



Midland's Open Door

Holiday 2021

"Truly Blessed"

For soup kitchen guests like Pete, the Open Door is a ministry of real help in desperate circumstances.

Last August, after Pete suffered a traumatic injury that placed him in the hospital for months, he lost his job and the credit on his food assistance card, which helps supplement his groceries each month. After several delays, the reinstatement for his food card was pushed back even further. Pete was frustrated and worried about the uncertainty of where he would receive his next meal.

At Midland's Open Door, Pete received not only a hot meal each day, but also a take-home sack lunch which included a second full meal to carry him through each evening.

"I was literally taking home the sack lunch and eating it for dinner every day," Pete said.

While eating lunch at the soup kitchen, Pete also connected with Open Door's Outreach Case Manager, who helped him advocate with the state of Michigan to restore the credit on his food card for the following month.

"I am truly blessed by the Lord because the Open Door kept me alive for the whole month of August this year," Pete said.

Whether you support the soup kitchen with your time as a volunteer or with donations of food or funds, Midland's Open Door is only able to meet the needs of neighbors like Pete through the generous support of friends like you. Thank you for your faithful care and compassion.



"The Open Door kept me alive for the whole month of August this year."



Save the Date: 12.10.2022

The Community Christmas Dinner has been a favorite event over the years, for both guests and volunteers alike. So much so, that in 2019, more than 450 guests, volunteers and staff gathered to enjoy this special event.

It's a time of reconnecting with old friends and making new ones while we celebrate the Christmas holiday and enjoy a family-style meal together.

The soup kitchen will still celebrate Christmas by serving a special holiday dinner at 6:00 pm on Christmas Day, with grab and go options available. However, due to the ongoing pandemic and event space constraints, 2021 marks the second year in a row without the Open Door Community Christmas Dinner.

But we are making plans for 2022 to bring back the Community Christmas Dinner – at a bigger venue so we can all gather again to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

A New Identity



When Andrea arrived at the Women and Children's Crisis Shelter with her children on a frigid January day, the knowledge that she had found a place to stay was an instant emotional relief.

"Being a parent, being homeless – it breaks down your character," Andrea said.

The heavy burden of searching for a warm bed at night, or for a meal at the dinner table, vanished. Yet there was another fear that sometimes replaced those worries, even as opportunities and second chances lined up for Andrea and her family: the anxiety of stigmas, stereotypes and perceptions.

Andrea grew up in a large, low-income family, and she was often bullied as a child because of where she called home. Now a grown woman and a mother, it was hard to detach herself from that identity and the fear that being homeless made her someone's idea of a "bad mom." She'd resisted seeking shelter for weeks; placing her children with relatives, she couch-surfed instead.

But Andrea's decision to call the Open Door for shelter was a call she made not just for herself, but for her kids, to make sure they were safe and could continue to be a family together.

"I'm just trying to make a better life," Andrea said. "You can't give up."

While Andrea and her children stayed at the shelter, Andrea connected not only with a new supportive community, but also with her faith. Her perspective started shifting focus, and instead of fixating on what other people saw when they looked at her, Andrea fixed her eyes on Christ and her identity in him.

"Midland's Open Door opened up my eyes to know Jesus," Andrea said. "I wouldn't be here without him."

After a few months in shelter, Andrea and her family secured housing. As Andrea began the hard work of adjusting to life outside of the crisis shelter, it felt like everything was falling into place.

"I started crying," Andrea shared. "I did it! I made that first step, and it was like, 'I can do this.'"

Andrea still stops by the Open Door for support and to catch up with friends.

"When I'm around here, I get compliments, and I'm not used to that. I'm used to the door slamming in my face," Andrea said. "It feels like a family, like my long-lost family."

Andrea and her children are still adjusting to all that life has in store for them, but with her new supportive community and her faith in God, she is full of hope.

"Baby steps first," Andrea said. "I put my full trust in God; it's proven to work."

From the Executive Director

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."
Luke 2:10

Good news that leads to great joy! This is the hope-filled message of Christ's incarnation, and it's the message we have the glorious privilege to share every day at Midland's Open Door.

Looking back over the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways God has used you to bring joy to the lives of the men, women and children who made their way to the Open Door in 2021. Your food donations and time volunteering in the soup kitchen allowed Pete to see God's goodness and care to him through a well-timed meal. And, your compassionate support of our shelters helped Andrea see that her identity is in Christ, not in what the world says about her.

Thank you for your role in keeping The Door open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Your kindness allows our homeless, hungry and hurting neighbors to learn about the good news that leads to great joy.

With joy,



Renee Pettinger
Executive Director



Seasonal Needs

With our busy winter season ahead of us, we need your help to provide hospitality for our guests. For a more detailed and up-to-date list, visit our Amazon Wish List.

Pantry Needs

Paper bags for lunches
Snack bags
Coffee creamer
Olive oil
Unsalted butter
Mayonnaise
Canned mushrooms
Chicken or vegetable stock
Egg noodles
Ground beef or venison
Tomato juice
Shredded parmesan cheese
Swiss cheese

Shelter Needs

Kleenex
Cough drops
Toilet bowl cleaner
Dish soap
Disinfectant wipes
Cold and flu meds (alcohol free)

Maximize Your Gift

As you consider making a year-end gift, here are a few ways you can maximize your giving.

CARES Act Extension

Taxpayers who take the standard deduction may deduct up to \$300 (\$600 for joint filers) for cash donations made to Midland's Open Door. For those who itemize, cash donations will be deductible up to 100 percent of adjusted gross income for 2021 (the previous deduction was 60 percent).

Gift from your IRA

If you're 70 ½ years old or older, you can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Midland's Open Door, reducing your taxable income while fulfilling your required minimum distributions. Please consult your financial advisor to determine your best giving options.

Thrivent Choice

Eligible Thrivent Financial members with available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2022 to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend Midland's Open Door! Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.





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www.midlandopendoor.org

Bulletin Board

Experience Our Impact

In 2020, we provided over **71,000** meals and more than **8,300** nights of shelter



How to Give

1. Mail enclosed envelope to:
PO Box 1614
Midland, MI 48641
2. Call: 989.835.2291
3. Visit www.midlandopendoor.org/partnership

Did You Know?

\$0.88

of every dollar donated is put back into restorative and transformational programming

Find Us Online



www.midlandopendoor.org