

A Beacon of Hope in the Heart of the City



PEN M

Report to the Community

November 2009



Dottie Achmoody

The mission of OPEN M – PEOPLE

I cannot get through every day without thinking about what we at OPEN M are endeavoring to do for the Summit County area and specifically in the Summit Lake area in which we reside.

I encounter so many people who are in desperate need of assistance of some kind, whether it is help with a utility bill, food, medical help, after-school homework help, help in some legal issue, not able to provide a good Christmas for their children, wanting to move out of poverty toward self-sufficiency, or some other need. All of the staff and the many volunteers who come here (without whom OPEN M would not be able to do what we do for those in need) are working hard to make a difference in a practical way to meet the daily and long-term needs of people.

Sometimes we allow the mission of OPEN M to roll off of our tongues without thinking about the implication of each part and component. Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, Nurture Children, Build Families, and Strengthen the Community. Each one has a definite meaning and purpose, but that meaning and purpose must be accomplished in a tangible way in the lives of people.

I am struck by how God has chosen to accomplish His purpose, the vehicle through whom He has chosen to work. God sent His Son to the earth so that through His death, He provided a way for man to have a relationship with Him. God has entrusted His love to that world through people to affect the lives of

people.

It is amazing to me that God has chosen to work through me to affect other people for Him. The mission of OPEN M is given its power through the God who provided the mission of OPEN M many years ago. We live out our mission through His strength and through all the people who have been, are now, and will be involved in OPEN M as a staff member, volunteer, donor, covenant partner, prayer warrior, or in other ways.

I am reminded of Paul's words to the church at Corinth as he described his relationship to them,

"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." I Corinthians 3:2 - 3

Our five-fold mission is focused on investing in the lives of people so that they will see the love of Christ through us, so that our work impacts their heart. If anything defines OPEN M, it is our relationship with people – those in need, our covenant partners, over 700 volunteers, and all of you who receive this newsletter and support us in many ways. It has been said that significance in life comes when we give of our life for the same reason that God gave His life – for people.

Thank you for being involved in the mission of OPEN M as you give of yourself for the people in need who come here. We appreciate your prayers, your

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OPEN M is located in the Neighborhood
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(330) 434-0110 FAX: (330) 434-6661
www.openm-ministry.org

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The Murphy Agency

time, and as able, your help financially so that we can continue to be involved with people. Without your support, we could not do what we are able to do in this community. As we enter this Thanksgiving season, may our minds continue to be focused on expressing our thanks for what we have and our thanks for what we can share with others in need.

B.O.Y AND GEM GIRLS COMING TO OPEN M

Our after-school programs have helped children in the community through homework help, tutoring help, and mentoring help for children from first grade through high school. Our education coordinator, Felicia Bronner, coordinates programs with the help of adult and high school volunteers from the East Akron Community House (E.A.C.H.) and Youth Enrichment Services (Y.E.S.).

This year OPEN M has started two new programs to better serve the children who come here for help.

1. Gem Girls – The Gem Girls Club is a sister to the Diamond Ladies Program. It was started to assist 5th grade girls with the transition from elementary school to middle school, addressing topics such as self-esteem, goal-setting, health and wellness, decision-making skills, and other issues pertaining to a healthy lifestyle. There are currently 10 girls enrolled, mostly from McEbright school which is occupying the Lincoln School building this year. They meet every Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. until May 2010. During the last half hour, they are there with the Diamond Ladies so that they can get to know them.

2. Building Outstanding Youth (B.O.Y.) – This program focuses on helping 5th grade boys through the struggles that they experience moving from elementary school toward middle school and beyond. This program, done in collaboration with Darryl Brake, one of the OPEN M board of trustee members and his wife, will focus on self-esteem, understand stereotypes and how they affect the boys' view of themselves and others, health and wellness, decision-making, and other issues. This program will meet on Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to help with any of the OPEN M after-school programs and hang out with the children who come here for assistance, please contact Felicia Bronner at 330-434-0110, Ext. 410 or e-mail her at homework@openm.org.

Bridges Out of Poverty update



We have been talking in the last few newsletters about the importance of working with those in need to provide help and tools for them to start the process of moving out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency. The objective of this work is to build bridges for those in poverty and provide both support and encouragement as they move forward. OPEN M, as the lead agency in Summit County for the Bridges Out of Poverty initiative, is focusing on providing this help to the community.

We are pleased to announce that OPEN M is

holding a Getting Ahead class for individuals in the community to begin working with them as they start to move out of poverty. The people in the class are called investigators in that they are learning many things that will help them to develop a plan to improve their situation. Sheila Sims, our family development coordinator, is working with those in the class twice a week to provide guidance.

Once the investigators complete the class, they will be paired with community leaders who will begin the process of helping them to work out their plan and move toward self-sufficiency. Doug Denton, who is overseeing the program for OPEN M, is available to provide training and information concerning how you could be involved in the lives of people to be an ally to them during this time.

Should any of you like to obtain more information about Bridges for yourself, your church, church group, or organization and/or receive a personal session to learn more about Bridges and how you could be involved, please contact Dave King directly at 330-434-0110, Ext. 419.

New editions for 2010 - Enjoy the City coupon books

Looking for great Christmas stocking stuffers? OPEN M has partnered with Enjoy the City once again to sell the save around Akron/Canton edition BOGO discount book (buy one get one free). There are discounts available for sporting goods, car rentals, tires, entertainment parks, clothing retailers, dry cleaners, Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers, oil changes, bowling, ice cream, food and more!

So many ways to save money while OPEN M earns \$8 per book! It all adds up and we are grateful to all of you who make it possible! Tiffany's favorite: the Cleveland Cavs! Colleen's favorite: Beef O' Brady's - Brimfield. Call Doris Stewart at 330-434-0110, Ext. 404. Other cities are available for those out of town family members.



Thank you to our donors who help us be a Beacon of Hope in the Heart of the City.

OPEN M Donor List - September 16th through October 20th

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Dottie Achmoody - Boss' Day
by
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by
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Nerhood

In Honor of
Darleen & Steve Cirino's
Recent Wedding
Mark & Crystal Pirri's Recent Wedding
by
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Nerhood



OPEN M

Here's how you can help a family at Christmas



It is not too late to bless the lives of children this 2009 Christmas season. There are two ways that you can help a family in need during our Christmas Adopt a Child gift and food giveaway. Adopt a Child this season. If you would like to adopt a child, the process is simple:

Specify the number of children you would like to adopt.

Purchase two gifts for each child at \$25 per gift.

Wrap your child's special gift and place all gifts in a large bag with the label of the family name on the outside of the bag.

(*Note: label each child's gift in the bag.)

Drop off your gift(s) to OPEN M no later than Monday, Dec. 14. Enjoy and be blessed with the gift of giving.

If you choose to adopt a child, we will mail you the child's name and other important information needed for you to shop for that child. Please contact Sheila Sims at (330) 434-3250 or email her at family@openm.org with any questions.

Share a food item for our Christmas food boxes. OPEN M, in addition to the gifts for children, will also supply a Christmas box of food for each family. We need churches, businesses, or organizations who may be able to purchase a quantity of a food item to provide for the Christmas boxes. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact Bobbie Boyer at 330-434-0110, Ext. 416, or e-mail her at food@openm.org. Your food items must be brought to OPEN M by Dec. 4 to enable us to prepare the baskets for families sponsored at Christmas.

We appreciate your prayers and consideration as we plan to share the joy of the season with many families.

Get the OPEN M newsletter electronically

If you would like to receive the OPEN M newsletter as an e-mail attachment, please contact Dave King at 330-434-0110, Ext. 419, or e-mail at operations@openm.org.

Please provide your name and e-mail address. This would save OPEN M some postage costs and enable you to get the newsletter more quickly.

Join the Diamond Lady "Cookie Bake"

We are looking for volunteer bakers to bake cookies at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11, at OPEN M. Each year the OPEN M Women's Board along with volunteers come together to share their baking expertise, favorite recipes and Christmas spirit with our Diamond Ladies.

The Diamond Ladies are very special young ladies, ages 12-17, who come to OPEN M to receive guidance in focusing their lives on abstinence, higher aspirations, and developing a healthy self-esteem. Come join us for a fun night of holiday baking, Christmas music and good company. Call Felicia Bronner at 330-434-0110, Ext. 410, for more information.

Whose life have you affected today?

Faithful volunteers are what make the difference in our country. It is the love of a child calling out for help, the hunger of a mother trying to feed her family, the pain of a sick man needing medicine. This world is in need of the love and passion of people to give back to the community and help those who are less fortunate.

OPEN M takes pride in the wonderful volunteers we have who give their time and support to help those in need. Our volunteers are the most wonderful kindhearted people I have ever met. In the past couple months we have had a few new faces come to volunteer at OPEN M. Their spirit to give back is contagious, and you can tell when looking at all of our faithful volunteers that their passion affects our clients in many ways.

Today, please take the time to answer this question, Who have I helped today? Sometimes the smallest gesture of help makes the biggest impact on another person. Sometimes you do not always know the impact you can make on a person, but it is worth the effort to try. Sometimes it is as simple as giving a smile to a stranger, or helping to hand out food at our Mountain of Food days, or helping OPEN M raise money at our fundraisers so we can have more resources to help more people.

When you give of yourself to help others, you will see how rewarding that feeling is. So again, whose life have you made a difference in today? If you would like to find out ways to give back to the community, please contact Tiffany Stahl at voluntmgr@openm.org or call 330-434-0110, Ext. 409.

Newsletter Update

OPEN M sends over 2,800 newsletters out each month. Because we haven't heard from a number of people on our mailing list for some time, we thought it would be a good idea if we took a close look at the list and made some updates. While the cost of producing and mailing a single newsletter is relatively small, overall costs can add up quickly considering their recurring nature and the large number of recipients. For example, the savings from not producing and mailing 100 unwanted newsletters could pay for 250 additional meals to feed the hungry every year. We'll be reviewing the list and making changes over the next several months. It will require a lot of work but the effort is worthwhile.

Another way to save is by delivering the newsletter via e-mail instead of regular mail. A number of recipients have already made the change and are getting the newsletter this way. We understand that electronic delivery is not for everyone, but if you'd like to give it a try, contact Dave King at operations@openm.org and we'll add you to the list.

Thanksgiving at OPEN M

OPEN M and seven other locations in the area are hosting a Thanksgiving Eve Dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 25 for people in the community in need. The other locations are Centenary United Methodist Church, Church of our Saviour – Episcopal, Woodland United Methodist, Kenmore Community Center, Steels Corners Community Church, St. Sebastian Catholic Church, and St. John/St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Because of the need in the community, we anticipate serving more than the 1,540 meals we served last year and would appreciate your prayer for all the volunteers at each location as they prepare for this important opportunity to help people in need.

If you know of anyone in need who would like to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal at any of these locations, please feel free to extend an invitation. If you have any questions about the meal, please contact Dave King at 330-434-0110, Ext. 419, or e-mail him at operations@openm.org.





Hot Lunch Headlines

There will not be a Hot Lunch scheduled in November, so that we can devote our time and resources to the Thanksgiving Eve dinner.

We hope you will join us at any of the locations where this dinner will be served.

If you know a family in need, please be sure to invite them to this wonderful dinner.

We want to thank the many volunteers who come together to prepare this meal for our neighbors. We simply could not have such a large undertaking without your selfless support of this program.

And we hope that everyone will take time to reflect on God's many blessings, now and everyday, and thank Him for all the good things we have in life!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fall Fest 2009 was a big success

The Fall Fest was a great success again this year. In spite of the tough economic times, OPEN M supporters were very generous. We had 372 guests and nearly 200 silent auction items donated to help us raise money for our Free Health Clinic.

We appreciate all of our donors, sponsors and guests for attending this year's event. We will have more information and pictures in next month's newsletter. Thank you!



Fairlawn Area Chamber of Commerce holding Holiday Silent Auction for OPEN M

The Fairlawn Area Chamber of Commerce is holding its Annual Silent Auction at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn Hotel during the chamber's monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition to the auction, lunch will be provided.

The cost of the luncheon is \$20 for non-members. The proceeds from the silent auction will benefit three organizations, one of which is OPEN M. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact the Chamber at 330-777-0032 or e-mail them at marketingplus@roadrunner.com by Dec. 10.

Villa in Hilton Head was Fall Fest oral auction item

Jack Rubins, who donated a villa in Hilton Head as an oral auction item at the Fall Fest, has offered to rent his villa to OPEN M supporters in 2010, at a reduced rate. We raised \$1,025 for the Free Health Clinic from this generous donation. If you are interested, please contact him directly at 330-923-7063 or e-mail him at Jack@JRGolf314@aol.com.

Thank You!

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OPEN M
IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving
Eve Dinner at OPEN M and seven other
locations

Friday, Dec. 4 – Food Items Due for
Christmas Adopt a Child

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. – Monthly
Membership Meeting for December

Monday, Dec. 14
Christmas Adopt-a-Child gift dropoff to
OPEN M

Thursday, Dec. 17 – Christmas Adopt
A Child Gift and Food Pickup

Happy Holidays from the staff at OPEN M!

