



Spring 2009 Newsletter

7170 Cooley Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48327

www.opendooroutreachcenter.com

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“JULIE RUN” TIME IS NEAR...

The 16th Annual Open Door Benefit, the 10K & 5K Julie Run/Walk will be held June 20th at Walled Lake Northern High campus starting at 9:00 am. Get out your Nike's and get moving to register either by mail P.O. Box 771, Union Lake, MI 48387-0771 or online. Go online to our website:

www.opendooroutreachcenter.com

This annual event helps Open Door continue its' Mission to assist families when situations prevent them from providing their basic family needs. As you would guess, there are many families in crisis due to our economy and loss of jobs.

The Julie Run has not only been a sporting event but it has brought our community together with a common cause in a healthy way.

You can either run or walk, stroll and visit along the way or try to break last year's record for your age division! There are prizes and awards with recognition from our Honorary Chairpersons and the spectators who cheer and clap for everyone's achievements.

Added to our Julie Run is a chance to collect canned food donations from runners who participate. This helps to keep the pantry shelves stocked to feed the hungry. Open Door needs your support. Come out and join in on the fun.

Our Honorary Chairpersons are Andrea von Behren of Body Language Fitness who will lead our warm-up session and Katrina Hancock, Sports Editor WDIV-TV4 who will be emceeding on race day.

~Julie Leblanc

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As I sit at my desk writing to you I glance out my window at what is a sunny day during a long, hard winter. I hope that as you read this you see the same type of day out your window and not a new snowy day. Having never been a fan of winter (I'm more a walk on the beach kind of person), what winter means to me are high heat and electric bills and families who don't have the money to stay warm. It also means our dedicated staff remaining positive as we struggle to find ways to do more with less.

We are seeing more and more new families coming to us for help (124 just in January and February). We are trying hard to find ways to cut costs without reducing services. Already we are seeing times when our clients can get food from our pantry, just not as much as usual because of declining donations and less availability to purchase goods from places such as Gleaners Food Bank.

Later in this newsletter you will read about the creative ways some in the community are helping us to help others. Big or small, all efforts are important and make a difference. One or two cans of food or one or two dollars may not stress your budget and together with the same from many others add up to make a significant difference in the lives of children, adults and seniors who live among us.

If you are fortunate enough to have a little to give, thank you. If you find yourself newly unemployed or in unusual circumstances, please let us find a way to help you.

If you want to stop by and see what we're doing or have a suggestion, as always my door is open.

Blessings and thanks,

Sharon



SPEAKER'S AVAILABLE

Speakers are available to share the Open Door story with your work, church, club, etc. Contact Sharon at (248) 360-2930 to make arrangements.

The word "Farewell" is written in a blue, cursive script font. Above the letter 'e' in "Farewell", there is a small, multi-colored rainbow graphic.

To our store manager Kathy Delorey. Kathy started her career here at Open Door as a volunteer for two years and four years as employee.

We wish you a fond farewell and much success in your studies to become a nurse!

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

In order to provide crisis funding to our clients, it takes the work of many. Open Door Outreach Center collaborates with other organizations and churches to gather all the funds necessary to help individual clients. In 2008, Open Door Outreach Center directly provided \$36,431.00 in crisis funding. With help from our partners another \$95,795.00 was generated. We give our heartfelt thanks to the following.

2008 COLLABORATION

Calvary Lutheran
Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT)
Centerpoint
Central United Methodist
Christ Lutheran Church
Church of the Holy Family
Church of the Nazarene
Clarkston Free Methodist Church
Clarkston United Methodist Church
Community Sharing
DHS
Easter Seals
First Congregational Church
Free Methodist
Grace Church of Waterford
Grace Countryside Church
Highland Community Church
Holy Spirit Christian Service
Huron Valley Community Chest
Kirk of the Hills Church
Neighbor for Neighbor
Oakland Poor and Needy Fund
OLSHA
Orchard Lake Community Church
Our Lady of Lasalette St. Vincent de Paul Conference
Our Lady of Refuge St. Vincent de Paul Conference
Our Lady of the Lakes St. Vincent de Paul Conference
Our Lady Queen of Martyr St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Pontiac Lighthouse
Recovery Outreach Ministry
Salvation Army
St. Andrew's Episcopal
St. Benedict's St. Vincent de Paul Conference
St. Daniel's Church
St. George's Church
St. Hugo's St. Vincent de Paul Conference
St. Joseph's St. Vincent de Paul Conference
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
St. Patrick's St. Vincent de Paul Conference
St. William's Christian Service
St. William's St. Vincent de Paul Conference
TEAM
United Methodist Clarkston
Waterford Youth Assistance
Williams Lake Church of the Nazarene

"I've seen and meet angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives." Tracy Chapman



VG'S

Bring your VG receipts
in to Open Door.
We are able to turn them
in for cash rewards through
"Community Share" Program.



LEAD ALERT

You may have heard about the new law concerning lead in children's clothing and toys. This law is quite confusing and is currently in review. For now, Open Door's policy is to not accept toys or children's clothing with metal charms or other decorative attachments or buttons that are painted. All such items have been removed from our Resale Store.

GREAT DEALS

Where can you get great deals on new and gently used clothing, shoes, purses, and jewelry? Where can you buy a good book or two for summer reading? Where might you find just the right item for your home? All these and much more can be found at the Open Door Resale Store.

Special sales run each week and are often advertised in the Spinal Column. When you come in we will give you one of our "frequent shopper" cards. When your card is filled, you can redeem it for \$5.00 off your next purchase.

The new and gently used items we have are donated by individuals and retailers throughout the community. **We do not accept furniture or appliances larger than a microwave. No computers, printers, TV's etc. Nor do we now accept toys and children's clothing with decorative or metal attachments.** Please leave your donations in the white bins at the side of the building. If donated during our working hours, you may come into the store for a tax receipt.

Our staff and volunteers would love to see you and show you all the great deals we have to offer. **Store hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

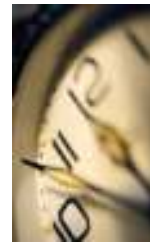


Present this coupon for \$5.00 off any order of \$10.00 or more. Expires 07/31/2009

Do You Have A Little Time?

Our Volunteer opportunities are many:

- Receptionist
- Pantry Worker
- Resale Store — Customer Service
- Resale Store — Sorter
- Data Entry
- Bulk Mailings
- Special Events
- Committee Member
- Making telephone calls
- And More



All it takes is a telephone call to Sharon Josephson to set up an appointment (248-360-2930) for an interview to determine what job you want to do.

WHAT WE DID IN 2008

- Distributed 133,660 pounds of food compared to 123,955 in 2007.
- Fed 3,208 families compared to 2,708 in 2007.
- Served 644 families for the first time.
- Provided, at no cost, clothing and household items valued at over \$22,000.
- Provided direct crisis funding of \$36,431, plus \$95,795 of funding secured from our collaborative partners.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children from many poor families receive less than 70 percent of the recommended daily intake of major nutrients. This deficiency translates into increased risk for serious and costly health problems, including anemia, impaired cognitive development and stunted growth.

Studies show that child hunger may be linked to behavioral problems, delayed social development, anxiety and other emotional problems.

For cognitive, emotional, and physical reasons a hungry child faces significant educational challenges. School attendance and academic performance suffer due to student undernourishment. Hunger, most often caused by a missed breakfast, diminishes a child's ability to retain knowledge, concentrate, and develop language and math skills.

FOOD PANTRY

In January and February of this year we served 124 new families. Along with the clients already with us, this places an additional burden on our food pantry. Although we purchase discounted food from Gleaners Food Bank, their donations are down so there is less available for us to buy. Retailers are having hard times so they aren't as willing to give us discounts. Donations from Forgotten Harvest fluctuate. What can we do?

We ask you to spread the word! We need food and/or dollars/gift cards to purchase food. Tell those you know of the great need in our community to provide nutritious food to many among us (maybe your neighbor). Organize a food drive in your neighborhood, at your church, your work, your child's school. The possibilities are endless.

We thank those of you who have helped in the past and ask that you continue to do what you are able. If Open Door is new to you, please consider helping. A nutritious meal can be put together with a relatively small amount of food, but it makes a huge difference in the life of a person who has none.

If you would like to plan a food drive, make a donation, or have a tour, please call Sharon at (248) 360-2930. Open Door Food Pantry is open Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

“While earning your daily bread, be sure you share a slice with those less fortunate.”

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

SPONSOR A CHILD

Again this year Open Door is providing additional food to families with school age children during the summer months. With children home during the summer it puts a great strain on an already tight family budget. You can help by sponsoring a child for just \$35.00. Your \$35.00 will translate into our buying power to purchase food valued at \$105.00. This will provide the additional food supplied to a child for the months of June, July and August.

Wish List

Food Items

- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned Meat (tuna & chicken)
- Canned Vegetables/Fruit
- Canned Chili, Stew, Soup, and Baked Beans
- Baking Goods (Jell-O, Pudding, Jiffy Mix, Popcorn)
- Cereal and Other Breakfast Items
- Pasta Products/Ramen Noodles
- Spaghetti Sauces
- Crackers (Saltine, Graham, Packaged Snacks)
- Juice (preferably in cans, plastic or juice boxes)
- Condiments (Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise)
- Baby Food

Hygiene & Household Products

- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Soap (bar or liquid)
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Combs / Brushes
- Feminine Products
- Razors / Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Band-Aids
- Toilet Paper / Kleenex
- Cleaning Products / Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent / Fabric Softener
- Diapers



Cash Donations

- Gas Cards
- Kroger, and Meijer Gift Cards
- Cash



WHAT'S COMING UP?

- May 2 Inn at Cass Lake Chef Competition
- May 16 Dance Place Dance-A-Thon
- June/July/
August Feed the Children Food Drive
- June 1 Volunteer Luncheon
- June 20 Julie 5K/10K Walk/Run
- July 11 Outhouse Open Golf Outing
- August Back-to-School Program
(See web-site: opendooroutreachcenter.com for more information)

OPEN YOUR HEART TO OPEN DOOR

Dobski's Restaurant on Cooley Lake Road asked customers to "open your heart to Open Door". During the first two weeks of February Dobski's staff sold paper hearts to customers which were displayed on walls around the bar and lobby. On February 12 they designated a percentage of the food sales to Open Door. They also collected food for our pantry. All their hard work paid off. Thanks to Ron and Patrice Brezner and their great staff for raising \$1,700.00 for Open Door. We're lucky to have such great neighbors.



GOOD EATS

On May 2 the Inn at Cass Lake will open their door to the public for a Chef Competition. All the chefs from their sister properties will come together from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. to make many wonderful dishes to be sampled. Sharon Josephson from Open Door Outreach Center has been invited to serve as one of the judges. In addition to the cooking, the public is being asked to bring donations for the food pantry of Open Door Outreach Center. Please call 248-202-6771 for more information.



**“Act as if what you do makes a difference.
It does.” ~William James~**



DANCE PLACE HELPS OPEN DOOR

The Dance Place of Waterford students are doing two internal fundraisers on behalf of Open Door over the next few months. They also will have a Dance-A-Thon on May 16 that is open to the public. Children raise pledges and on May 16 show how many jumping jacks, sit-ups, push-ups, or turns they can do in one minute. Their collected pledges go to the Open Door Outreach Center. Call (248) 666-9929 for more information.

Open Door Outreach Center
7170 Cooley Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48327

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Our Mission Statement

Celebrating the spirit of interfaith charity and recognizing the human dignity of all persons, the Open Door Outreach Center's primary mission is to provide emergency services (food, clothing and referral information) to families in need.

Open Door may offer, as funding permits, other special assistance programs and supplemental services meant to improve the quality of life in the community.

To meet its mission of servicing families living in designated townships in western Oakland County, Open Door is dependant upon generous, on-going support and funding from individuals, local businesses, corporations and religious and civic organizations.

Something New

We are looking for individuals to chair and sit on several newly forming committees.

- Back-to-School
- Easter
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- A new event—Classic Car Show
- A new event—Dinner Auction
- A new event—A Home Party

Open Door is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization that is able to help those in need only through various types of donations. Your gifts of cash, food, used clothing and household items help us help others