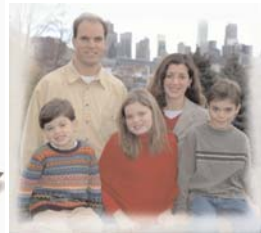


From the Director . . .



our people from Open Door get along, work hard, have fun, and serve the Lord together for a common purpose.

In II Corinthians 8, Paul writes to the church of Corinth about the gift they were planning to give to the poor of Jerusalem. Paul was very passionate about this project and this is what he writes in verse thirteen, "Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality." Many of you have supplied so much to us at Open Door in our need. It was our privilege to make a small contribution for the needs of those in New Orleans.

Later in II Cor. 8:19, Paul writes, "...we carry the offering...to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help." Many of you have contributed to the needs of the poor through Open Door Ministries, but we know that you are giving to the "Lord himself." We also know that you are "eager to help." We don't have to twist your arms or hassle you, and we appreciate that.

As we draw near the end of our fiscal year, we have taken a close look at our remaining expenses and gifts received, and here is where we stand. In order to finish 2006 in the same way we started it, we need to receive \$149,374 in gifts. \$11,000 of that is for the child care center and is thus eligible for the 50% state tax credit. \$22,000 of that is for the Treasure House and is therefore eligible for the 25% state tax credit. (See insert for tax credit details.) As you can see, however, our biggest need is for our general fund. The ministry has grown this year and more lives than ever are being changed. Please consider being a part of making this vision strong as we go into 2007.

May 2007 is the official 10 Year Anniversary of Open Door Ministries. To celebrate, we are throwing a party—a block party to be specific—and you are all invited. Set aside Saturday, May 19th in your calendars. Plan to join us and bring your friends. It will be a carnival-like atmosphere with games for kids, a live auction, music, food, and a great opportunity to see and experience the ministries of Open Door.

David Warren

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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 Saturday afternoon and Sunday evening.

ESTHER HOUSE: Providing transitional housing for women leaving the sex-trade industry, addictions, and other dangerous lifestyles.

HEART TO HAND RESOURCE CENTER: Food bank, counseling, and training center serving the poor in Aurora.

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.

PRODIGAL GATHERINGS: Providing a safe place for kids and teens to hang out, hear the good news, and build relationships with caring adults.

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAM: Providing elementary age children with before-and-after school care, including tutoring and mentoring.

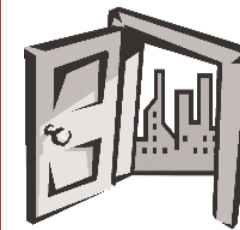
THE ARTZTUDIO: Building relationships with street kids through art.

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.



Open Door Ministries

Meeting Needs and Making Disciples in the Urban Community

P.O. Box 18018 ♦ 1530 Marion Street ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80218

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From Denver to New Orleans . . . with Hope!



Cornerstone Home residents joined with others from Open Door Ministries and Open Door Fellowship to minister in New Orleans this Fall!

The trip was organized by Cornerstone resident and co-director Randy Milliken.



Team members: Brad Allen, ODM Director David Warren, and Cornerstone Resident Derek Peterson

He says, "Adversity and suffering give birth to hope." He knows what he's talking about because he has suffered with cerebral palsy since birth. Being confined to a wheelchair, he decided not to go on the mission trip himself. However, he was thrilled with the opportunity to make the contacts with a church there, lead the team of eleven people as they prepared to go, and plan virtually every detail of the trip. He says of the experience, "I got a lot out of it."

I don't think I would have gotten a chance at a big church. I had the passion, and I was available." His passion comes partly from his experience in high school in Louisiana, where

people believed in him enough to help him earn his diploma in an age when disabled people were not given many opportunities.

Randy says one of the goals of this mission trip was to involve people from Open Door's discipleship homes – both staff and residents. "Because they live in the homes, they have an opportunity to start their lives over. I thought that if they had a chance to help people in New Orleans start their lives over, maybe they would realize the opportunity they have been given." Another man who lives at Cornerstone Home (for men with disabilities) was on the New Orleans team and found this to be true. Derek Peterson is bipolar and suffers from schizophrenia. He says the experience gave him compassion for others. The team helped a woman go through her house that had been ruined by the hurricane and flooding. She cried as they helped her find lost treasures she had left behind over a year ago.



Open Door New Orleans team

Open Door Fellowship would like to send another team to New Orleans in the Spring.

Restoration!

When we drive downtown, we may see a woman carrying a backpack, perhaps looking dirty, unkempt. Maybe she looks like she is wandering without a purpose. Maybe she looks dangerous or lost or afraid. Many in society would see these women as unworthy of time and attention, beyond hope.

But you and I see them differently! When we look at women on the streets through the eyes of Jesus, we see hope for a new life...and we just may see ourselves.

The woman described above is the type of woman God sends to Chayah House. The word Chayah in Hebrew means "to live or restore," and that is what we all have the privilege of sharing in. You who give financially to Open Door Ministries...you who volunteer your time...you who teach classes, provide dinner, give clothing, make welcome baskets, organize remodeling projects, lead game and craft nights...you who live in the house as a full-time staff member, raising your own support and pouring your heart and life into these women. Together, we are being the heart and hands of Jesus, communicating His love and acceptance to women who have not known unconditional love.

Chayah House director Lucy Bruser says, "God has been wooing them to Himself their whole lives. Like a shepherd breaks the leg of a lamb to keep him from running off, the Lord has broken them to where He can pick them up on His shoulders and carry them to Chayah House for further shepherding." This shepherding begins with an 8-week restoration phase. During this time, the women do not leave the Marion Street block without a staff member. They are completely immersed in intensive counseling (individual & group), the devel-

opment of spiritual disciplines, and addiction recovery. The program includes identifying the sources of their poor choices in life, replacing lies they've believed about themselves with the truth of their identity in Christ, and being embraced in a loving, accepting community.



Chayah House girls celebrate successes!

Since extending the restoration program from four to eight weeks, Lucy has seen improved retention of residents and greater growth because they are able to stabilize before going out to find a job. Before instituting this intense program, the women would often fall back into their old habits and addictions quickly because the temptations are great and they didn't yet have the tools to battle them.

There is no way Lucy, or any one person, could lead this program alone. She says, "I am so excited about the number of people who are coming alongside this ministry." They all show love and help these precious women overcome and succeed in vital ways.



Chayah residents and volunteers

One Chayah House resident has been in the program 19 months and is on track to become a staff member. Lea Anne came to the house homeless and completely broken. Her mother had severed contact with her and all trust had been destroyed. Within six months, God started to reconcile Lea Anne's relationship with her family. Recently, her mother made the comment that Lea Anne has changed in such amazing ways that it's hard for her to believe that this is her daughter. After graduating in April 2007, she will stay at the house and begin a year-long Leadership Training program in order to become a staff member.

Thank you for your part in restoring lives in Jesus' name!

Urban Teens Find Fun and Friendship at Open Door

A mission trip to a Navajo reservation, summer camp, snow camp, back country camping trips, flag football, baseball, basketball, weekly activities and Bible studies...sounds like a mature youth program in a big church! NO! It's Open Door's Youth Program that has only been re-started for one year!

Matt Smith, Laura Shank, and volunteers like you have poured their hearts, energy and imagination into teens in this community, and the teens have responded!



Nick at a Navajo Reservation

Sophomore Nick McRee is an only child and lives with his mother. He says, "Matt is

like the big brother I never had. He attends my wrestling matches and does Bible studies with us." He has found in the youth group a place to have fun, meet friends and learn about the Lord. He also says,

"It gives us something to do besides sitting around at home or getting into trouble."

One of his closest friends is Tamone West, whom he met when the youth group went to the zoo. Tamone says, "We became friends the first day. I hooked him

up with a girl!" Their friendship has gone much deeper over the months of shared experiences, like Camp Id-Ra-Ha-Je. Matt and Laura took five of their teens to the camp this summer. One of the highlights for Nick was a chapel service about forgiveness..."really valuable stuff!" Matt says this topic and the relationships built through the youth program are vital because so many of the teens have experienced some type of abuse and emotional trauma in their young lives. He has seen teens give their lives whole-heartedly to the Lord and really get excited about serving Him.

The boys say they are growing in leadership skills by helping out with events and studying the Bible with Matt. Future plans include encouraging high school students to coach flag football for middle school students. Matt and Laura would also like to develop a tutoring program and an improv drama club.



Tamone at Summer Camp

The weekly activities bring teens from middle school and high school together for a meal, games and Bible study. You can join in the fun by providing a meal for 20-25 people on a Thursday night. Contact Matt Smith at 303-830-2201, x4 or salttoss@yahoo.com.



Spotlight on Volunteer Patrick Rutty

Special thanks to Open Door Childcare Center volunteer Patrick Rutty! He solicited pledges for his Denver Marathon run in October. He finished the race in 3 hours, 4 minutes & 35 seconds and brought in \$880 for the ministry as of this date! He also volunteers with our preschool children regularly – eating lunch with them and playing with them on the playground. His favorite part, though, is reading to them. "To hear a child giggle at a funny story, to see how the listening and the sitting in my lap can completely transform even the fiercest little [one] for those few moments – that is priceless!"

