead to flashbacks from past traumas. Previously, Nicole used drugs and alcohol to numb the pain. But God's promptings led her to seek out a different way.

The staff of Treasure House is aware that the first few months after a resident moves into the home, can sometimes be the hardest. The substances and relationships that kept the women from feeling some of their pain have been stripped away, and they are left, with God's mercy and grace, to find healthier coping mechanisms. In addition, the Enemy can seem the strongest at these times. He does not want to see healing and redemption for these women and their children. Nicole felt this when she moved in through the terrible, attacking dreams she began to experience.

But instead of returning to those numbing substances from before, or giving into fear, she made the God-honoring choice to ask Lindsay (Treasure House Director) to begin saying bedtime prayers with her. Together, they declare the power of Jesus' blood over Nicole as she sleeps.

Lindsay writes, "As I sit on the edge of her bed each night, sometimes I feel like I am back with that 5-year old girl who was hurt by her father. It's amazing to see how God is healing her and showing that He is her good father that protects her each night."

We give thanks that women like Lindsay, Lena and Penny give their time, energy and seemingly endless love to women like Nicole, Anna, Brittany, Brandy, and their children. Treasure House is bursting at the seams right now with three staff, four residents (including one who is pregnant), and six children (including newborn twins!). They would appreciate prayers as they all strive to live together and grow in God's healing power. Perhaps as you are putting your own children to sleep tonight or drifting off yourself, remember Nicole, and say a prayer that God will continue to touch her life and grow her to be the mother to her children that she was never able to experience.

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## OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES



Meeting Needs and  
Making Disciples in  
the Urban Community

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**\*YOU ARE INVITED\***

**Open Door Ministries  
EMBRACING OUR CITY  
Dinner & Fundraiser**

**Friday, November 14th  
6:30pm  
Renaissance Denver Hotel**

**The event is free! Please  
visit our website at  
[www.odmdenver.org](http://www.odmdenver.org)  
to RSVP.**



#### Did You Know??

- \* 43% of the homeless in Denver are women and children
- \* Over 40% of people in shelters are working and only 10% of the homeless earn money from panhandling.
- \* A monthly stay in emergency shelter costs \$775; the typical stay is six months or \$4,650

(Stats taken from [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org))

#### Summer Plans?

It's not too early to start thinking about what your plans are for next summer. If you are interested in learning more about doing an internship with Open Door Ministries, or know of someone who you think might be a good fit, please let us know!

Contact Jessica Wilson at [jwilson@odmdenver.org](mailto:jwilson@odmdenver.org) with any questions.

## Happy Anniversary Cornerstone!

It was over a decade ago that three men were preparing to graduate from Providence House I. Randy, Fred and Derek all live with a disability, and they wanted to move into a permanent home, rather than another program or temporary residence. Open Door Ministries saw the need for this kind of home for disabled men and began to pursue the allocation of a residence property that would serve that need. In 1996, a supporting couple of ODM purchased a house in downtown Denver for this use, and then eventually sold that home to Open Door Ministries. The home was renovated in 1998, and that same year Cornerstone Home opened it's doors to those three men mentioned above. A few years later, Al joined them as the fourth resident, and they have been a community ever since. Cornerstone Home recently celebrated it's 10-year Anniversary. Family and friends gathered on the afternoon of September 14<sup>th</sup> to honor the residents of Cornerstone and commemorate the vision that was had over ten years ago and has been realized through the hard work of many and the dedication of the four men living in the home.

In addition to the four residents, Eric Davis has served as director of Cornerstone Home for the past seven years. A few years ago Randy Milliken came on as co-director. The home continues to be self-supporting. The rent that the men pay covers the cost of running Cornerstone and ODM oversees the home.



Fred & Derek celebrating with Fred's mother, Vi.

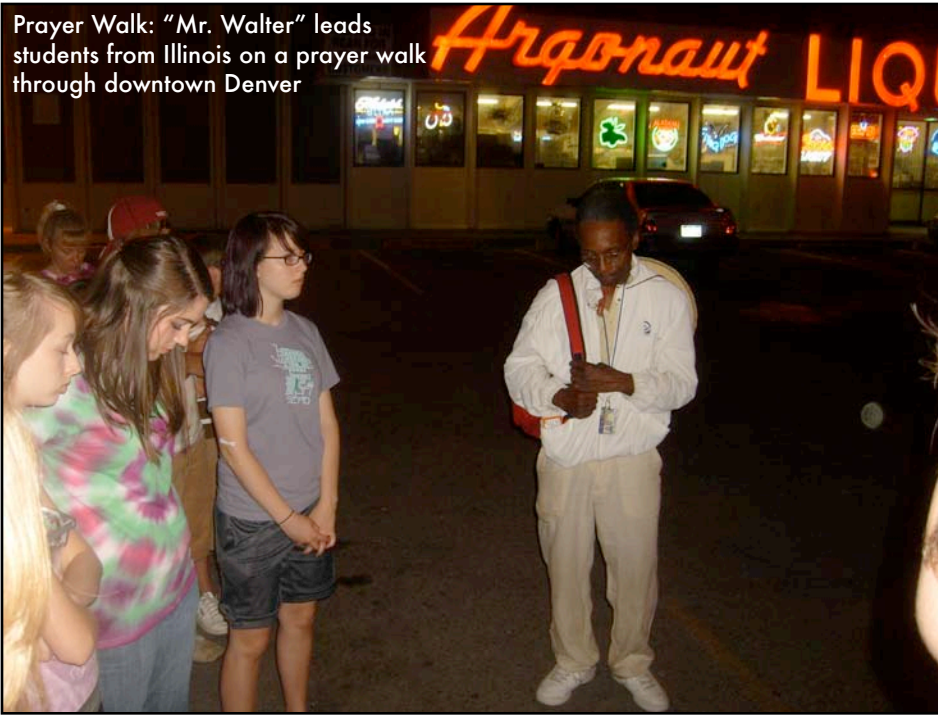
Often, disabled people end up feeling like a burden on society. They go from program to program, many times in need of assistance and not having the opportunity to help others. Cornerstone Home seeks to change this situation. The men in the house are taught to live life as a team, learning to help one another. This allows them to contribute to the needs of others, and, in the process, it affirms their dignity and lets them discover their importance. The house is also designed so that the residents never have to move out. This ends the cycle of transition from program to program. In addition, by having close ties to the local church, in this case Open Door Fellowship, the home provides a way for the body of Christ to care for its weaker members.

Please join ODM in celebrating the past 10 years of support and ministry of Cornerstone Home. God has allowed these four men to be an integral part of the Open Door community and we pray this will continue for many years to come.



The gang's all here! (clockwise from top left) Fred, Andy Cannon (Pastor at Open Door Fellowship), Derek, Al, Eric Davis (Cornerstone Home co-director), & Randy.

Prayer Walk: "Mr. Walter" leads students from Illinois on a prayer walk through downtown Denver



## Not So Different From Me

Scary, dirty, always asking for money, lazy, different. When a group of junior high age Urban Mission students was asked to come up with words and phrases that described someone who was homeless, these expressions were some that were on the list. Their honesty was commendable, but when probed a little deeper, most admitted that they had never before actually spoken with someone who was homeless.

That is just one reason that Open Door Ministries continues to run the Urban Missions program each summer. Students and adults from all over the country descend on Marion Street to not only learn about urban ministry, but actually participate in it. This past summer we had groups from as close as Littleton and Dillon and from as far away as Illinois and Montana. The majority of students come from either a suburban or rural background, and the Urban Missions experience is their first foray into doing work *in* the city and *with* those that call the city their home.

Student groups usually stay with ODM anywhere from three days to a full week during an Urban Missions trip. They sleep and eat in the dorm space at Nehemiah House, but otherwise are usually out and about, serving and learning.

Throughout the week staff members share about different aspects of urban ministry in pre-planned devotionals and talks, but even

more often in spontaneous conversations on Marion Street or during a service project or outreach event. We attempt to allow the students to see and learn from a variety of people that includes staff, residents, and community members.

The highlight for most students is the prayer walk done at the beginning of the week with Walter Carman. "Mr. Walter" as he is affectionately called, leads groups through the downtown area and captivates them with stories of people that walk those sidewalks everyday as well as those that call the streets their home. They stop outside Planned Parenthood, across the street from an adult bookstore, and in front of the capitol building for prayer. Students come away from that evening with abounding knowledge and understanding of God's heart for the oppressed and marginalized.

ODM was blessed to have groups build a ramp, paint numerous rooms, run Vacation Bible School, re-carpet offices, and engage in countless other service projects and outreach events this summer. The benefit of Urban Missions groups serving the ministry and community in this way is beyond measure. But even more important than all that is *done* by the students, is all that is *learned*. Through God's grace and those "divine appointments", students come away from their week in Denver having talked to people that they might never have talked to before. They have had the opportunity to meet someone who was homeless and realize "they aren't so different from me".

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### 1. Cooking/Providing Food

- Provide lunch for TRYAD on Tuesdays
- Provide dinner for EAT program on Sunday evenings
- Bring dinner for Treasure House (home for young mothers and their children)

### 2. Working with children

- Be a tutor or mentor for an elementary student at the S.A.Y. Yes! program from 4:30-6:00pm on weekday afternoons
- Volunteer at the preschool during the week, anytime between 7:00am and 6:00pm

### 3. Working with youth

- Mentor or tutor a student in our youth ministry
- Volunteer regularly with Ezra

### 4. Working with adults

- Become a mentor to one of the residents at Chayah, Treasure or Esther House
- Come alongside a disabled person from TRYAD
- Counseling opportunities available depending on qualifications.

### 5. Office

- Help with mailings or brochures
- Help with computer repair and/or upgrades

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If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Jessica Wilson at [jjwilson@odmdenver.org](mailto:jjwilson@odmdenver.org) or 303-830-2201, ext. 9.

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## From the Director...

The last two months have seen a lot of need and outreach. The last week of July we held our tenth annual school supply outreach with Foothills Bible Church. We passed out Bibles, tracts, and 800 backpacks with school supplies to hundreds of adults, youth, and children. One night, we held a three on three basketball tournament for youth in the church parking lot. Several new youth came. It was a very special time because many of our church and neighborhood adults came out, sat around the court in the parking lot, and enjoyed the games. We estimate that thirty people made decisions for Christ during the week.

During the Democratic National Convention, ODM partnered with Streets Hope, Restoration Outreach Programs, and the Mile High Baptist Association to reach out to male and female sex workers (prostitutes, escorts, exotic dancers, etc.). We set up a hot line and passed out cards with the hot line number at establishments all over town. We set up a temporary safe house for those who were wanting out. The outreach was called "A Way Out." We didn't get as many calls or contacts as we were hoping for but several good things did come out of it. We were able to get three women moved into the safe house. Two of them have since moved into a long term transitional program and the other moved out on her own again. We also had personal meetings with at least four other sex workers and offered them a way out. The Lord will use the cards which were passed out and the conversations to change lives in his time. Many are trapped in this "trade" so pray that God will release them from this bondage.

Preparations are now under way for our annual banquet which is on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We hope you are planning to join us. Don't forget to RSVP. There is no cost to attend, but we are looking for table sponsors. If you would like to sponsor a table which entails paying for the table (\$350, \$500, or \$1000 level) and filling it with ten people, please use the enclosed response card to reply. The banquet will be at the Renaissance Hotel again at Quebec & I-70. It's a beautiful location, the food is great, and parking is free.

I need to mention our current financial situation. Our September 3<sup>rd</sup> balance indicated that we are at our lowest point since the summer of 2004. Our year to date income is \$92,401 below our 2007 income during the same period. With expenses of about \$70,000 per month, we need to increase our income levels. At the same time, we are experiencing very high numbers in the amount of people needing assistance as compared to previous years. For example, we have received about 100 phone calls per month in July, August, and September for our housing programs. Our homes are full and we have a waiting list. The needs are great and many are being reached, so we need your help to continue. We are praying and trusting the Lord, but are also sharing the need so people can help.

Would you please consider giving a generous gift at this time to continue these acts of love in the name of Jesus in the heart of Denver?

In Christ,

David Warren  
Executive Director



## 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

## Mark Your Calendars!

On March 7th, 2009, Open Door Ministries will hold their first annual Mini-Golf Tournament at Mr. Biggs. This will be a sponsorship event for families and small groups. Watch for details coming soon and plan to join us for a very fun day!