

A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope



PEN M

Report to the Community

July 2009

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What does the OPEN M Free Clinic mean to me?

It never ceases to amaze me the way our patients rave about the care they receive at OPEN M. One patient recently shared her clinic experience at a press conference where Dominion President Bruce Klink presented \$20,000 to the OPEN M Free Clinic. Her words touched my heart and I want to share them with you. She began with the question, "What does OPEN M Free Clinic mean to me?" Her words follow:

I must first preface my remarks by saying that my intention is in no way to overstate the effect of the clinic on my life, but to simply and truthfully state that because of the clinic, I can continue to live.

I first came to the Clinic in 1996 when I moved here from Pittsburgh. I came with no job and no health care benefits. Within a week, I began working for a temporary agency that provided me with the flexibility I needed to be available for my ailing father. At that time, no health care was offered through the temporary agency. I was not sure what I was going to do about my medication. I am a diabetic and needed medication to control the disease. When I read about the OPEN M clinic in an article in the Akron Beacon Journal, I said to my father, "Here is an answer to my prayer." I called and made an appointment and began what would be a two and a half year relationship with the Clinic.

I went on to full-time permanent employment that provided benefits, and said goodbye to the folks at the clinic and thanked them for being there. I would come to need the Clinic two other times in my life.

In April 2008, I was laid off from a job that I had worked for ten years. I was able to afford COBRA for a while, but ultimately had to give that up because of the expense. I came back to the clinic in November 2008. How thankful I am that it was here. I am sure I speak for most, if not all, of the patients that come here in saying that we do not know what we would do without it.

That is the functional side of the OPEN M clinic, but there is another side that is not so evident to those who are not volunteers or patients. That is what I refer to as the heart

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of the OPEN M clinic. Coming to the clinic for most of us is a special experience. As patients, we are treated with the utmost respect by staff. We are listened to by the nurses and the doctors who approach us with a real desire to help. If one has a reason to call to ask a question, the receptionists are very helpful to direct the call to the appropriate person.

However, the most special aspect of going to the clinic is what takes place in the waiting room. From the very first time I came back in November, I found the usual barriers of a doctor's office to be non-existent. People greeted each other like old friends they had not seen for a while. For new people, the veterans freely offered help and suggestions to make that first visit go smoothly. There is a sense of love being offered that is palpable and I must say, at first it seemed a little strange. Do not let this get out, but we actually had fun while waiting to be seen. Really!

Without the clinic, I could not have survived. It is impossible to overstate the gratitude I feel for having been able to be treated at the OPEN M Free Medical Clinic.

I hear testimonies like this on a regular basis, and with each one, it is a confirmation God works through OPEN M to care for His loved ones. We can take comfort knowing his hand is on OPEN M. Thank you for the role you play in partnering with us to save lives and to feed and educate families and children.

Our thanks to the Church of the Good Shepherd

We at OPEN M want to thank the Church of the Good Shepherd for their great support and encouragement over the years.

In 1968, OPEN M started its work at Calvary EUB Church on Coburn Street in conjunction with St. Paul's Lutheran, Wooster Avenue Christian, and Main Street Methodist. These four churches were the original covenant churches. Calvary EUB Church eventually changed to Calvary United Methodist Church.

In 1971, Calvary United Methodist Church burned down, and the members of that church joined with Main Street United Methodist church and in 1973 became Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church.

The church still owned the property on Coburn Street where the fire did not affect the parsonage, and Church of the Good Shepherd allowed the directors and their families of OPEN M to use the parsonage for several years until the property was sold. At the same time, Church of the Good Shepherd provided administrative offices and also provided space for the OPEN M Summer, Thanksgiving and Christmas programs.

This went on for 28 years until OPEN M's building was completed and we moved to our current location in August 1999. In addition, other churches provided space for OPEN M to run programs until we moved into our new building. At one time, we had programs operating out of eight different locations.

Church of the Good Shepherd has always been a great support to OPEN M in many ways. It has

provided generous monetary donations through the church itself and through various organizations within the church.

The Senior Christians have supported OPEN M monthly, and the Proto Class and Partnership classes have supported OPEN M on a regular basis. The Chancel Choir supported various OPEN M programs throughout the years. In addition, we have been blessed with many wonderful volunteers who are dedicated to helping OPEN M in any way they are able to. They are always very dependable and willing to give of themselves to better the lives of others. We appreciate all that they have done and donated to OPEN M.

When we had trouble with vandalism to our vehicles that were parked overnight in our parking lot, Church of the Good Shepherd allowed us to park our vans in their garage. It was a mutual agreement as OPEN M allowed the Church to use the vans in return for a safe place to park them.

This month, the Church of the Good Shepherd and Church of the Master merged and became Family of Faith United Methodist Church.

We are grateful for all of the support we received from Church of the Good Shepherd throughout the years. We thank them also for the hard work put forth in supporting the OPEN M programs. We wish all of those who have worshiped at the Church of the Good Shepherd and Church of the Master God's best on the merger and look forward to having a good relationship with Family of Faith United Methodist Church in the future.

OPEN M Free Clinic honored with donations!

OPEN M was honored by Akron General Medical Center (AGMC) nurses and Dominion East Ohio with generous donations to support the work of the OPEN M Free Clinic, the only free medical, dental, eye clinic and pharmacy in Summit County.

CEO Dottie Achmoody accepted a \$4000 donation from Akron General Medical Center through the efforts of the nursing department. The nurses have an annual gift basket sale to support the work of the OPEN M Free Clinic. Nurses from every floor and department participate in creating wonderfully themed gift baskets.

OPEN M enjoys close ties with Akron General Medical Center. Many of their doctors and nurses volunteer

in the clinic. We are also pleased to have Beverly Bokovich, senior vice president and chief nursing officer, as a member of our Board of Trustees. We thank the nurses of Akron General Medical Center for their effort and kindness in making this a very successful fundraiser on our behalf.

The OPEN M Free Clinic was one of six free clinics in Northeast Ohio to receive a donation from the Dominion Foundation. The presentation to the six clinics was done at a news conference held at OPEN M. Dottie Achmoody accepted a donation of \$20,000 from the president of Dominion East Ohio, Bruce C. Klink, during the ceremony.

OPEN M was part of a \$1 million national grant to free health clinics in 14 states that work to meet the needs of those who have no health insurance. Dominion employees throughout the country sacrificed their employee appreciation day to make this donation possible.

We thank Dominion and all of their employees for their gracious donation.



CEO Dottie Achmoody, left, accepts a super-size check from Akron General Medical Center nurses (left to right) Cherie Mountain, Cherie Guster, Anita Sanford, Beth Srock, and Beverly Bokovitz.

Girl Scout Troop 497 shares with OPEN M

We are so thankful for the girls from Girl Scout Troop 497 from Stow who wanted to support the work of OPEN M as their service project. With the help and support of their families, friends and neighbors, the girls collected food and other items and brought to OPEN M a total of 148 pounds of food.

We were privileged to give them a tour to learn about OPEN M and the work we do in the community. OPEN M would not be able to do as much as we do without the support and help of so many like Girl Scout Troop 497.

On behalf of all of us at OPEN M, thanks to Michelle Brugmann, the other scout leaders, the parents, and each member of Girl Scout Troop 497 for their support.



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

OPEN M Donor List - May 16th through June 15th

The Rev. & Mrs. K. Lee Achmoody
Akron General Health System
Mr. & Mrs. David Alspaugh
Mr. & Mrs. Mal Ames
Anonymous (4)
Drs. Denise & David Ballinger
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Fairlawn Rotary Club -
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*First Congregational
Church, Hudson
*First United Methodist Church,
Cuyahoga Falls
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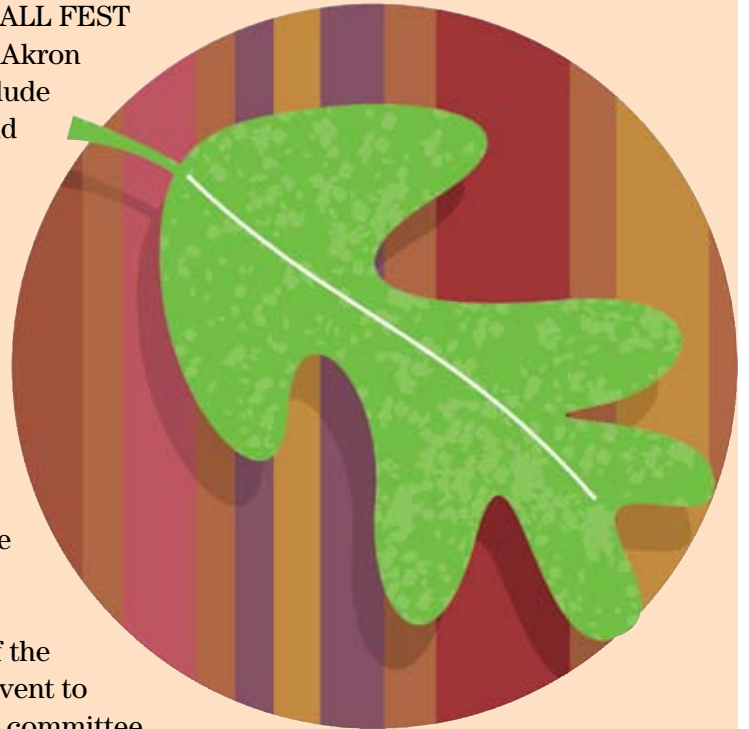
Save the date for our 4th annual OPEN M Fall Fest

OPEN M will host the fourth annual OPEN M FALL FEST on October 24 at Todaro's Party Center, 1820 Akron Peninsula Road. This year's program will include lunch, entertainment, door prizes, a silent auction, and an awesome fashion show.

The proceeds from this event go to the women and children clients involved in the OPEN M programs. Tickets will be available in August, and as always, updates will be posted on our Web site, www.openm-ministry.org. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

If you can donate an item(s) for the silent auction, we would really appreciate your help. If you have a business, a favorite store where you shop or work for a business that would be willing to donate an item or gift certificate to OPEN M, please let Doris Stewart know.

The auction is one of the most enjoyable parts of the Fall Fest. Please direct all questions concerning the event to Doris Stewart at 330-434-0110, Ext. 404. The Fall Fest committee will be working hard to make this year a huge success.



National Night Out At OPEN M

OPEN M will host National Night Out again this year on Tuesday, August 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. National Night Out is held nationally to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for local anticrime programs, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships to fight crime.

OPEN M has been privileged to host National Night Out for the past three years. This year's keynote speaker will be David James, supervisor for the Akron Public Schools. Marco Summerville, Akron city council president, and Michael Starks from the Summit Lake Neighborhood Association will also speak at the event. Food, refreshments, vendors, and live entertainment will also be provided.

This event is very important to the Summit Lake community as many area agencies join together in fighting to save the youth from drugs and crime. We at OPEN M are pleased to be involved in this important effort.

*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

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

Lisa Fazenbaker – Clinic Manager, Ext. 413

Dan Bricker – Building Manager, Ext. 422

Colleen McMahon – Secretary, Ext. 402

Marla Oddo – Nursing Administrator, Ext. 414

Pat Adolphson – Financial Assistant, Ext. 428

Tiffany Stahl – Volunteer Manager, Ext. 409

Doris Stewart – Events & Marketing Manager, Ext. 404

Golfers needed For Our 9th Annual OPEN M Golf Outing and Luau

It's not too late to join us at Fox Den Golf Course, 2770 Call Road in Stow, on Monday, August 3 for the 9th annual OPEN M Golf Outing. The proceeds from this event go to support the OPEN M Free Clinic, the only free medical clinic in Summit County.

2009 Main Event Sponsors



The cost of the outing is \$95 per person which includes the following:

- 18 Holes of Golf & Cart - Scramble Format – Shotgun start
- Coffee and Donuts
- Light Appetizers
- Pig Roast & Luau
- Hawaiian Fruit Punch Bowl
- Pineapple Upside Down Cake
- Soft Drinks and Water
- Beverage cart available on the course (cash bar)

If you have friends who do not play golf but would enjoy a great dinner, you can bring them for the dinner for \$25 to enjoy a wonderful luau and pig roast catered by Kirbie's Family Meats & Catering of Stow.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with a shotgun start in a scramble format at 9:30. Light appetizers will be served at 3 p.m. with the luau and pig roast planned for 3:30.

Deadline for registration to the great event is Friday, July 17. If you do not have a foursome, don't despair – we will connect you with three other golfers to enjoy the round together.

Should you have any questions about the event or need more information about the day, please contact Doris Stewart at ext, 404 or check the registration form available on our website at www.openm-ministry.org.

Please join us for golf or dinner only. We need your support!

Sponsors:

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Several sponsorship opportunities remain, including the golf cart sponsor. Tee sponsorships are also available at the cost of \$100. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business.

Volunteers honored at recognition dinner

Volunteers are our LifeSavers...They keep us afloat! This was the theme of this year's 41ST Annual Volunteer Dinner, and the statement could not be more true.

Our volunteers make OPEN M a great place to be. Because of them, we are able to give so much to people who truly need it. This year we celebrated our volunteers and the hard work they have accomplished over the year with a prime rib dinner, fellowship, a wonderful speaker in Father Norm Douglas, and an awards ceremony.

We had a great turnout and celebrated with fantastic food cooked by Dave Goshen and his staff and served by our Diamond Ladies.

Congratulations to this year's award winners and thank you for all your love and support that you give to OPEN M.

Memory Plaque given in memory of Gaynelle Shope for her dedication to OPEN M

Employee of the Year – Colleen McMahon

Spirit of Giving Award – Sam Keller

Call to Action Award – Clearview United Methodist Church

Tim Crouch Leadership Award – Scott Myers

Wernowski Family First Award – Ted and Nancy Walls

Church Representative of the Year – Kim Shull and Shelia Knotts

Food Service Award – Libby Benkovich

Gracious Greeter – Joan Schoenheit

Teacher of Children Award – Keith Winget

Veteran Volunteer of the Year – Norval Nestor and Leo Hurst

Faithful Volunteer Award – Lee Achmoody and Mel Eberly

Volunteer of the Year – Tim McMahon

Administrative Excellence Award – Lynne Dougherty

Lee Hargrove Nursing Award – Nancy DeMetro, RN

St. Luke Award – Shams Haq, MD

Healthcare Volunteer of the Year – Darla Hopkins



We want to express our sincere gratitude to all of our volunteers. You make a real difference in this world.

If you are not yet a volunteer at OPEN M and would like to be a part of this special group of people, contact Tiffany Stahl at voluntmgr@openm.org or by phone at 330-434-0110, Ext. 409.

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Akron, OH 44311

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OPEN M

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, August 1, 9 a.m. -

Monthly Membership Meeting

Monday, August 3, 8:30 a.m. -

OPEN M Golf Outing, Fox Den
Golf Course

Tuesday, August 4, 6 p.m. -

National Night Out

Saturday, October 24, 11a.m. -

Fall Fest/Fashion Show,
Todaro's Party Center

Thank you Rubber City Roller Girls

The Rubber City Roller Girls recently held a fundraiser for OPEN M with a bout at the John S. Knight Center. The Rubber City Roller Girls had their first win of the season against the Glass City Rollers from Toledo, 113 – 85.

The Glass City Rollers came to town with a large container full of food items for OPEN M. What a great gesture to support your rival's local charity! The more than 300 attendees were encouraged to bring canned food items or personal care items to benefit OPEN M.

In addition, the Rubber City Roller Girls organization is donating \$1 to OPEN M for every person who participated in the food donations. We thank them for all the free publicity over the past couple weeks in the local media to promote their event and OPEN M.

This was not their first time to support OPEN M. They came to entertain the walkers at the Walk for Kids and join us in that walk. Shortly after their participation they surprised us with a donation from their organization. We are blessed once again by our new relationships in the community and encourage others to join in on our efforts to collaborate with other community organizations in raising mutual awareness.

Call Doris Stewart at 330-434-0110, Ext 404, if you are interested in getting your organization involved in a joint effort to help each other in this difficult economic time.

