



FEBRUARY 2015

1 Dubuque Takes Gratitude to a New Level

2 Planned Giving In Memory of

In Honor of

3, 6, & 7 Thank you to our Donors

4 The Spirit of Giving, Program Outcomes

5 Thank you to An Attitude of Gratitude Sponsors

5 Save the date for upcoming events

Dubuque Takes Gratitude to a New Level



By: Elizabeth Dickhut



The 13th annual “An Attitude of Gratitude”, which took place on November 22nd, 2014, was attended by 509 people, surpassing previous years in both attendance and funds raised. The Grand River Center was beautifully decorated and a spirit of thankfulness could be felt in the air. Auction profits and sponsorship saw a dramatic increase, leading to an outstanding total of \$105,560.25 net profit. Proceeds fund life skills programming at Maria House and Teresa Shelter. Of the net profit, \$30,300 was directly raised through “Empower-a-Life,” a program where a \$10 donation sponsors one night of shelter. This means 3,030 bed nights or about 3 months of shelter at both the Maria House and Teresa Shelter were sponsored. A large part of the success was due to in-kind and advertising donations from Radio Dubuque, the Telegraph Herald, Union Hoermann Press, Tapestry, and Inside Décor. Fundraising at the event was kept exciting and competitive through over 150 silent, live, and online auction items and the new “Buy It Now” feature, which meant an item could disappear at a moment’s notice. Popular items included a 60 year old bottle of scotch, a Disney World package, and a variety of exquisite paintings and pieces by local artists.

The highlight of the night, however, was a former resident giving witness to the positive impact that Opening Doors had on her, and her children’s, lives. She also shared the story of her personal fight with addiction and her current success as she celebrated a year of sobriety. In this way, attendees were able to connect with the homeless women and children of the community and recognize the dire need for the invaluable services provided by Opening Doors. The 2014 event would not have been successful without the generosity of sponsors and donors, as well as the Opening Doors staff, volunteers, board members, and the “Attitude of Gratitude” committee. A big THANK YOU to those who supported the event through donations of time or money. Without your active participation and dedication to Opening Doors, the 13th annual “An Attitude of Gratitude” would not have been possible.

To support the Opening Doors mission and participate in this wonderful fundraiser, mark your calendars now! The 14th Annual “An Attitude of Gratitude” will be hosted on November 21st, 2015.



Special thanks to Platinum Sponsors: Prudential, Grand River Center, and Radio Dubuque.

PROVIDE HOPE WITH A PLANNED GIFT TO OPENING DOORS...

One simple way to help provide hope to homeless women and children is by leaving a planned gift to Opening Doors. A simple adjustment to your IRA beneficiary form could mean hope for others and less taxes for your other beneficiaries. As a non-profit organization Opening Doors does not have to pay taxes on an IRA gift and your money can go farther.

If you are 70 1/2 or older, and are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, you may consider an IRA gift to avoid paying additional taxes. If you give your required distribution to a charity, it does not show up on your tax return.

Gifts from your IRA are just one way to give a planned gift.

To find out more about planned giving contact your financial advisor today.



A special thank you to Clare Cares, her subcommittee, and various local businesses who worked to provide birthday party gift certificates for the children who stay at Maria House and Teresa Shelter. Residents at each shelter cannot have guests, so this generous gift will allow families to have off-site birthday parties for the children.

In Honor & In Memory

Opening Doors is grateful for the continued support of our community friends. With your help, Opening Doors assists homeless women and children with rebuilding their lives. Donations are from 10/2/14-1/19/15. Contact Janet at 563-582-7480, to inform us of any omissions or errors.

In Memory of

Stacey Ament
from Bert and David Ament
Josephine Larkin, Marti Cramer, &
Rachael Decker
Naomi, Harold, & Tom Curoe
from Sr. Bernadine Curoe
from Pat & Carol Walsh
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from John Foster
Patti Giegerich
from Gunnar Ant
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from Sr. Mary Assumpta Glaser
Bonnie Gloeckner
from Allen Gloeckner
John Kerkel
from Linda Kerkel
Ray & Louise Kutsch
from Norbert Kutsch
Josephine Larkin, Marti Cramer, and Rachael
Decker
from Pat & Carol Walsh
Ruby Leubka
from Michael Holmberg
Jill Doerr Lustberg
from Patrick Reidy
Cletus McCabe
from Sandra Carr and
Sr. Deanna Marie Carr
Virginia McCabe
from Sandra Carr
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In Honor of

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from Evelyn Nadeau
In honor of the Christmas season
from Anne Lammer
The "Dunn Girls" Maryann Dunn & Terri
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from Andy Wilberding
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from Mathias & Shirley Hansen
Pat Egelhof's 91st birthday
from Kurt Hansen
In honor of friends
from Thomas Rawson
Teri Hadro's birthday
from Sr. Carol M. Baum
In Honor of Edith Halbach's family
from Edith Halbach
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from John Edleman
Cathy Hansen Shires, Beth, Lisa, Katie, &
Sarah Hasen, Sarah & Alaina Shires
from Mathias & Shirley Hansen
Kate Hendel, BVM
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Sr. Helen Huewe
from Donald Freyman
In honor of the kindness of Sr. Helen Huewe
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from Joseph Tilp
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week
from Greg & Nancy Adams
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from Donald Strumberger
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from Terry Fortmann
Rita Theisen
from Kenneth & Cynthia Theisen
from Joe & Nancy Oberbroeckling

Donors make it possible for Opening Doors to positively impact the lives of homeless women and children. Your support makes our vision to offer a variety of opportunities for women to affirm their dignity and to become empowered members of the community a

reality. Thank you!

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The Spirit of Giving

Although he didn't dress in a red suit like jolly, old St. Nicholas, have the visible wings of an angel, or even ask for recognition; one anonymous donor truly brought a blessing to one resident of the Teresa Shelter this holiday season. In mid-December the donor contacted Opening Doors via the "contact us" form on the website and asked if Opening Doors knew someone who could use a vehicle. The donor stated he had a used vehicle that ran well and wanted to give it to someone in need. Opening Doors' Teresa Shelter Program Director, Heather LuGrain stated she knew a mother who was struggling to get her daughter to medical appointments and to get groceries for her family of five due to transportation issues.



Opening Doors staff worked with the anonymous donor to arrange for this mother, Jamie, to receive the donation in late December.

When interviewed, Jamie, a mother of four, stated, "My family is blessed to receive the donation and I couldn't help but cry. I am thankful that God blessed our family and it is an unbelievable feeling I have. I feel grateful and if there was something I could do to repay them, I would. It was an unbelievable blessing."

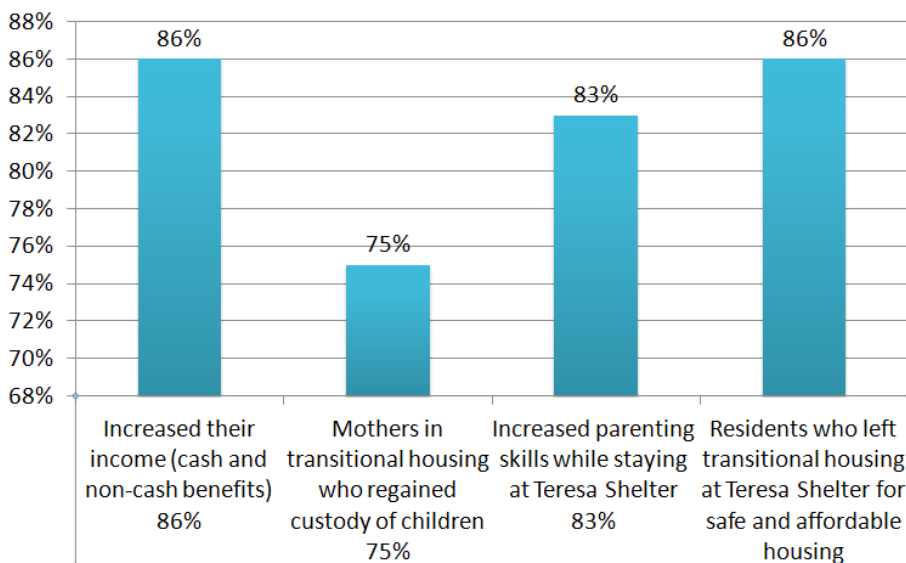


Opening Doors was grateful to be able to make this connection and help out this mother who is making strides to build a better life for her family.

Opening Doors staff work with residents of the Maria House and Teresa Shelter to help them establish life goals. These individualized goals may include increasing their income, regaining custody of their children, and finding affordable housing. Opening Doors is working to empower lives and help women affirm their dignity.

Opening Doors Outcomes 2014

■ Percent of Opening Doors Residents who improved skills in 2014



Wish List

Opening Doors is in need of supplies please consider donating the following items:

- 13 gallon garbage bags
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- all purpose cleaner
- cleaning wipes
- laundry detergent

All donations can be dropped off at Maria House 1561 Jackson St. Thank you!

For more information on Opening Doors outcomes, stories, events, and more please visit www.openingdoorsdbq.org, follow us on Facebook, and e-mail aschauer@openingdoorsdbq.org to be included in e-newsletters and e-mail communications.



*A Special Thank You to Our
Generous "An Attitude of
Gratitude" Sponsors*

Platinum Sponsors - \$5,000

Grand River Center
Prudential Retirement
Radio Dubuque

Gold Sponsors \$2,000+

Telegraph Herald

Silver Sponsors- \$1,000+

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Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of the Presentation



Nancy Manning speaks on behalf of Prudential.



Mitzy Yordy speaks on behalf of Grand River Center

Opening Doors Trivia Night

When: Friday, March 6, 2015

Where: Clarke University, Mary Josita Hall Dining Room

Time: Optional Fish Buffet 5:30-6:45 pm, Trivia at 7 pm

Cost: \$12 per person pre-registered by March 5, \$15 at the door for Trivia, \$10 per person fish buffet (\$3 comes back to Opening Doors)

Teams of up to 8 players

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

50/50 raffle and door prizes

To register call 563.582.7480 or e-mail aschauer@openingdoorsdbq.org or jschroeder@openingdoorsdbq.org

**Please make your reservation by 2/27/15 for the fish buffet



Save the date for the Opening Doors Dash!

Watch our Facebook page and website for more information on the theme! 5k Fun Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run

When: Saturday, April 11

Where: Clarke University Kehl Center

Time: Registration 8 am, Kids Fun Run 8:30 am, 5k 9 am

Cost: \$25 Adults before 4/1/15, \$35 after 4/1/15
\$15 College Students

Ages 6-17 \$5 without shirt, \$10 with shirt
5 and under free (no shirt, \$10 with shirt)

To register visit www.getmeregistered.com and search events, type in Opening Doors.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available! Contact info@openingdoorsdbq.org or call 563-582-7480 to find out more. Volunteers are also needed.

Opening Doors would like a chance to connect with you in person. We will be holding informational sessions where you can tour our facility, meet our staff, hear about recent program outcomes and other news. Please consider joining us for a morning coffee or lunch session in 2015 and invite a friend who would like to learn more. Please call 563-582-7480 to register. All sessions are held at Maria House 1561 Jackson St.

Thursday, February 26 at 7:30 am

Thursday, May 28 at noon

Thursday, August 27 at 7:30 am

Thursday, November 5 at noon



Thank you to donors
continued from page
3...

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