



Open Door Community House, Inc.  
2405 Second Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31901-1023

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**Sponsor a child today  
for Summer Academy 2011!**

**\$150 sponsors a child for the entire summer.**

**OUR MISSION**

In the spirit of Christian ministry, the mission of Open Door Community House, Inc. is to work in partnership with other area service providers to meet basic needs and to empower low income individuals to realize their full potential as children of God.



Serving Since 1935

# The Window

2405 Second Avenue • Columbus, Georgia 31901 • 706-323-5518 • [opendoorcommunityhouse.org](http://opendoorcommunityhouse.org)

## Stories of Transformation

*A testimony of transformation...in her own words. The following is a true story from a current resident of the Transition Home for Women in Crisis, as told in her own words. Many thanks to Margaret for her willingness to share her story!*



“My name is Margaret and I am 43 years old. I came to the Transition Home at the Open Door after being released from prison and because of choices I had made; being an alcoholic and homeless among other things. I was welcomed with open arms by the staff, with shelter, clothing, food, counseling and most of all Love. It’s hard to explain in words what I have been given. I have been allowed to focus on me, and to get my life in order. I have learned stability, normalcy; the angels at Open Door believed in me when I did not believe in myself, and could not see another way of life.

Today I work and I am responsible and reliable. I have a safe place and clean, warm bed to go home to each day, love and support, a future, a life. When you find yourself in the situation I was in it is hard to ever see

the light at the end of the tunnel without having a home, clean clothes, food, a place to shower, a place to keep your things.

Most of all I have been given hope, and I have made life long friends. I have grown closer to my Heavenly Father than ever before and I see His mighty work in the angels that have helped me become the woman I am today, and truly have always wanted to be, but just didn’t know how.

I just bought my very first car on my own, no man in my life, hard earned money, and I could never have done that without the help of the Open Door and the staff, and God’s grace. My first vehicle may not seem like much to some but to me it is, and I have a sense of pride and know today that nothing is impossible.

In the future I will move out on my own and have another first, my own place, no one can throw me out, or take it away from me, it will be mine and that means more than words can say. I am blessed to have found the Open Door and will never forget all that they have done for me and continue to do.



*Open Door Community House, Inc. is a National Mission Institution of the Women’s Division and the South Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and is a partner agency of the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, Inc.*

## From Broken to Beloved

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

– 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)

The word “transformed” means to change into another form, or having a marked change in appearance, character, condition, or function.



As the natural world around us transforms from the bleakness of winter into the new birth of spring, so do the persons served through the ministries of Open Door transform into new creations.

Transformation often can be painful. It might even ask of us to

“die” to an old part of ourselves which needs to be pruned so that new growth might occur. Without the struggle of the caterpillar to break free from the confines of the cocoon, it might not have the strength to fly as a beautiful butterfly upon its emergence. Without undergoing the difficult work of spiritual renewal, emotional and physical healing, those served through Open Door might not have the strength to move into a life free from poverty, addiction or hopelessness.

At Open Door, we understand that creating a safe and sacred space for the struggle helps to usher in the gift of transformation which comes through God's grace, love and providence. Day after day we have the awe-inspiring opportunity to be a witness to, and a sojourner with, persons experiencing homelessness or poverty who are transforming into a renewed creation in Jesus the Christ.

In this edition of *the Window* you will read about Margaret whose life transformed from broken into beloved.

You will hear of “Denise” who, through the generosity of a caring citizen, found new hope and strength in the simple act of being able to wash clothes. And you will hear how a local church and the Sharing Christmas program of Open Door partnered together to bring new joy to a family at Christmastime.

Each of these friends has found a deeper faith, a renewed hope, and a transformed life by God's grace and through your gifts of prayer, monetary support, and direct volunteer assistance. As you will see, the lives of volunteers also are profoundly changed by stepping into the sacred space where spiritual and personal transformation is taking place.

Thank you for caring! Thank you for investing in the Open Door ministries where lives are changed, hope is restored, and God is actively engaged in life-altering work.

– Kim Jenkins,  
Executive Director

## 4th Culinary Arts Class to Begin March 29

The Open Door Institute is excited about starting its 4th culinary arts class! Response to the class has been strong and it's shaping up to be a great group of students! This class will graduate on June 23, just in time to find employment to meet the culinary demands of the new Columbus residents who will be arriving through BRAC this summer.

Please hold up this class in prayer as they study throughout their 12 week curriculum of life skills taught by the Open Door staff and kitchen training from the expert Executive Chef John Chapiewski. The class will meet at the



Feeding the Valley kitchen and we are grateful for our partnership with this wonderful organization.

If you have any black pants or slip proof black shoes (or even chef aprons) that you could donate to the students, they would appreciate them so much. We are planning a service project for the American Cancer Society and the students will need these items.

As always, thank you so much for your support! **Bon Appetit!**

– Sandi "Spaghetti" Hortman

*Did you know on average, Open Door Institute graduates are earning \$6 more per hour than at the start of the class?*



## CATIE'S CALL TO ACTION

*In a previous edition of the Window, we relayed a story from Dr. Charlene Black who told of her granddaughter, Catie, who jumped into action to save toiletries for the Open Door ministries upon hearing of the need.*

*In each edition, we will include a column entitled, "Catie's Call to Action," and make requests for supplies for the Open Door ministries based on current and pressing needs.*

Thank you, Catie, for keeping us on task!

### (Immediate or ongoing needs of the Open Door ministries)

- Computers for an adult computer class(Need 5, gently used, with XP Pro)
- Bibles for children
- Bibles – large print for adults
- Lip balm
- Insect repellent
- New socks for women and men
- Feminine hygiene products
- Reading Glasses

## Exciting New Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities to volunteer in the ministries of Open Door from helping sort clothes in the Clothing Bank to handing out hygiene items in the Showering Program!

Here are some new ideas!

**Children's Chapel** – a worship and learning experience specifically designed for children ages 5 – 12

**Vacation Bible School** – providing Bible study/stories, games and/or arts and crafts for children ages 5– 12 during the upcoming Summer Academy program

**Life Skills Classes** – facilitate adult learning experiences in topics such as money management, setting appropriate boundaries, writing effective resumes, and many more

**Adult Bible Study** – facilitate Bible study in small groups with adults from the Open Door community

If you are interested in any volunteer opportunity or have questions about volunteering, please give us a call at (706) 323-5518!

## The Dusty Bible Roundup

We are collecting those Bibles that may be collecting dust around your home! If you'd like to share Bibles with another home, please bring them to Open Door! Any condition, any version will do!

The Open Door chaplains always need Bibles and devotional materials to give out to the community. Thanks for helping us spread the Word!





**Highlights**

522 walkers • Over \$38,000 raised for Open Door

We would like to offer a special thank you to:

**Sustainer Sponsor**

Flowers-Lewis and Associates

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Edgewood UMC

**Friends Sponsors**

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**Winners**

Pierce Chapel UMC received the trophy for having the most walkers.

St. Paul UMC received the trophy for raising the most money.

**P.A.W. Puppies on Parade winners:**

Tucker won in the 50 lbs and over category.

Snowball won in the 49 lbs and under category.

## OPEN DOOR RECEIVES NATIONAL ATTENTION

In the Fall of 2010, a reporter from the national United Methodist Women's magazine, *Response*, visited Open Door's culinary arts class and ended up spending the entire day at Open Door to write her story. Betty Bush was so impressed with the ministries she saw that she wrote an article, "An Open Door for the Homeless Too" which was published in the October, 2010 issue.



The article speaks of the spiritual caregiving that clients of Open Door receive, the transitional housing for abused or homeless women, the showering ministry, the Golden Agers clothing ministry, the parenting and after school programs, and the culinary arts program of the Open Door Institute.

Featured in the article are two of the culinary arts students, Ms. Calanda Calhoun and Ms. Lenore Fox. Calanda, a mother of two, has benefited from both the parenting classes and the culinary arts training at Open Door. Recently, she has been approved for a small business

loan to open her own daycare center. She also volunteers in the after school program and says that "the life skills lessons in the culinary arts program and the parenting classes all came together for me." Ms. Fox, who lived at Open Door while attending the culinary arts classes and volunteered as a cook in the Celebrate Recovery program held on Tuesdays, says "I came to Open Door with just the clothes on my back; everything I have has come from God." She now works fulltime in the kitchen at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus and has rented her own mobile home.

Ms. Calhoun and Ms. Fox are just two of the multitude of persons who have received the love of Christ in the form of spiritual nurturance, basic needs assistance, and educational opportunities at Open Door. Thousands continue to pour through the doors seeking the abundant life promised by Jesus Christ. Executive Director Kim Jenkins comments that "we help restore hope when hope is lost. We introduce persons to Christ, who is the only one who can make real and lasting transformation."

Thanks to all who lift the ministries of Open Door in prayer. Please continue to pray that our Lord will lead those in need to Open Door and that they will find in Him the answer to the issues with which they struggle. To God be the glory!

– Sandi Hortman



# FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

In February members of the "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World" workgroup in Chase Homes gathered to try their hand at making laundry detergent. Members of the group heard about how cost-efficient homemade laundry detergent can be and wanted to try it. Meg Olive, Family Support Specialist, gathered the supplies and instructions and invited the group to come and experiment! Everyone who participated that day left with enough laundry detergent to last their families about 6 months and the supplies only cost each family 6 dollars! Group members report that the detergent is working well for them and is even better for some of their kids with sensitive skin! The Family Support Services program exists to provide participants with the resources and knowledge they need to make positive changes for their families. Making laundry detergent was a simple and creative way we are empowering families to make these changes!



*The ingredients to make enough detergent for 4 families for months.*

Also in February, members of the "Getting Ahead" workgroup from Chase Homes attended a city council meeting. The group is interested in being involved in city government and accessing all the resources available to them as members of the community.

Councilwoman Judy Thomas introduced the group to the mayor and the mayor welcomed the group to the meeting. The Family Support Services Program at Open Door is anxious to connect participants with resources in the community and empower them to make positive changes for the sake of their families.



*Busy grating soap for detergent.*



*Finished product!*

## CLOTHING MINISTRY

Thank you for your generous donations to the Clothing Ministry through out the year. Because of consistently wonderful donations from the community, we are able to have a high standard of what we offer to our clients in need.

We do not put any items in our Clothing Ministry Room that are stained, torn, or worn out.

We do have limited storage space for the Clothing Ministry, so we ask for items to be donated in the season they can be worn or used. We often have clients moving from the street or shelter into housing of their own.

The folks can use dishes, linens, silverware, cookware, and other small household items that are in good condition. We can also always use small decorative household items, toys, and books.

We do not take large appliances or furniture. For more information on the needs of the Clothing Ministry or on ways you can be involved, contact Meg Olive at [meg\\_odch@yahoo.com](mailto:meg_odch@yahoo.com).

## Join our Facebook group!

Did you know Open Door is on Facebook? Become a fan of Open Door or join our group and stay in the loop with up-to-date info about what is going on and connect with others near and far who care about Open Door!

Search "open door community house inc." to find us on Facebook.



# Stories of Transformation

## “The Gift that Transformed”

In the Community Case Management program, women experiencing homelessness are provided an array of services, including help with child care and moving assistance. Sometimes, however, there are needs that cannot be provided through the program. This is where people from the community step in and fill the gaps!

Last fall, “Denise” and her three children were in a terrible domestic violence situation. The mother decided to make a life changing decision and leave her abuser. She left with her children and found refuge in a local homeless shelter. She had

never been on her own before and wasn’t quite sure where to turn for help. The case management program of Open Door was contacted, and “Denise” was quickly enrolled in the program which moved her family into adequate housing.

All her needs were provided through the program – except two. The mother desperately needed a washer and dryer. Within two weeks of “Denise” moving into her own housing, a gentleman contacted Open Door asking if anyone needed a washer and dryer! “Denise’s” case manager contacted her and told her the great news. “Denise” shouted with joy, and the case manager reminded her that the Lord promised He would supply her every need.

The kind man who had donated the washer and dryer went a step further than simply making the donation. He personally delivered them to “Denise” and even hooked them up for her! Both were very thankful for this blessing. Many times we give thinking we are giving someone a blessing, but more often than not, the giver receives the greatest blessing of all.

This is just another way our faithful and generous community stands in the gap for the families we serve here at Open Door. Thank you for your continuous support!

*To whom it may concern,*

*I would like to thank the friendly staff at Open Door Community House for their giving hearts. The staff at Open Door has been a true blessing for my family. They truly answered my prayers for a washer and dryer. I promise you in less than two weeks, I got the call that truly proved to me that the Lord truly answers prayers. The phone call was amazing. To my surprise someone had donated a washer and dryer, and wanted to know if anyone needed them. Open Door remembered my wish list and notified me immediately. I remember that phone call like it was yesterday; I was extremely elated that someone like me could be so blessed. Words can't express my humble appreciation to Open Door for what they have done for my family. Without the assistance from Open Door, my family and I would not have been able to get through such a difficult time in our lives. I thank the Lord above for everyone at Open Door and I will continue to pray for this community house.*

*Forever thankful,*

*“Denise”*



## All In The Name of Giving

Ms. Williams is a single parent with nine children and grandchildren living in her home. This past Christmas, she received an unexpected Christmas miracle through the love of many.

Ms. Williams heard about the Sharing Christmas program and came to sign up her children and grandchildren, including the teenagers in the home. She told the staff how grateful she was that the teens would be provided for as well. "I was thinking early this morning about how I was going to provide a Christmas for my teenage children. I didn't know what I was going to do." All of the children and grandchildren were registered to receive assistance through the program for new clothing and toys or other items. At this time, however, Ms. Williams, nor the staff, were aware of all of the blessings that would come her way!

Families who have registered for the Sharing Christmas program may be adopted by caring community partners – other families, Sunday School classes, organizations or businesses. Ms. Williams' family was one of the many families that were chosen to be adopted. Of the 700 children served during Christmas 2010, 31 were adopted.

A woman of Upatoi United Methodist Church contacted Open Door inquiring about adopting a family for Christmas. She had a heart for teenagers and asked if Open Door had a large family with teenagers who had registered for Christmas assistance. She was paired with the family of Ms. Williams.

After gathering all the information about the family, the Open Door staff discovered that Ms. Williams and her family had been living in a house without a working stove, and the gas was not on because the family had fall-

en behind on their gas bill. The members of Upatoi UMC began to go into action! The church members immediately provided a microwave and George Foreman grill because the family was using a hot plate to cook their meals. Church members provided clothing, jackets, and toys for all of the children; much-needed mattresses and dressers; food for Christmas; and a gas-operated stove for the home. The church also paid a portion of the gas bill to help lower the bill to where Ms. Williams could manage the balance. Gas was restored to the home in time to have a warm and wonderful Christmas meal!

After Christmas, Open Door staff received a call from Ms. Williams. She said, "Thank you for a wonderful Christmas. I am so grateful," and she sent a heartfelt note of gratitude to her new friends of Upatoi UMC for making this Christmas so special.



*Toys galore for the Sharing Christmas Program!*



## OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY HOUSE, INC.

### THESE HONORS AND MEMORIALS WERE MADE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2010 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Memorials and Honorariums made between July 1, 2010 and February 28, 2011 are included in this newsletter. Any honors or memorials received after February 28 will be included in the next newsletter. Donations made after July 1, 2010 totaling \$500 or more will be listed in the annual report with the Circles of Care. Donations totaling less than \$500 and in-kind gifts will be listed on our website.

### Memorials

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 Ms. Margaret Badcock  
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 Mr. Michael Bass  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Brown  
 Mr. J.H. "Bill" Mainor  
 Ms. Jacquelyn Miller  
 Ms. Nancy S. Martin



*Trista Caldwell (right) is congratulated by Terrianna Sharpe for graduating from CSU with a Bachelor of Science degree. Trista is a staff member of the Mathews Promise Academy and Terrianna is vital volunteer. Congratulations, Trista!*

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### Honorariums

All who help extend God's love  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Adams  
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 Ms. Catherine Black  
 Dr. Charlene R. Black



*Need caption!*

Miss Catie Black  
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