



An update from

# Midland's Open Door

restoring hope and transforming lives

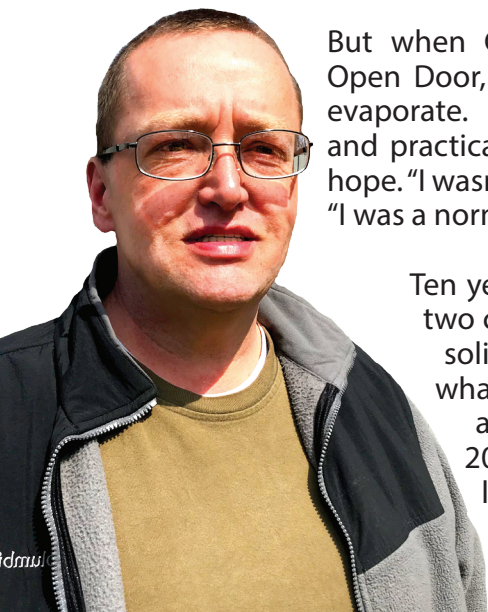
Spring 2019

## Transformed by Mercy

"Relapse: Cannot continue to live with family. Guest does not believe reconciliation is possible."

These are the despairing words documented for Chuck when he first came to the Open Door for help in April 2016.

"This is the worst of the worst," Chuck said, recalling that cold April day in 2016. "I'm thinking: complete rock bottom. This is the place for all the misfits and the losers."



But when Chuck arrived at the Open Door, his misery started to evaporate. The warm welcome and practical help began to seed hope. "I wasn't a misfit," Chuck said. "I was a normal person."

Ten years ago, married with two children and earning a solid living, Chuck had what most would describe as the "good life." But in 2009, a cancer diagnosis led to a new path of coping with anxiety and depression: an

addiction to crack cocaine. And with that, a 10-year spiraling pattern of jail, recovery and relapse began.

Chuck tried to strike out on his own a few times over the years but always landed in the same position. But this last time was different. Chuck learned the importance of living his life according to God's word and not according to his addiction.

"I wanted what they talked about, but never felt it," Chuck said. "I found God here."

Through the compassion and mercy shown to Chuck by his family and his friends at the Open Door, God began to reconcile everything – relationships, employment and a home.

"I couldn't make it on my own without God," Chuck said. "The relief I have today is incredible."

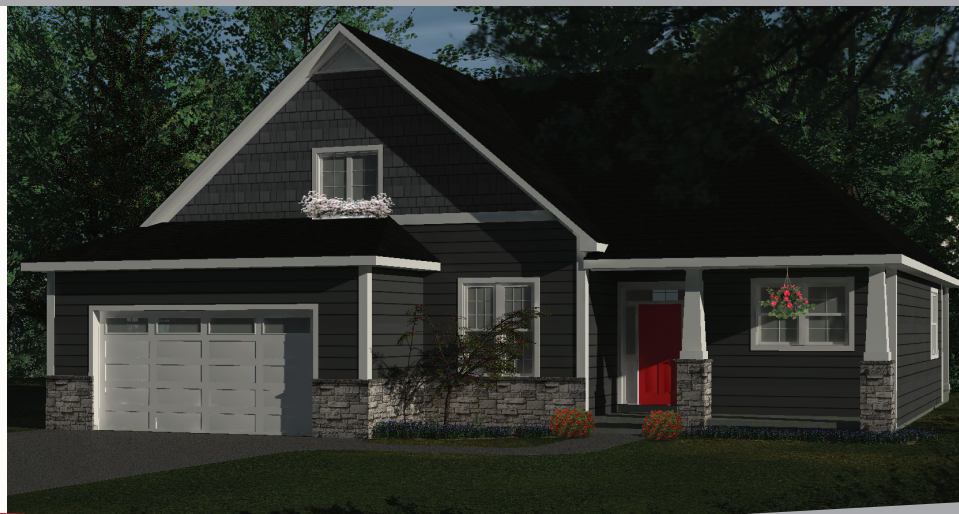
Chuck recently started a new job but still finds time to volunteer at the soup kitchen each week and attend a weekly Bible study led by an Open Door volunteer. But the best part of Chuck's week is Friday nights when his family gathers together for family game night.

This has been Chuck's greatest joy: the mercy of God reconciling him with his family; something that, three years ago, seemed impossible.

## Parade of Homes

This May, our newly constructed Building for Change home will be displayed in Midland's Parade of Homes.

Greystone Homes has constructed 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.



# Transformed by Joy



*"They opened doors for me and made me feel welcome."*

When Tasha and her family first moved to Midland sixteen years ago, they were used to living with less than the others around them. Tasha first started coming to Midland's Open Door for lunch and continued to meet old friends and made new ones sitting across the table.

"They opened doors for me and made me feel welcome," Tasha said.

Years later, after Tasha had a family of her own, she needed a place to stay while she built a better life for her and her son. Tasha reached out to Open Door and stayed at the Women's Crisis Shelter during 2018.

"I didn't have to worry about sleeping on the streets," Tasha said.

The Women's Crisis Shelter was clean, warm and dry. The structured routine of daily chores and appointments helped Tasha manage her time; the computers located in the education center meant she could search for housing and job opportunities without having to take a bus to the library. There was even a patio deck with chairs where guests could sit and watch their children play.

When Tasha stayed at the shelter, she received clothing, toiletries and hot, healthy meals. Through the case management services, Tasha also received her birth certificate, giving her one of the vital documents she needed to pursue independent housing. Case management also gave her the motivation to connect with other agencies like Home to Stay and stand on her own two feet.

**"People that are down need people that help them back up," Tasha said.**

Now that Tasha and her son are living on their own, she still attends a Bible study once a week. Her time spent staying at Open Door reminded her of the hope and transformation found in Jesus Christ.

"It taught me to be more spiritual and lean on God," Tasha said.

Tasha has also learned more about the importance of community. She steps out of her comfort zone to "lend a helping hand for the right things." She even smiles more!

"I want to thank the staff for building me up and helping me out," Tasha said. "Their smiles make me smile."

Tasha encourages anyone in a desperate situation to reach out for the help they need.

"[If you're] ever around in Midland and need help," Tasha said, "you can always check with the Open Door."

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Single Mothers

Due to limited funds and facilities, Midland's Open Door only meets 60% of the need for housing homeless single mothers and children.

**40% of homeless single mothers and their children go unhoused in Midland County**

With programs like our Bridge of Hope initiative, we're looking to close that gap by transitioning families into permanent housing sooner.



# From the Executive Director

In early February 2018, a thirty-something mom of two walked into the Soup Kitchen and paused in the doorway. As I made my way over to her, trying to make out the face between the strings of blonde hair matted to her cheeks, I heard a low whisper: "I need help." Small and slender, she was swimming in an oversized black puffy coat. When she spoke again, I realized where I'd seen that coat before.

"Chuck told me to come here," she said. "He said you could help me."

My new blonde friend was coming down from a three-day binge when she showed up at Chuck's door looking for more. Instead, he gave her his coat and encouraged her to come to the Open Door.

The irony of that moment: As she sat there, wrapped in Chuck's coat, he was just five blocks away in his apartment, still in the throes of his addiction.

Compassion for others – seeing a desire for life to be different – and knowing where to find help, is not lost in our moments of despair. It would take another year before Chuck came back to us for help but this time, he experienced something that he knew his blonde friend could find at the Open Door: transformation.

I don't know where that young mother is today but I do remember her desperation. She wanted her life to be different but didn't think there was any hope – just like Chuck when he first came to the Open Door. And here we are, one year later, celebrating the mercy of God in Chuck's life.

As you invest in the ministry of the Open Door, you are investing in men like Chuck who, even in the depth of his own despair, pointed to a place where meaningful help and lasting hope can be found.

Will you consider giving a special gift to the Open Door today? Your support will help us continue to be available to our friends like Chuck.

Renee Pettinger  
Executive Director



## Seasonal Needs

With our busy summer season ahead of us, we need your help to provide 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)  
2019 planners  
Bike locks  
Adult backpacks  
Men's wallets  
Men's boxer briefs (size M)  
Razors

### Shelter Needs

Flash drives (2GB)  
Ibuprofen and Tylenol  
Baby wipes  
Facial tissues  
Disinfectant wipes  
Toilet bowl cleaner  
Dish soap  
High efficiency laundry soap (powder only)

### Soup Kitchen Needs

Ziploc bags (gallon, quart and snack sizes)  
Bacon  
Ranch dressing  
Italian dressing  
Mayonnaise  
Coffee  
Sliced cheese  
Sour cream

## Employment Opportunities

Are you currently involved in a relational ministry? Do you have a genuine, heartfelt commitment to reach the homeless, hungry and hurting for Christ?

We are currently seeking applicants with Christian maturity who are members in good standing of a Christ-centered church.

If you're looking for a full time, paid opportunity to serve, please visit [www.midlandopendoor.org/employment](http://www.midlandopendoor.org/employment) to fill out an employment application. Send resume and finished application to [resumes@midlandopendoor.org](mailto:resumes@midlandopendoor.org).





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[www.midlandopendoor.org](http://www.midlandopendoor.org)

## Bulletin Board

### Experience Our Impact

In 2018, we provided over **40,000** meals and more than **12,000** nights of shelter



### Spring Cleaning

If you're looking for opportunities to serve as a church, organization, company or even family, Midland's Open Door is the place for you! We accommodate groups of various sizes who wish to have a positive impact on their community. Call (989) 835-2291 for more information.

### Give Local

On May 7, Midland's Open Door will be participating in Give Local, a 24-hour online giving campaign organized by the Midland Area Community Foundation. To find out how you can increase your giving impact on this special day of fund-matching and prizes, visit [givelocalmidland.org](http://givelocalmidland.org).

### Find Us Online

