



OPENING DOORS

Maria House • Teresa Shelter

*Empowering Lives*

October 2014

OCTOBER 2014

1 Dawn's Story

A Teresa Shelter resident shares her powerful story about overcoming barriers like health issues and medical bills.

2 Planned Giving

Consider a planned gift to Opening Doors to provide hope for the future for homeless women and children.

3 Thank you to our Donors

In honor of...

In memory of...

general donations...

4 Board Spotlight

Jeff Vaassen talks about why he serves on the Opening Doors Board of Directors.

5 Save the date

An Attitude of Gratitude on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at the Grand River Center

4-9 PM.

## DAWN'S STORY

*A Teresa Shelter Resident Shares Her Story of Overcoming Barriers*

Hello, my name is Dawn and I've been living at the Teresa Shelter since January of 2013. I currently reside in one of the transitional rooms. While staying at the shelter I have been hospitalized several times due to health issues. Although, I have been employed my entire stay, it has been extremely difficult to maintain employment due to my health. This also made it impossible to make payments on my medical bills.

I remember when I got my first hospital bills in the mail; afraid of what the amount would be, it took me a week to be able to open it. That same week staff helped me to come up with a plan to pay for this \$11,000 bill. We created a list of resources that I had to call and then I filled out and turned in the financial aid paperwork to UnityPoint Health-Finley Hospital.

A few weeks later, I called Finley to ask a couple questions about my \$11,000 hospital bill, and they informed me that Iowa Care and charitable donations through my financial aid application, paid my whole bill! At that point, I was ecstatic! As I told staff at the Teresa Shelter the good news, tears filled my eyes. I'm so thankful for the help!

Due to other hospitalizations, I decided that I wanted to apply for social security. I was missing weeks at a time at work and although my job understood, I was unable to take care of myself because I had no money. A part of staying in the transitional program is having the ability to save money to move out and get your own place. I had nothing after being in the program over a year.

Staff assisted me in applying for SSI in April of this year. We spent many hours writing a detailed report and filling out paperwork. Due to special training Teresa Shelter staff received to assist women at the shelter with filling out for SSI and my attending several doctors' appointments, I was approved within 4 months of applying. This is almost unheard of to be approved the first time, but we both put in a lot of hard work and time to achieve this goal.

I now have a stable income which makes everything easier. I don't have to worry if I'm going to have a paycheck every two weeks or how I'm going to pay for my bills. Since I have a steady income I'm able to find an apartment for myself, daughter, and grandchildren. This will be helpful because, I cannot live alone due to my health. To give back to the community I plan to volunteer once I leave the shelter. Being at the Teresa Shelter has helped me build trusting relationships, become and prepared me to be on my own. I'm thankful for all of the help I received.

*"Being at the Teresa Shelter has helped me build trusting relationships, become financial stable, and prepared me to be on my own."*

# Thank you Donors

Opening Doors is grateful for the continued support of our community friends. With your help Opening Doors assist homeless women and children with rebuilding their lives. Donations are from 6/5/14-10/1/14. Contact Janet at 563-582-7480, to inform us of any omissions or errors.

## In Memory of

**In memory of Lucy Lunsford  
Anonymous**  
**In memory of Virginia Bartels-O'rourke  
Elizabeth Bray**  
**In memory of Dennis Campbell  
Clete Campbell**  
**In memory of Elizabeth & Frank Glaser  
Sr. Mary Assumpta Glaser, OSF**  
**In memory of Sr. Wilma Drees, OSF  
Gerry and Mary Jorgensen**  
**In memory of Sr. Margaret Jungers  
Sr. Theresa Jungers, OSF**  
**In memory of Dorothy Furry  
Linda Kerkel**  
**In memory of Ron Newton  
Eileen Newton**  
**In memory of Bernie Mausser  
Laurence and Irene Scherrman**  
**In memory of Madonna Flynn  
Andy and Katrina Wilberding**  
**In memory of Mary Ellen Schuster  
John Ottavi**

## In Honor of

**In honor of the Sr. of the Visitation  
Feast Day- May 31**  
**Sisters of St. Francis, Mount St. Francis**  
**In honor of Rev. Dan Knepper's retire-  
ment!**  
**Margaret Bakey**  
**In honor of Dominican Diamond and  
Golden Jubilarians**  
**Sr. Joris Binder, OP**  
**In honor of Pauline Wizezorek's Birth-  
day!**  
**Charles and Laura DeMaio  
Mary Ann Conzett**  
**In honor of Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Jubilarians**  
**Sr. Helen Hurley, OP**  
**In honor of Judy Kinicker  
Lucille Nicholson**  
**In honor of Richele Friedman, PBVM  
Rebecca and Richard Sisco**  
**In honor of Laura DeMaio's and  
Beverly Curtis's Birthdays!**  
**Pauline Wizezorek**  
**In honor of Laura DeMaio Birthday  
Mary Ann Conzett**  
**In honor of Dr. & Mrs. Randy  
Lengeling's wedding**  
**Mary Ann Conzett**  
**In honor of Paul Thurlow  
Andy and Katrina Wilberding**  
**In honor of the Wolter Family  
Jill and Timothy Wolter**  
**In honor of Larry Maternach's 80th  
Birthday!**  
**Sr. Eileen Healy, BVM, Sr. Ladonna  
Manternach and Sr. Mary McCauley,  
BVM**  
**In honor of James McAlpin's 50th An-  
niversary to priesthood!**  
**Sr. Mary McCauley, BVM**  
**In honor of Veronica Voss's 85th Birth-  
day!**  
**Janet and John Schroeder**  
**In honor of Louise Ottavi  
John Ottavi**

## 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.



## Special Thanks

Special Thank you to:  
Dubuque Racing Association- grant for copier and network cabling.  
Texas Roadhouse for hosting a fundraising night for Opening Doors.  
Jazzercise for collection of wish list items.  
Alliant Energy Foundation- grant for Project Hope  
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Freeport, IL for providing 6.5% of tithe in August.  
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque for their on-going support through endowment and partnership.  
NetSmart for discounted web services.  
Our An Attitude of Gratitude Planning Committee and Volunteers for their continued support.  
Market House Restaurant for 10% Dessert Proceeds in August  
Opening Doors is proud to be a United Way agency.



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.

#### Bed of Hope donations

Jessica Albazboz

Gunnar and Iyla Ant

Catholic Community Foundation

Rev. Francis Fried

#### Other Donations

Alliant Energy Foundation

Michael and Mary Pat Ament

Aquin Elementary School

Donna Bauerly

Marlyn and Joyce Bausman

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Capable Volunteer--Katrina

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Cedar Valley United Way

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Dan Donovan Charitable Foundation

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Dubuque Lutheran School Association

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Flexsteel Industries

Timothy and Kristine Gallagher

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IBM- Employee Services Center

Tony and Joann Jansen

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Rev. Eugene Kutsch

Norbert and Linda Kutsch

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Locksmith Express

Longshadow Foundation

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Mainstay Suites

Market House Restaurant

Marshall School

William and Darlene Mauss

Joy McCarthy

Dale and Sherry McDonell

James B and Melita A McDonough Foundation

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Sr. Patricia McNamara, BVM

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Prudential Retirement

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Rainbo Oil Co.

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Resurrection School Student Council

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St. Mark Youth Enrichment

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St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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Mel and Sherry Sisler

Sisters of Charity

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Steve's Ace Hardware and Garden Center

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Sr. Marian Sweeney

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Mr. Jim Theisen

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Ron and Judy Wolf

Opening Doors would like to keep you updated on resident stories, upcoming events, and more...please provide your e-mail address to [aschauer@openingdoorsdbq.org](mailto:aschauer@openingdoorsdbq.org) to receive electronic updates.

# Board Spotlight On Jeff Vaassen, Board President

By: Craig D. Reber



Opening Doors Board President, Jeff Vaassen, serves as auctioneer at An Attitude of Gratitude.



Jeff at the 2011 An Attitude of Gratitude fundraiser with Bobbi Earles (center, front), Keith Habel (center, back) and Flint Drake (right)



## About the Author

This article is the fifth in a series of board member spotlights by award-winning Telegraph Herald Reporter Craig D. Reber. A U.S. Navy veteran and Sioux City, Iowa-native, Craig graduated from Briar Cliff College (now university) in 1978 and immediately embarked on a career in print journalism and has continued for 36 years - including 26 with the Telegraph Herald. Craig serves on Opening Doors' Marketing Committee.

Jeff Vaassen, Opening Doors, Board of Directors member, enjoys assisting others. He joined the board in 2010, to offer his assistance to an organization that he felt served a great need in Dubuque.

"I continue to be involved to serve those disadvantaged and less fortunate individuals in our community so that we can provide guidance and financial means to improve the lives of our neighbors," he said. "It is my belief that we can work together to grow and improve our community, and without services like Opening Doors, women and children fall victim to chronic homelessness, and thus a concern for future crime and societal problems."

Jeff points out Opening Doors serves the community in providing shelter and homes to women and children who have been disadvantaged and less fortunate. "So many of us take for granted the roof over our head each and every night," he said. "We take for granted the bed and pillow upon which we rest. For some, this very common thing we call home, is the one thing some women and children lack."

Jeff adds, Opening Doors provides that place where women can reach out to in a time of need to provide that comfort. "It provides a table to eat at, a place to do homework, a place to rest," he said. "It also provides the guidance to love and work towards regaining their lives and homes. Many of the women we serve just need simple direction to get them back on their feet to find their own place to live. They may have chosen the wrong path and the staff and volunteers help bring them back to the right path to follow."

A native of East Dubuque, Ill., Jeff grew up in the area and graduated

from Wahlert High School in 1991. He attended Northern Illinois University for one year and finished his last three years at Loras College graduating with a degree in business management. Jeff spent three years in Davenport, Iowa, and 10 years in Des Moines. Married (in 1997) to Amy, the couple have two children, Ben 11, and Katelyn 9. They attend Mazzuchelli Middle School and Our Lady of Guadalupe, respectively.

Jeff has been with Dubuque Bank and Trust since August of 2008. He joined the bank in the Commercial Lending Department as a Business Development Officer. He was recently promoted to Banking Center Manager at the Asbury Banking Center.

Jeff is finishing a three-year term on the Thunder Hills Board of Directors. He spends most of the year coaching baseball and basketball, and in his free time he takes every opportunity to play golf and spend time with his family.

"I also enjoy spending time with friends talking over dinner at many of the great restaurants we have in the Dubuque area," Jeff said.

For eight years he owned and operated two Culver's Restaurant franchises in the Des Moines area.

"During this time, I was able to witness the difficulty many people had with raising families and handling living expenses with limited education and lower wages," Jeff said. "It's important to all, that these individuals get treated fair and be helped when possible."



# “An Attitude of Gratitude”

Fundraising dinner and auction for Maria House & Teresa Shelter  
**Saturday, November 22, 2014 | Grand River Center**



## Event Features

Plated Dinner  
Silent and Live Auction  
Raffle  
Music donated by “Tapestry”

All proceeds directly fund programs at the Maria House and Teresa Shelter.

## Menu

Choice of Broiled Atlantic Salmon, Plated Roast Beef, or Vegetarian Option with Chef's Garden Salad, Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine

This event is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors. If you are interested in providing a cash sponsorship or a donated item for the auction please contact Development and Marketing Director, Amy Schauer at [aschauer@openingdoorsdbq.org](mailto:aschauer@openingdoorsdbq.org) or 563.582.7480.



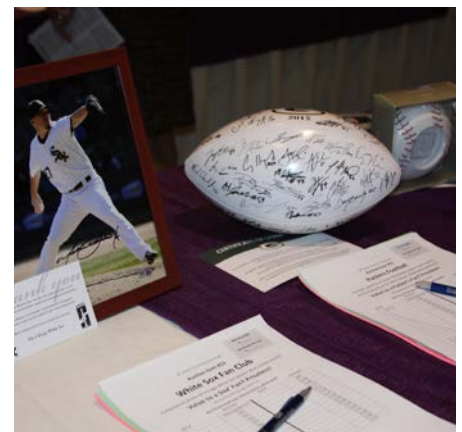
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Platinum Sponsor \$5,000  
Gold Sponsor \$2,000  
Silver Sponsor \$1,000  
Bronze Sponsor \$750  
Table Sponsor \$700



Opening Doors is grateful for the sponsorships we have already received and look forward to a posting a complete list of sponsors in our January newsletter and on our website.

Please join us!

To make a reservation for this event please contact Janet Schroeder at 563.582.7480 or visit [www.openingdoorsdbq.org](http://www.openingdoorsdbq.org). Individual tickets are \$60 and Corporate tables of 10 are \$700. A corporate table includes table signage and corporate listing in the program and on the website. Each additional sponsorship level comes with it's own recognition and advertising.





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## Give the Gift of Hope

Help to light the path to a brighter future for homeless women and children in your community. At Opening Doors we work with our women every day to teach them life skills that will help them shape a brighter future for themselves and for their children. Many of our Maria House and Teresa Shelter residents have not had a supportive family network to teach them these vital skills. Women are dependent when they move in...independent when they leave. Your tax-deductible contribution will go directly to support the programs at Maria House and Teresa Shelter.



YES, I would like to give the gift of HOPE for the homeless women and children in my community by supporting the mission of Opening Doors. I/We pledge:

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    \$1,000    \$2,500    Other \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is from: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you would like us to use your gift:

General Fund    In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (i.e., Easter/Birthday/Anniversary/Wedding) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make my contribution: One Time or Electronic Fund Transfer   \_\_\_ Monthly   \_\_\_ Quarterly

My gift will be made by:  Cash or Check    Credit Card   Charge my gift to:  VISA    Mastercard    Discover

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to receive e-newsletters and other electronic communication from Opening

Doors. E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of Opening Doors, guests, staff, and Board of Directors - thank you for your generosity! Every donation makes a difference!  
Opening Doors is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.