

# FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

**"Meeting Needs and Making Disciples in the Urban Community."** For ten years, this motto has stayed posted on the front of our ministry brochure. This is more than simply a catchy tag line to us. It is the heart-beat of all that we are and do. In this newsletter, you read three stories of folks who have become disciples of Christ. They are learning to follow Him more and more each day. Like us, they have discovered that following Jesus is a struggle, but it is worth the commitment.



The Apostle Paul often compares Christian discipleship to athletics. An athlete has to be disciplined, has to give everything he has, and has to finish strong. I had the privilege of going skiing the other day. As I pushed myself to the limit of my skills, I was reminded of Romans 12:11 which says, "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." **We need to pour ourselves into discipleship with the drive and abandon that an athlete lives at to push his performance to the next level.**

As we look forward to our ten year festival on Saturday, May 19th, it is a time to look back and a time to look forward. Countless hours of selfless abandon have gone into these ten years to make Open Door Ministries what it is today. We want to rejoice at what the Lord has done. Please come and celebrate with us. **You have labored, given, and prayed to make this ministry possible.** We trust this event will not only be a time of rejoicing but also will serve as a catapult toward disciple making for the next ten years.

One of the goals of the May 19th Block Party is to raise funds toward our strategic vision. Some of the funds will go directly to Restoration Outreach Programs, the new organization we are launching near Colfax and Peoria. Other funds will be used to strengthen our current and future staff. **We are looking forward to a fun day with you and your family.** Spread the word and plan to join us.

*Celebrating with Zeal,*  
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 ARTSTUDIO:** 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.



Spring ♦ 2007

# Open Door Ministries

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*Meeting Needs and Making Disciples  
in the Urban Community*

## Come to the Open Door Ministries BLOCK PARTY!

We're celebrating 10 years of ministry!

Saturday, May 19, 2007 • 10am - 4pm

No Cost for Admission!



**PARKING LOT**

FOOD

LIVE  
MUSIC

**OPEN DOOR  
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**COTTON CANDY  
GAMES**

**POST OFFICE**

**PARKING  
(AFTER NOON)**

**WHEELCHAIR  
RACES**

**16th Avenue**

**JUMPING  
CASTLE FOR  
BIG KIDS**

**JUMPING  
CASTLE FOR  
LITTLE KIDS**

**GOLF  
BASKETBALL  
BALLING CAGE**

**Colfax Ave.**

**MINISTRY  
OPEN HOUSES**

**Marion Street**

**FACE PAINTING  
POPCORN**

**CRAFTS**

**SNO  
CONES**

**GAMES**

Map • Not to Scale Parking also available at 1600 Downing



# NEHEMIAH HOUSE PROVIDES BREATHING ROOM IN HECTIC LIVES



## Time for God

***"The more you develop a relationship with Jesus, the greater your defense will be against the things of the world, the flesh and the devil."*** This is the lesson Moishua Willis says he's learned while recovering from drug addiction and other issues from his past.

After he went through a divorce, Moishua turned to drugs for about a year before a man from a church in Commerce City invited him to a revival. There, he heard from ex-addicts who had been delivered by God. They not only spoke to him, they helped him in practical ways and eventually pointed him to Teen Challenge.

Throughout the year Moishua spent at Teen Challenge, he dealt with the addiction and more. He says, "The Lord began to root out the bitterness of my heart to the point that I was able to pray for my ex-wife and even her new husband. Now THAT was hard!"

After graduating from Teen Challenge, Moishua moved into Providence House II, a men's home in our sister ministry – Providence Network. He thrived in that program and enjoyed going to church at Open Door Fellowship. When he finished the two years there, he wanted to stay connected. That led him to Nehemiah House, with Open Door Ministries.

Nehemiah House serves many purposes. One apartment houses single women on staff throughout the organization. The basement has dorm space for visiting work teams that come from across the nation. The remaining two apartments are for singles or small families who need a low-rent place to live in a supportive, positive environment.

Moishua came to Nehemiah House because of the low rent. He wasn't ready to move into a regular apartment yet. He has now had a job for more than two years and has moved up within his company. He also pays child support, takes care of bills, and has been able to get his driver's license and a vehicle. In addition, he says, "I get a chance to fellowship. I stick around more with people of the Lord." He has a mentor through Open Door Ministries, and he still attends the Open Door's evening service. His three children stay with him regularly, and he has rebuilt a strong relationship with them. Moishua enjoys a strong prayer life and is reading through the Bible. His encouragement to those who have struggled with drugs: "Get grounded in the Word and in prayer."

## A Two-Year Reprieve

For Daniel Mendivil, Nehemiah House is his two-year reprieve from living paycheck to paycheck and never getting ahead. A difficult situation with his ex-wife left him homeless and unemployed three years ago. He was living in a shed and working at a corner grocery store when a Christian man took Daniel in on the condition that he read the Bible he gave him. This man asked Daniel what he wanted in life. The answer was his three-year-old son, who was then living with the child's mother. The man told him to pray. Daniel told God that he would live for Him and teach his son to do the same, if God would give him his son.



He says, the next day, he woke up and knew what to do. He got a better job, rented a two-bedroom apartment, and even set up daycare without knowing for sure that he would get his son. Soon after, he went to court and was granted custody.

Daniel says, "Everything changed for me then. I had neglected spending time with my family – working long hours six days a week. I hadn't believed in God. Now God had held up His end of the deal, and I had to come through on my end."

Daniel had his son full time for a year and a half and provided all he could for him. However, when he cried for his mother, Daniel realized it wasn't only about himself; it was about what was best for his child. He re-connected with his ex-wife and now has joint custody.

He appreciates living at the Nehemiah House for the low rent and the Christian fellowship. He works, volunteers with Here's Life! Inner City and Open Door Ministries, and attends Bible studies and Open Door Fellowship church. He has a mentor and plans to go to school to become a teacher.



# A BLOCK OF HOPE AND LOVE



Two years ago, Michelle brought her daughter Claire to Open Door Childcare Center as a kindergartner. Michelle was married and going to school to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. However, no

one knew the terror she and Claire faced each day at home. Her husband was an alcoholic who abused them regularly.

Michelle says she chose Open Door because she felt Claire would be safe there each day, and she has always felt that the staff members were extremely caring and loving. She experienced that love personally when she took Claire in the day she had hit the bottom. Her husband had been arrested for the third time. She knew they would lose their apartment, and they were running out of food. Michelle says, "I was terrified and couldn't hide it. Brenda (the Childcare Center director) asked what was wrong. I wasn't used to anyone caring about what was happening to me. For the first time in my life, someone held my hands and prayed for me. Then Brenda called Treasure House and got me into their orientation.

"When I walked in to Treasure House (TH), I had the unmistakable feeling of love and peace in the house. I felt Joy (TH director) was a strong, confident woman. For years, I hadn't felt worthy to ask God for anything, so I hadn't. I was so relieved when Joy invited us to move in. We came with very few belongings and started a new life. ***"Treasure House breathed new life into me."***

That new life was not just circumstantial. "A few days later, I was talking to another resident who had been at Treasure House for a year and a half. She told me what the Lord had done for her. Shortly after that, I gave my life over to Christ in the most honest and sincere way that I knew how. Two weeks later, I was baptized in the Platte River.

"I am not the same person I was when I moved in 6-months ago. I don't feel oppression. I was an alcoholic, but have been sober this whole time. I have also been working in home health care since moving in. Because of the work in my life and the counseling my daughter

receives for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, we are living healthy and fulfilling lives."

In fact, seven-year-old Claire just accepted the Mayor's Young Scholar award for academic excellence and character. Michelle gives credit to the Lord and to the stability they've gained from living at Treasure House. She also says the School-age Program and Say YES! Club at Open Door Childcare Center have played a huge role in Claire's success. Caring Christian adults offer tutoring and Biblical mentoring, and she memorizes Bible verses every week. She is taught about good character and a sense of balance.

**Open Door Childcare is the closest thing she can have to being with a parent all the time.**

Michelle calls the 1500 block of Marion Street

***"a very special place on earth, a place of hope and love."***



## Treasure House Construction Update

Let's complete this project together! We're at the drywall stage of the Treasure House renovation. When finished, the basement will be a director's apartment, and a big room on the second floor will be converted to two smaller resident rooms. You can help, no matter your skill level! We need willing hearts and capable hands to work in these areas: painting, tile, doors, trim, bathroom, kitchen, hardware.....Please call 303-830-2201, if you would like to help!

In addition, approximately \$18,000 is still needed to pay for the renovation. Please use the enclosed response card to donate toward this goal.

## On Par for the Urban Poor

Register now for the

### Open Door Ministries Golf Tournament!

Thursday, May 31, 2007 – 7:30am

Black Bear Golf Club

Formerly Canterbury Golf Club • Parker, CO

www.blackbeargc.com

\$175/person – register online at [www.odmdenver.org](http://www.odmdenver.org)