



An update from

Midland's Open Door

restoring hope and transforming lives

Winter 2018

A Promise of Peace

"Immediately: peace."

Paul's own words describe the transformation he experienced when he came to stay at the Open Door. A series of hard times and poor choices over the years left him feeling desperate and hopeless. Though Paul had become a Christian years before and knew the truth of the gospel, his faith faded into the background as he struggled to make ends meet.



"I considered myself not like the lost sheep, but like the prodigal son."

"I never doubted salvation and the belief in my heart," Paul shared. "I knew the Lord and I knew he wouldn't forsake me, and I knew nobody could take that away."

Paul's daily interactions with the staff and volunteers at Open Door reminded him of the peace and hope found in Jesus Christ. As he began to rebuild the foundations of his life, Paul resumed growing in his relationship with God as well.

"I considered myself not like the lost sheep," Paul said, "but like the prodigal son."

At Open Door, Paul was able to find clothes and resources to help him afford his prescriptions. Through connecting with different agencies in Midland, Paul received aid in order to move out of the shelter and into his own apartment.

Now Paul volunteers at Open Door every week, answering phones and greeting people who come to visit the offices.

But most importantly, Paul has recommitted his life into God's hands. He recognizes God's faithfulness to his promises both in this world and the next.

"God's going to finish the work he started," Paul said.

Building for Change

In partnership with Greystone Homes, Midland's Open Door held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Building for Change fundraising initiative on Wednesday, October 24.

Greystone Homes has now begun construction on a custom built home in the Midland community, with 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the home benefiting Midland's Open Door. The funds will go directly to programs and services to transition homeless single mothers into permanent housing.



A Promise of Hope



"I'm just very grateful to the Open Door," Stephanie said. "I don't know where I would have ended up without them."

When Stephanie lost her job, she spent five months living in her apartment before her savings ran out. With nowhere else to go, she packed up two bags' worth of her belongings and headed to the women and children's shelter at Midland's Open Door.

As Stephanie arrived at the shelter, she remembers feeling fear, despair, and more than anything, shame.

"It was embarrassing," Stephanie said.

But Stephanie soon discovered that the shelter was nothing like what she had seen at the movies. There were no dormitories full of cots or assembly lines of soup. Instead, it was regular looking house, with a kitchen, living room, and designated computer space.

Stephanie's life changed dramatically. Through the help of Open Door's case management program, she was able to instate a schedule to pay off her outstanding debt and work toward living on her own again.

But the biggest transformation Stephanie underwent wasn't financial: it was spiritual.

"Technically, I found God," Stephanie said. "Well, we found each other."

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With encouragement from Open Door staff members, Stephanie began reading her Bible and praying daily. She even started going to

church for the first time in almost thirty years.

"I think of the staff more as family than anything else now," Stephanie said. "They're more family than I've had in a long time."

While staying at Midland's Open Door, Stephanie enrolled in the Jobs for Life class, put on by 4WORD in their offices at Ashman Plaza. As she went through the courses at Jobs for Life, Stephanie gained self-confidence and rediscovered a vision of hope for her future.

"Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things." Psalm 103:2-5a

"It was a good thing for me," Stephanie said.

Months ago, Stephanie moved out of the shelter and into her own apartment. She still regularly visits the women and children at the shelter and now volunteers serving and cooking at the soup kitchen whenever she has the chance.

"I want to give back," Stephanie said. "The Open Door gave a lot to me. Volunteering is the only way I can give back."

With the assistance of Midland's Open Door, Stephanie no longer has to worry about surviving just for the day. Now she has the opportunity of dreaming and planning for a better and brighter future.

From the Executive Director

"He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things."

– Psalm 107:9

When Stephanie first came to the Open Door, she sketched out her history in pictures on paper. Figures and shadows, always alone – and always in black and white – gave weight to a past unspoken. But, over time, as brokenness was exposed and trust was built, the glorious grace of God settled in with bright hues of hope.

Whether longing for a home, hungry, exhausted, or consumed with trouble, there is a rescuer who delights to satisfy the lonely wandering soul and he uses you to do it.

Thank you for taking part in Stephanie's transformation. It is through your kindness and generosity that the Open Door remains a place where real needs are met and where lonely souls can find lasting community.

During this season, as you take in all the colors and lights around our community, would you remember Stephanie and our other friends at the Open Door by making a special year-end gift?

Through your gift, we can bring bright, lasting hope to more of our neighbors in need.

With hope,



Renee Pettinger
Executive Director



Seasonal Needs

With the chilling cold of winter waiting just around the corner, we need your help to provide warm hospitality for our shelter and soup kitchen guests. For a more detailed and up-to-date list, visit our Amazon Wish List.

Guest Assistance

- County Connection tickets (red)
- Children's carseats - convertible high-back boosters
- Adult backpacks
- Men's wallets
- Men's boxer briefs (size M)
- Toenail clippers

Shelter Needs

- Pack and plays
- Twin white sheet sets
- Ibuprofen and Tylenol
- Cold and flu medicine (alcohol-free)
- Facial tissues
- Disinfectant wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Dish soap
- High efficiency laundry soap (powder only)

Soup Kitchen Needs

- Paper towel
- Ziploc bags (gallon, quart and snack sizes)
- Bacon
- Ranch dressing
- Italian dressing
- Mayonaisse
- Coffee

Volunteer Opportunities

If you're looking for opportunities to serve as a church, organization, company or even as a family, Midland's Open Door is the place for you! We accommodate groups of various sizes of those who wish to have a positive impact on their community. Volunteer opportunities available include serving in our soup kitchen, shelters, clothing ministry, as well as one-time service projects. Call (989)835-2291 for more information.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Kitchen Cleaning

Due to the tremendous amount of use our commercial kitchen receives, deep cleaning is a constant, ongoing need. If you or your group is able to help in this area, please call (989)835-2291 for further details.





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An Inside Look

Experience Our Impact

In 2017, we provided over **40,000** meals and more than **11,000** nights of shelter



Did You Know?



The majority of hams and turkeys used to feed our hungry neighbors throughout the year are donated in the four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Give Hope

Did you know that with every eligible Amazon purchase, you can donate 0.05% of your total cost to Midland's Open Door? It's easy - just go to smile.amazon.com and choose Midland's Open Door to start supporting today.

Find Us Online

