

A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope



PEN M

Report to the Community

June 2009

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Dottie Achmoody

Gratitude for Sacrificial Giving

by Dottie Achmoody, CEO

A friend who attended the church my husband pastored was also a patient of the OPEN M clinic. She was diabetic, and a few weeks ago she woke up in the middle of the night to grab a bite of food to bring her sugar level up. As she started down the stairs, she fell and hit her head on the end table. She immediately was rushed to the hospital where she remained in a coma for seven days, until she went home to be with the Lord.

She was 62 and so full of life and vigor it is hard to grasp that she is really gone. She was a faithful volunteer at OPEN M and her church. Due to a brain tumor surgery last year, she was unable to work full-time and could not keep up with the high cost of life insurance. Through OPEN M contacts and resources, she was able to have a nice funeral and much tender loving care for the family.

On a different note, a pastor called from a covenant church saying he had a single mom call him with a need. He asked if we would check it out to make sure it was valid. It was an unusually busy day for our social worker, Sheila, and since I have a background in social work, I made the call myself.

The single mom with two children ages 2 and 5 moved in with her father after being divorced. A month later, he passed away unexpectedly. Prior to this, the woman was hit while crossing the street by a drunk driver. She needed surgery and has since had to sign up for disability. She needs help with rent for one month until her first disability check arrives. The pastor was gracious to send OPEN M money to pay this month's rent for the lady and also offered his help in the future, if we have a similar emergency.

Sheila immediately sent information and forms for her to fill out for Healthy Start, so her children could receive health care. In the meantime, I was able to offer our free clinic for her to bring the children to, if necessary. She was grateful. I shared our other programs like hot meals, mountain of food and our emergency assistance food program. The assistance OPEN M provided was a real blessing to this grieving, single mom.

I received another call from a man from Hudson who had always been a good

continued on Page 2

provider for his wife and three children, but recently had lost his job. A friend told him about OPEN M, and Sheila, our social worker, was able to assist him in numerous ways to help him through this rough transitional period. OPEN M was able to assist him with utilities.

Betty shared with me that while she was in the lobby during the Mountain of Food giveaway, a woman shared that she had been a waitress and broke both of her ankles, is now unable to work and has other health issues. Her employer provided medical insurance through her recovery but she is now without insurance. Betty told her about the clinic and she was relieved to hear that she can get help at OPEN M.

The above stories may sound unusual to you, but to us they have become the norm. I share them to help put a face on poverty and to give a clearer picture of the challenges we meet at OPEN M. With some churches, businesses, and individuals cutting back in their giving, it gets harder and harder to meet the needs of the clients and make the budget – and to be honest, some months we miss the mark. For

the months we do make our budget and meet client needs, we are very grateful. We are also thankful for YOU! We thank the Lord for your kindness and caring attitude.

To help express my gratefulness, I would like to share a recent definition I read in Lifeskills International Newsletter on gratitude. For me, it says what is in my heart. *“Gratitude is thankfulness, showing appreciation. It’s a way of thinking, of recognizing something good happened to you. It’s acknowledging another source has provided a gift, often at personal cost to the giver. It is appreciating a kindness, an accomplishment or a selfless motive on the part of the giver. It has nothing to do with life circumstances. It is saying someone has valued you enough to give you a gift or benefit. Gratitude means recognizing that there is goodness and kindness in the world.”*

We see this goodness, kindness, and sacrifice everyday as you share your gifts with OPEN M.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

9TH Annual OPEN M Golf Outing and Luau

Want to enjoy a great day of golf, lunch, light appetizers, great prizes, Chinese raffle, luau dinner, and the joy of playing at a golf course that is rated as the number one privately owned public golf course by the Ohio Golf Owner’s Association?

Then 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 with a cart using a scramble format and a shotgun start, coffee and donuts, and light appetizers. The dinner is a pig roast and luau featuring a Hawaiian fruit punch bowl, pineapple upside-down cake, soft drinks and water.

A beverage cart is 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 dinner for just \$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. Play begins at 9:30 a.m. Light appetizers will be served at 3 p.m. with the luau and pig roast at 3:30.

Deadline for registration is Friday, July 17. And 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 our Web site, www.openm-ministry.org.

Membership Representative Profiles: Norval Nestor and Leo Hurst

OPEN M has been privileged over the years to be involved with our Covenant Churches as they have provided much encouragement and support to the work we do here. Our Covenant Churches are a strong part of OPEN M, and we value their involvement.

When we think about Woodland United Methodist church, two names come to mind in terms of their commitment to OPEN M and their interest in getting the word out to their congregation and community. After many years of dedicated service, Norval Nestor and Leo Hurst are stepping down as the member representatives from Woodland, and we want to take the opportunity to thank them as our Volunteers of the Month.

NORVAL NESTOR

Norval was born in West Virginia and moved to Akron for work during the war years. Norval served in the Army during World War II as a Quartermaster, supplying food to the troops in both England and France. He has two children, one son and one daughter, both of whom still live in the area. Norval enjoys playing Dominos in his spare time, playing with a group of 9 to 10 others in a regular Dominos tournament. He also played baseball in his younger days and enjoys following the game today as a spectator.



NORVAL NESTOR

LEO HURST

Leo and his wife Mary have lived in the Akron area since they married more than 50 years ago. Leo served in the Army during World War II in the Persian Gulf Command as an advance unit setting up buildings, supply lines, etc., for that region and supplying the Russians with needed supplies during their battle with Germany. Leo has enjoyed hunting and fishing and plays the guitar to relax. He also has sung with a Barbershop quartet.



LEO HURST

OPEN M AND WOODLAND INVOLVEMENT

Norval and Leo have been involved with OPEN M since 1983 serving one meal a month with Woodland during our Hot Lunch program and soon after as representatives from Woodland to OPEN M.

Before we moved into the new building we have today, Norval, Leo, their wives Helen and Mary respectively, and others from the church cooked the food at Woodland and transported it here to be served to the community. It was a large undertaking that they did with great joy. They appreciated the ability to help this community through their love and concern.

Norval and Leo have also been involved in the OPEN M Thanksgiving Eve Dinner served at Woodland. Both have been members of Woodland for many years: Norval since the late 1960's and Leo since 1976. They have served on the Trustee board and on the Nominating Committee. They enjoy the Sunday morning worship at Woodland and attend regularly.

Both Norval and Leo live with great enthusiasm and are still involved with the work of OPEN M through prayer and encouragement. It was my pleasure to spend time with each of them and our joy to introduce them to you and thank them for their many years of faithful involvement with OPEN M.

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

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

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Sharon Stepanich
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In Memory Of
Rev. Timothy Crouch
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In Honor Of
Jean Schwabe's Birthday
by
Ms. Susan Schwabe

In Honor Of
Stow-Munroe Falls Mathematics
Professional Learning Community,
2008-2009
by
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Yoak



Hot Lunch Headlines

Monday, June 15
Hudson UMC

Tuesday, June 16
Manchester UMC

Wednesday, June 17
Church of Our Saviour

Thursday, June 18
Twin Falls UMC

Friday, June 19
Open Date

Monday, June 22
High Street Christian

Tuesday, June 23
Peninsula UMC

Wednesday, June 24
First Congregational
Church, Hudson

Thursday, June 25
First UMC, Falls

Friday, June 26
Granger UMC

Monday, June 29
Todd Wayne/OPEN M

Tuesday, June 30
Open Date

Sponsors needed for 2009 OPEN M Summer Enrichment Camp

It's not too late to sponsor a child for the 2009 OPEN M Summer Enrichment Camp! This year's theme is "Discover your Character," and we will focus on many different areas related to character building and the importance of responsibility. We are expecting 100 6- to 12-year old children for the camp, which will be held July 5 through July 31. An additional 15 13- to 16-year old children are expected to attend "Learning for the Fun of It," held from June 15-26. Any questions, contact Dave at 410 and Felicia at 419.

If you would like to sponsor a child, the cost is \$110 per child which would pay for the transportation and fees for field trips, the meals, materials, and supplies for the camp. Please check our website, www.openm-ministry.org, for the form you can use to provide your sponsorship donation.

If you like working with children, then come volunteer at our Spirit Enrichment Camp from July 6-31. Some of the positions we need volunteers for are as follows:

- Kitchen helpers, willing to help in the kitchen between 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Camp receptionist
- Adult volunteers willing to help with certain activities and field trips

For more information, please contact Tiffany Stahl at 330-434-0110, Ext. 409, or by e-mail at voluntmgr@openm.org.

Join us for Akron Aeros "Nights at Canal Park"

It's not too late to purchase tickets AT A REDUCED PRICE for OPEN M nights with the Akron Aeros at Canal Park!

The Akron Aeros (the Cleveland Indians' double-A farm team) are offering five games at \$6 reserve ticket prices for our friends and supporters to attend with half of all proceeds going directly to OPEN M. You can choose either Sunday, June 28; Thursday, July 9; Friday, July 17; Thursday, July 30 or Saturday, August 8th.

Thursday, July 9 and July 30 are "Thirsty Thursday Nights" with all soft drinks \$1 each. Friday, July 17, is "Fireworks Night" after the game. Ticket prices are \$6 a ticket which must be ordered two weeks in advance directly from the Aeros. See our website (www.openm-ministry.org) for further information and an order form to obtain the tickets, or contact Doris at Ext. 404 with questions.



Walk for Kids raises nearly \$18,000 – donations still arriving

About 400 walkers took part in this year's OPEN M Walk for Kids to raise money for children's programs. The fundraiser has brought in nearly \$18,000. Some donations are still trickling in.



The event started at OPEN M with a pancake breakfast prepared by members of

the Kiwanis Club of Stow-Munroe Falls and the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Akron, a magic show by Magic Man Dan, our own Dan Bricker who did clowning, the Akron Racer's mascot Wheelie, the SUMMACARE Puppy, Western & Southern Life Insurance who brought child ID kits, Uncle Sam, the Rubber City Rollergirls who did a demonstration in our parking lot and much more.

Players from the Akron Racers, Radara McHugh and Kasey Whitehead were on hand to provide our walkers with their upcoming season schedule. We had an arts and crafts area for children, tours of the building for people



who were here for the first time, Heaven Can Wait, a pet rescue and adoption organization, and much other activity ending with a walk from OPEN M back to the Spaghetti Warehouse. The Walk was led by the Rubber City Rollergirls, joined by Dan Bricker on roller skates, a drum and flag corp., Heavenly Steppers from Jerusalem Baptist Church and ended with the Diamond Ladies carrying the OPEN M banner.

The more than 400 people who participated in

the walk this year ranged in age from 2 to 97 years old. One family was represented by three generations: Sylvia Trundle; her mom, Kay Hine; and her grandmother, Sylvia Phillips, who is 97.

We at OPEN M would like to thank all those who participated in some way in the walk; the members of the Stow-Munroe Falls & Downtown Akron Kiwanis who prepared the breakfast; OPEN M trustee John Davis, for capturing so many



memorable photos, the officers of the Akron Police Department and all the volunteers who helped throughout the day.



A special thank you goes to our shuttle drivers, Mel Eberly and Lee Achmoody for transporting the walkers from Spaghetti Warehouse to OPEN M and to our covenant churches who supported this walk not only on the day of the event, but throughout the promotional period by holding special fundraisers to increase their contributions.

If you were unable to make a donation before the Walk, but would still like to support our Friends of Children program, it is not too late to do so. You can send your donation in and mark "Walk for Kids" in the memo. Any amount is helpful and very much appreciated. We hope to see you next year for this wonderful day dedicated to raising funds for our children's programs. What a blessing for OPEN M to have such faithful supporters.

We appreciate all that you do!

OPEN M
941 Princeton Street
Akron, OH 44311

Return Service Requested



OPEN M

IMPORTANT DATES

Annual Volunteer Dinner
Sunday, June 14, 6 p.m.

Bout, Rubber City Rollergirls,
John S. Knight Center
Saturday, June 20, 6 p.m.

Monthly Membership Meeting
(no meeting in July)
Saturday, August 1, 9 a.m.

OPEN M Golf Outing,
Fox Den Golf Course
Monday, August 3, 8:30 a.m.

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Save the date for our Fall Fest!

We know that it is the beginning of June and the start of summer, and that many may not be thinking about the fall yet, but please mark on your calendars for 11 a.m., Saturday, October 24, for the OPEN M Fall Fest. The event will be held again at Todaro's Party Center and will include a fashion show, luncheon, and silent auction with the proceeds supporting the OPEN M Free Clinic. Look for more details soon on our Web site, www.openm-ministry.org, and in future newsletters.



2008 Child Models, Hailey McFalls
and Blake Thomas Heiner

*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

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