

*A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope*



# PEN M

Report to the Community

September 2009

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## **An individual contact or suggestion means a great deal**

All of us at OPEN M appreciate the efforts of all who support this work, whether it is a volunteer who provides time to help others, or a person who commits time to pray for us and those who come here, or those who in some way share a part of themselves to encourage people.

Sometimes we believe that it takes something big in terms of suggestions or contact to make a difference either in the life of a person or in the administration of the work of OPEN M. Yet we are constantly reminded of the importance of a single contact and what it means to people and OPEN M. We would like to share a few examples of that with you.

During one of our membership meetings earlier in the year, one of our member representatives came to us and mentioned a contact that he had many years ago with Cyrus Eaton. This person told us that Cyrus Eaton was a generous and kind man to the community. This sparked us to do some research and discover that Cyrus Eaton set up a foundation when he died to provide support to agencies focused on reaching out into the community. We prepared a grant proposal for the Cyrus Eaton foundation and received \$2000 from them to support the work here.

Another individual from one of our covenant churches is a member of an organization named Altrusa that provides reading encouragement to children. It so happens that with this coming school year, we will be providing on Mondays an enrichment group for elementary school children where the day will focus on a book reading, in terms of discussion, arts, crafts, and activities.

Felicia, our education coordinator, made contact with the women of Altrusa and in September will have a reading day with 25 children from our Summer Camp to kick off the reading club. The organization will also be involved with the Monday Reading Club with children, a great enhancement of that program.

One of our covenant churches brought in some tents for our Hot Lunch program

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with a prayer to bless the food that our clients eat at hot lunch. During this month, a number of our clients commented to me the encouragement that they received in reading the prayer on the tent at the tables, how much they appreciated the prayer at the beginning of hot lunch, and how much they appreciate the efforts of all the churches and volunteers who prepare hot lunch.

We had the privilege of being invited to Akron Children's Hospital in August to participate in their Employee Foundation day. This was an event that highlighted 21 agencies in the area to employees and patients of the hospital.

One woman came up to the OPEN M table and commented that she was once a patient of the clinic, had her family sponsored for Christmas, participated in our Food Pantry program, and received school supplies through our education program before she was employed by the hospital. She talked about how much she appreciated the kindness of those she met here, mentioning specifically Bobbie, our pantry manager, and Felicia, our education manager. She told me that she talks about OPEN M with everyone she sees at the hospital and the importance of the work of OPEN M in the area.

I think these examples show how important one contact may be in the lives of people and in the hand of God, working through these contacts to support many individuals.

We thank all of you for every contact you make with people, every suggestion you make to us in support of what we do here. Your encouragement and wisdom help to guide us as we continue to commit ourselves to Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, Nurture Children, Build Families, and Strengthen the Community.

## **OPEN M welcomes a new member of the board of trustees, Tom Brandt**

**T**om is the retired CEO of Church Insurance and Financial Services Inc., and we are pleased to have him as a member of our board of trustees.

Tom received his bachelors degree from Kent State University in government service and served in the U.S. Army as a helicopter crew chief. After serving in the army, Tom pursued and graduated from the Insurance Institute and joined the Church Insurance and Financial Service Inc., eventually working his way up to become CEO of that business.

Tom has been involved in many organizations including Rotary, Jaycees, Boards of Trade, Fraternal Order of Police, the Better Business Bureau, Victim Assistance and Furnace Street Mission. He currently

serves as president of the Victim Assistance board and is the past president of North Akron Chamber of Commerce, Portage-Summit County Rotary, and Summit County Big I.

Tom has been awarded with the Joyce Dewitt Kinser Award for his service to the community, the Ken Hiney Outstanding Business Person award, and Rotarian of the Year by Rotary International. He has been involved as Captain Tom with Camp Quality, a camp that works with children who have cancer.

Tom's wife Marilyn works as a clinical science liaison for Sigma Tau Pharmacy. They have four children (three girls and one boy) and nine grandchildren (eight boys and one girl) and live in North Canton, Ohio.

As can be seen by the picture, Tom enjoys boating and fishing. He collects rare fishing lures and enjoys teaching kids and adults how to fish. Tom and his wife also enjoy travel.

**We welcome Tom as a valued member of the OPEN M Board of Trustees and thank him for his interest in the work of OPEN M.**



## OPEN M nights at Canal Park another success story

**W**e are happy to report that our faithful supporters purchased 100 tickets this season to games at Canal Park. The Aeros are donating \$300 to OPEN M for the 2009 season.

We thank the Aeros and our supporters for making this possible. When the 2009 season ends, we will meet with the Aeros to choose our 2010 games. THANK YOU EVERYONE who purchased these tickets.

To learn more about how you can save money on your tickets for your church, individual or business group events for 2010, call Doris Stewart at 330-434-0110, Ext. 404.



## Bridges out of Poverty update

**I**n many cases, people are living in poverty not because they did something wrong, but because of events outside their control. They may have been laid off from work and been unable to find another job in this economy. Others are poor because they do not know anything different, or they have not had the opportunity or resources needed to move out of poverty.

Jesus spent a great deal of time talking about our responsibility to help those in need by sharing what we have with others. While this can come in the form of giving help for an immediate need, it must also come in the form of teaching and coaching those in poverty to learn how to help themselves move forward.

This is one of the principles underlying the Bridges Out of Poverty program: using resources we have, we can bridge the gaps between groups and help those in need move toward self-sufficiency.

There is still time for you to sign up for Bridges training at OPEN M. The training will take place on Saturday, September 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. To learn more about Bridges, please contact Dave King at 330-434-0110, Ext. 419 or [operations@openm.org](mailto:operations@openm.org). We look forward to having you with us.

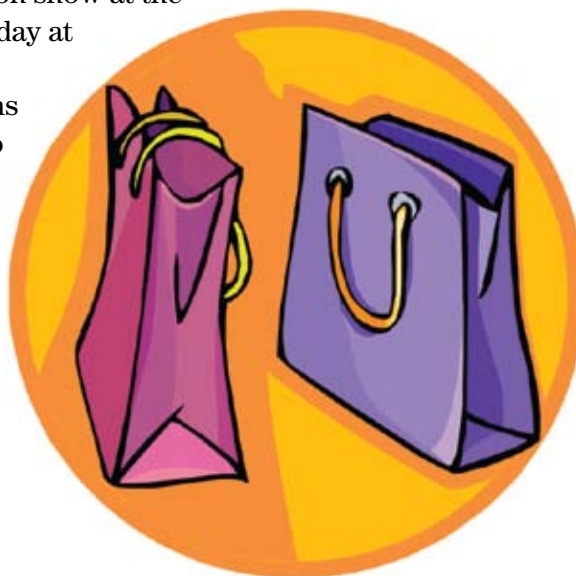
Additionally, should any of you like to obtain more information about Bridges for yourself, your church, church group, or organization and/or receive a personal session to learn more about Bridges and how you could be involved, please contact Dave King directly at 330-434-0110, Ext. 419.

## Buy Macy's Shop for a Cause passes at OPEN M

**M**acy's Department Store, which is providing the fashion show at the OPEN M Fall Fest, is holding their Shop for a Cause day at their stores on Saturday, October 17.

The passes provide a 10% or 20% off discount on selected items all day, or 25% off on one selected item and the opportunity to register for a drawing to win a \$500 Macy's gift card.

You can purchase this pass at OPEN M for \$5 with OPEN M being able to keep all those proceeds for our work here. If you are interested, please contact Doris Stewart at 330-434-0110, Ext. 404, to obtain the Macy's pass.



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

## **OPEN M Donor List - July 16th through August 15th**

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by  
Mr. Robert Brodbeck

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Letty Holden  
by  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Harvey

**In Honor Of**  
Don & Mary Kern's  
60th Anniversary  
by  
Ms. Carolyn Hansinger

**In Honor Of**  
Marla Oddo  
by  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dixon



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN.  
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

Dear Friends:

**O** PEN M is in the process of helping to bless the lives of children this 2009 Christmas season. As always, we are hoping you will be able to assist OPEN M this year and adopt a child or children for the holiday season. The process is fun and simple:

1. Specify the number of children you would like to adopt.
2. Purchase two gifts for each child at about \$25.00 per gift.
3. Wrap your child's gifts and place them in a garbage bag with the label of the family name on the outside of the bag. (\* Note: label each child's gift in the bag.)
4. Drop off your gifts to OPEN M no later than Monday, December 14.
5. Enjoy and be blessed with the gift of giving.

OPEN M will provide a Christmas food basket for each family upon pick-up of their child's gifts.

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 e-mail me at [family@openm.org](mailto:family@openm.org) with any questions. Thank you in advance and be blessed with the gift of giving.

Sincerely,  
Sheila Sims  
Sheila Sims, L.S.W.  
Family Development Specialist

### **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](mailto: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.

*OPEN M is located in the Neighborhood Center, 941 Princeton Street in Akron, Ohio.*

*(330) 434-0110 FAX: (330) 434-6661*

**[www.openm-ministry.org](http://www.openm-ministry.org)**

Dottie Achmoody – CEO, Ext. 407

Betty Eberly – Executive Assistant, Ext. 405

Bobbie Boyer – Food Service Manager, Ext. 416

Dave King – Operations Manager, Ext. 419

Sheila Sims – Family Development, Ext. 403

Felicia Bronner – Education Coordinator, Ext. 410

Mary Davidson – Clinic Manager, Ext. 413

Dan Bricker – Building Manager, Ext. 422

Colleen McMahon – Secretary, Ext. 402

Darlene Szilagy – Nursing Administrator, Ext. 414

Pat Adolphson – Financial Assistant, Ext. 428

Tiffany Stahl – Volunteer Manager, Ext. 409

Doris Stewart – Events & Marketing Manager, Ext. 404

## Fall Fest Event to Raise Money for Free Health Clinic

Please join us on Saturday, October 24, at Todaro's Party Center for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fest. The Fall Fest is one of our best-attended events of the year, and a major fundraiser for OPEN M. The silent auction tables open for viewing at 11 a.m., followed at noon with a delectable lunch. The event ends with a fashion show, by models gracing the runway with clothing from Macy's at Chapel Hill.

Fall Fest is a great opportunity to spend a few hours with family and friends (spouses too) while helping to support the rising demands for health care of the uninsured who come to the clinic for lifesaving care. Come and enjoy your time with us as we bring everyone together for good food, fun and fellowship. Call Doris Stewart for more details or to purchase your tickets. Doris can be reached at 330-434-0110, Ext. 404, or e-mail her at [projects@openm.org](mailto:projects@openm.org).

### Ways to get involved:

#### Sponsorship Opportunities

Gold -	\$1,000 (includes a table of 10 guests), \$830 is tax deductible
Silver -	\$ 500
Bronze -	\$ 250
Patron -	\$ 100

All sponsorships include: recognition at the event, inclusion in the OPEN M newsletter (circulation 3,000), a mention on the OPEN M website @[www.openm-ministry.org](http://www.openm-ministry.org) and all other promotional materials at the discretion of OPEN M.

Donate an item(s) for the silent auction – i.e., gift baskets, gift cards/certificates, jewelry, Christian items, etc. Buy a ticket or better yet, motivate a group of 8, 9, or 10 to come and have your own reserved table!

[See you there!](#)



## Thanksgiving eve dinner planning underway

*"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I Thessalonians 5:18.*

September brings about the coming of Fall and a transition to the holiday season. Again this year, OPEN M will have the privilege with eight Covenant Churches to share Thanksgiving Eve Dinner on Wednesday, November 25, with hundreds of families in need in the community, and for that we are so thankful.

More than 75 volunteers come together to make this event a reality.

Many in our community may struggle with the statement that Paul makes to give thanks in all circumstances. With the state of the economy, the high unemployment rate, and costs of basic commodities on the increase, many are in great need. We are thankful that we can be a Beacon of Hope to the community through this dinner during the Thanksgiving season .

As always, the Thanksgiving week is a very busy one at OPEN M. Turkeys are cooked at Kent State on Monday with many other trimmings. On Tuesday, the turkeys and trimmings are sliced and packaged in trays. At OPEN M, Monday brings many volunteers who come to peel several pounds of potatoes to make mashed potatoes.

On Wednesday, the potatoes are mashed, the turkey trimmings are divided, and the food picked up by the churches that will be serving the meal that evening. We appreciate your prayer for all the staff and volunteers who complete this large amount of work in a short period of time.

We are thankful for all the volunteers involved, the churches who serve the meal, and all the donors who make this dinner possible. Should you want to help in any way, please contact Tiffany Stahl or David King at 330-434-0110.



## Hot Lunch Headlines

**Mon. Sept. 14**  
Hudson UMC

**Tues. Sept. 15**  
Peninsula UMC

**Wed. Sept. 16**  
Grace UCC

**Thur. Sept. 17**  
Twin Falls UMC

**Fri. Sept. 18**  
Macedonia UMC

**Mon. Sept. 21**  
The Chapel

**Tues. Sept. 22**  
Christ Church Episcopal

**Wed. Sept. 23**  
Stow UMC

**Thur. Sept. 24**  
Green Valley UMC

**Fri. Sept. 25**  
Clearview UMC

**Mon. Sept. 28**  
Greensburg UMC

**Tues. Sept. 29**  
Prosecutors Office

**Wed. Sept. 30**  
1st Congregational Church,  
Hudson

## OPEN M annual golf outing nets \$19,600 for the free health clinic

An amazing outpouring of supporters and volunteers helped make this one of the best ever golf outing fundraisers for OPEN M! With more and more families finding themselves caught in this economic recession and job loss cycle, our clinic and pharmacy services for the uninsured in Summit County are needed even more.

It takes thoughtful caring medical professionals, supporters, donors and volunteers to meet those needs. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you everyone for your part in making this year a wonderful success. Please mark your calendars for 08-09-10 for our next outing.

### Golf Outing 2009 Tee Sponsors – Thank you!

ACCL Imaging - John Davis  
Lawyer's Title Insurance –  
Terry & Gail Endress  
Dave & Terry Bickel  
Maynard Family Foundation –  
Phil Maynard  
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**OPEN M**  
**941 Princeton Street**  
**Akron, OH 44311**

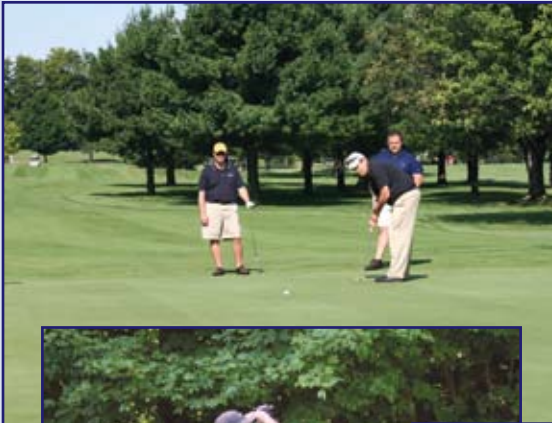
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**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m.** – Bridges Out of Poverty Training
- Saturday, October 3, 9 a.m.** – Monthly Membership Meeting for October
- Saturday, October 24, 11 a.m.** – Fall Fest/ Fashion Show, Todaro's Party Center
- Saturday, November 7, 2009** – Monthly Membership Meeting for November
- Wednesday, November 25, 2009** – Thanksgiving Eve Dinner at OPEN M and eight other Covenant Churches



**Thank you for another great golf outing!**  
**See you on August 9, 2010 for our next one.**