



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

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**Children learn reading and math skills in our
“Stop, Drop and Read/Math” curriculum during our
Summer Academy Program.**

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR

11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish..

– John 21:11-13

(New International Version)

Jesus met his friends on the beach after they had been up all night long fishing. Over hot coals, he cooked them a nourishing breakfast of fish and bread.



It was such a simple act: cooking breakfast for hungry fishermen. It satisfied a physical hunger. Yet, it was so much more than just physical nourishment.

Acts of kindness, radical hospitality, and “doing unto the least of these,” as Jesus stated, all are simple but profound ways to share the presence of the living Christ. Christ knew that his friends would be tired and hungry from fishing all night long. He also knew their souls were hungry for his presence – his living presence, as the

last time they had seen Jesus was at his death.

The resurrected Christ comes to us with open arms. He meets our needs, even those we don't recognize or acknowledge.

Through ministries like those of Open Door, the living presence of Christ continues to provide for the needy and hungry of body and soul. In the offering of bread, a warm shower, life skills classes, academic enrichment for children and youth, safe housing with supportive services for women experiencing homelessness, or a group for women seeking to end poverty for themselves and the generations to come after them, Christ is embodied and lives are changed forever.

It is only because of God's grace and your investment of volunteer time, money and supplies that we are able to meet people where they are with loving and open arms. It is because we serve a living Christ that we are allowed the awe-inspiring gift of introducing others to the Savior.

Thank you for caring, for sharing, and for being the hands and arms of Christ to a hurting world through the ministries of Open Door.

– Kim Jenkins,
Executive Director



TRANSITION HOME SUCCESS STORY

"Angela" came to the Transition Home in mid-March searching for a better life. She had recently been in jail and desired to make many changes. She was separated from her husband and tried to reconcile without avail. "Angela" decided to pour her time and energy in creating a new life for herself. She began attending church services at a local United Methodist Church and worked closely with those who were helping her rise out of the ashes. By June, "Angela" had gained full time employment. In July she purchased a vehicle and in August she moved into her own home without any subsidy. Since moving out she has maintained her employment and her home.

– Crystal Feliciano,
Case Manager

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.

CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM – SPRING 2011



One of the success stories from the Culinary Arts Program at Open Door involves a man in his late 30's who enrolled in the Spring, 2009 class. During his interview, he stuttered and stammered his way through but managed to communicate his commitment to study and get off of the streets of Columbus. At the time, he was living in a tent near Open Door.

Committed he was; always first to arrive for class, sat on the front row, assisted in setting up the classroom, making coffee, whatever he could do to help. And still his eyes were on the floor or his notebook (during breaks he devoured any books he had with him; he was an avid reader) but he just could not interact with the other students. He studied, he passed his ServSafe test on the first try, and he made an "A" in the class!

Along the way, I invited the young man to a church in the community. He began attending church every Sunday and Wednesday, helping out in the kitchen and endearing himself to the pastor and the pastor's wife. He felt safe at the church and engaged in a ministry to help feed the crowds who came there twice a week. The pastor's wife invited him to live in a house she owned

temporarily while she was getting it ready to rent.

After graduation, the student began his job search. He caught the bus or walked to every interview he could arrange. We did job searches on the internet weekly. But no job came; he still stuttered his way through each interview. By the grace of God, he never gave up; he obtained clothing from Open Door and continued to try to interview. This went on for a long, long time. Then on Christmas Eve of 2010, I received a text message from him saying that his family had invited him home for Christmas and he would be gone for a little while from the streets, where he had returned to a tent after his temporary housing expired.

Drawing closer to family and to God, the young man gained strength and confidence. He checked into a shelter and continued his job search. When a job at a local upscale restaurant opened, he remembered his life skills classes on "networking," and he contacted the chef there who happened to be his ServSafe instructor in 2009. He interviewed with her and he got the job! He started in the kitchen prepping for the cooks and now is

multitasking both in the kitchen and in the restaurant area, interacting with both the kitchen staff and the customers! He is so pleased with his new job and so proud of what he's been able to accomplish with the help of the Lord. In time, he hopes to be able to afford an apartment and maybe a car so that he will not have to ride the bus to work or depend on a ride to get him "home."

Such persistence is rare; I admire the man greatly. His perseverance and faith along with his newly discovered life skills and culinary talents continue to make him a self-sufficient, confident child of God! From tent to classroom to workplace, all glory to Him!!

– Sandi Hortman
Coordinator

We will have the applications for the new culinary class ready in February and will be interviewing during the month of March. Classes will begin in late March.

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

Dr. Sandi Hortman and I, Rev. John Boulineau, have the great privilege of serving on the front lines of ministry as chaplains at Open Door. Last year we met with more than 1,500 individuals who were facing the challenges of homelessness, inadequate income, addictions, and heartbreak. Through your generous donations, we were able to give away clean clothing, hygiene items, emergency food, Bibles, and Christian counseling. Currently our greatest needs are men's clothing, deodorant, used work boots, undergarments, coats, blankets, adult backpacks and your faithful prayers for Open Door and our clients. It is always a joy to say, "This is from people who love Jesus and care about you."



Sharing Christmas



Because of your generous donations, last year we were able to provide a happier Christmas for almost 800 children through our Sharing Christmas program in 2010.

It is that time again! Sharing Christmas distribution will be December 19 – 22. Below you will see the items requested for this year. We are asking that all items, if possible, be donated by December 16th.

IDEA ITEMS FOR CHILDREN (AGES NEWBORN – 12)

- Newborn clothes and toys
- Baby and toddler clothes
- Baby and Toddler toys
- Children's books
- Inexpensive children's DVD movies
- Baby Dolls
- Action figures
- Educational toys
- Plastic sports equipment
- Ride-on toys

IDEA ITEMS FOR TEENS (AGES 13-17)

- Ear rings
- Bracelets
- Perfume
- Cologne
- Manicure sets
- Necklaces
- Ties
- Watches (Male and Female)
- Sports Equipment (Basketballs, Footballs, soccer balls)
- Outdoor games
- Purses
- Socks
- Ball caps
- Ear phones
- Inexpensive CD players
- Inexpensive MP3 players
- Inexpensive Digital Cameras
- CDs
- Radios
- FM/AM radio clocks
- DVD movies
- Art Sets
- Wii games
- Playstation 3 games
- Xbox 360 games
- Body lotion
- Beauty products
- Under clothes
- Bedding sets
- Jump drives
(USB Flash Drives)
- Cosmetics Kits
- Nail sets
- Clothes



"JUMP" in action - A reading initiative to help bring students up to, or past, their class reading level.



Cheerleader for the Open Door "Classic" students vs. staff basketball game.



A Brookstone School 4th grader planting one last pansy in the flower pot.





OPEN DOOR WALK CLASSIC AND 5K RUN

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Save the Date!

Join us for our 25th Annual Walk Classic
Saturday, March 10, 2012

We are moving the Walk to CSU's Mock Intramural Field and Pavilion
We are adding a 5K run!
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

IN THE NEWS

TRAFFICKING:

On October 6 Open Door hosted a Community Conversation on Child Sex Trafficking. More than 40 people representing various sectors of the community gathered to hear from speaker Sharon Saffold-Harris. Sharon serves as a spokesperson and community liaison for "A Future Not A Past" which is a statewide campaign to end sexual exploitation of children in Georgia.

The participants listened to Sharon share stories of young women – including herself – who are commercially sexually exploited in our state. AFNAP states that more than 400 girls are exploited each month on the streets of Georgia, through escort services, in hotels, and online. AFNAP has also found that more than 7,200 men knowingly or unknowingly pay for sex with an adolescent each month in

Georgia. We know this is a problem in our community and Open Door is committed to getting conversation started about what is happening in Columbus and what we can do about it. For more information on AFNAP see www.afuturenotapast.org. You will also find resources for your church or Bible study group on the United Methodist Women's website, <http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umw>.

ANNUAL REPORT!

The Annual Report is now available.
Download a copy at
www.opendoorcommunityhouse.org
or if you would to receive one by mail,
call 706-323-5518 and ask for Cheryl.



GETTING AHEAD:

On October 3, our Family Support Services program started its third and largest "Getting Ahead" group with 15 members and two graduates of the former groups serving as co-facilitators.

This group meets weekly in Chase Homes for 15 weeks and helps participants create a personal plan to move themselves and their families toward stability and economic self-sufficiency.

As participants finish the program, Open Door then supports each individual by connecting them to resources and community allies to help them reach the goals they've set for themselves. Past graduates are making big changes and moving toward their goals by returning to college, working full-time in food service, working full-time as home health workers, working

on getting their GED, and taking care of mental and physical health issues that were barriers to stability. If you'd like more information on the group or to volunteer as an ally to a group member as they work toward reaching their goals, contact Meg Olive, Family Support Specialist, at meg_odch@yahoo.com or 706-323-5518.



Teens in our Summer Academy program doing crafts.



Seniors going fishing

CLOTHING BANK

The Clothing Ministry at Open Door is a busy place these days and we need volunteers to serve in a variety of ways! If you'd like to serve by sorting and hanging clothes, helping shoppers find items, or running our "store" when we're open to the public, please contact Meg Olive at meg_odch@yahoo.com or 706-323-5518. If you're considering making a donation to the clothing ministry, please keep in mind that we have limited storage space so we ask for items to be donated in the appropriate season. We

often have clients who are moving from the street or a shelter into housing of their own. These folks can use dishes, linens, silverware, cookware, and other small household items that are in good condition. 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. For more information about this contact Meg at the info listed above.

Connect with us on Facebook!

Go to www.facebook.com/OpenDoorCommunityHouse to follow us on facebook where you can see frequent updates about our ministries.



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.

(Immediate or ongoing needs of the Open Door ministries)

Computers (gently used, with XP Pro)
Bibles for children
Bibles – large print for adults
Coats, for adults and children
Hats

Gloves
Scarves
Thermal underwear
Hoodies, adult and children

THIS IS HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE...

- \$35 will provide breakfast items for the Showering Program for one week.
- \$75 will provide all arts & crafts supplies, food, reading curriculum, field trips and activities for 50 children for two weeks.
- \$150 will provide all household supplies for one woman moving into permanent housing.
- \$250 will sponsor a participant in the Open Door Institute (a Culinary Arts and Life Skills training program) for one week.
- \$500 will provide up to 12 women in our Transition Home with shelter, food, hygiene items and all other necessary supplies for one day.
- \$1,000 will sponsor one participant to work toward moving beyond poverty for the full 15 week program, "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World."

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

In September, 10 women were moved into permanent housing through the case management program, setting a new record for the number of women moving into permanent housing in one month's time! Four of the women moved into public housing, three moved into subsidized housing (income based rent) and three moved into unsubsidized housing (regular rental rates).

The case management program has been serving homeless women and children in the Columbus area since 1998.

Barriers to Successfully Moving Beyond Homelessness

- Childcare – lack of affordable childcare
- Affordable housing – lack of affordable housing in the Chattahoochee Valley
- Transportation – lack of transportation creates a barrier to parents' ability to work
- Employment opportunities – lack of employers paying a living wage



OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY HOUSE, INC.

THESE HONORS AND MEMORIALS WERE MADE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2011 AND OCTOBER 14, 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

Ms. Ann Beckham
Dr. and Mrs. John Deaton
Mr. Earl Brown
Mrs. Mary Alice Humes
Ms. Mary Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. George Adams
Mrs. Dianne Hanks
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bunn
Mrs. Laura Flatt
Ms. Jean W. Fuller
Ms. Erica R. Gaines
Mr. Ron Hanks
Mr. and Mrs. Del Hodges
Ms. Linda Olive
St. Mark UMC, St. James
Class
Ms. Elizabeth Thornton
Dr. and Mrs. Herman
Woodward
Mrs. Clara Jean Hollis
Ms. Loretta J. Hammett
Mrs. Camilla Humber
Law Office of Gwyn
Newsom, LLC
Mr. Fred Hyder
Ms. Jacquelyn Miller
Mr. Walter D. Kilgore
Dr. and Mrs. John Deaton
Ms. Jacquelyn Miller
Mr. Jerry S. Lorentz
Mrs. Jean Lorentz

Ms. Marilyn Maffett
Mr. and Mrs. James Maffett
Ms. Tammy D. McCamy
Mr. J. Darby McCamy
Mrs. Floyd M. Parker
Mrs. Lucile W. Ogie
Mr. Sam Rawls
Ms. Jacquelyn Miller
Ms. Velma McEwen Strode
Ms. Constance McEwen
Mrs. Dell Turner
Mr. and Mrs. George Adams
Dr. and Mrs. John Deaton
Mrs. Mary Alice Humes
Ms. Jacquelyn Miller
Mr. Mike Whaley
Mr. and Mrs. Richard
Simpson

Honors

Mrs. Sara Bankhead
Ms. Becky Britton
Dr. and Mrs. Hal Brady
Rev. and Mrs. Thomas H.
Johnson, Sr.
Mrs. Kent Butler
Rev. and Mrs. Wayne
Anthony
Mrs. Vivian Cockrell
Dr. and Mrs. John Deaton
Mrs. Martha K. Cunningham
Mrs. Mary W. Hudson



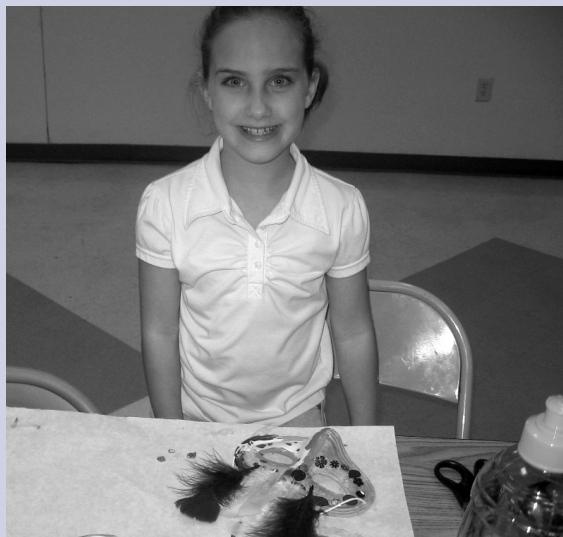
Valerie Harvey won Chck-fil-A lunch for the staff from Boomer 95.3.

Mr. Jonathan E. Curran
Ms. Faith Curran
Ms. Louise Gardner
Ms. Nancy Holdbrooks
Ms. Pat Gardner
Ms. Nancy Holdbrooks
Ms. Becky Grose
Mrs. Leita Coleman
Dr. and Mrs. Othell Hand
Mr. and Mrs. George Avery
Mrs. Mary Hudson
Mrs. Leita Coleman
Mrs. Mary Alice Humes
Dr. Augustus Dudley
Mrs. Louise P. Laney

Mr. Terry Hurley
Dr. and Mrs. John D. Watson
Rev. and Mrs. Don Kea
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Clark
Mrs. Betty Jo Knight
Mr. and Mrs. Larry King
Mr. Thomas W. Lawhorne, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas W.
Lawhorne, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Auten
Mrs. Mary Roop
Ms. Loretta Hammett
Mrs. Nancy Swint
Mrs. Grace Olive



Brookstone School 4th graders planting pansies
for all to enjoy!



Making masks at arts and crafts.

