

Opening Doors
1561 Jackson Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-582-7480

Michelle Brown, Executive Director (mbrown@openingdoorsdbq.org)

For Immediate Release

Press Contacts:

Jessica Bleile, Maria House Director (jbleile@openingdoorsdbq.org) 563-582-7480

Heather LuGrain, Teresa Shelter Director (hlugrain@openingdoorsdbq.org) 563-690-0086

Make a Meal – Make a Difference!

DUBUQUE (January 12, 2016) – A brighter future is in store for the homeless women at Maria House and Teresa Shelter as they will soon participate in the *Getting Ahead in a Just Getting' By World*. This curriculum offers step-by-step life planning lessons designed to teach families and individuals who are experiencing poverty how they can create the path to a stable and secure future for their family.

Opening Doors is grateful for funding from the R.W. Hoefer Foundation and financial literacy training from Dupaco Community Credit Union, that will allow us to provide a customized 16-week *Getting Ahead* curriculum for our current and former residents.

Opening Doors is currently seeking volunteers from the community to help prepare and/or serve meals for the program participants. As an alternative, contributors could choose to provide a gift card to help us purchase meals for the group. The classes run on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7:30 PM from January 13 through April 20. To “adopt” one of these Wednesday dates for approximately 20 people, please contact Victoria at 563-582-7480, or email volunteer@openingdoorsdbq.org.

“Volunteers are the heart of Opening Doors,” comments Executive Director Michelle Brown. She adds, “Our organization was started with by volunteers 15 years ago and they are still vital to our success.”

Opening Doors is the nonprofit organization that operates Maria House and Teresa Shelter. Homeless women, alone or with children, come to us to help rebuild their lives. We provide goal setting and life skills training that will enable them to take care of themselves and achieve their full potential. Women are dependent when they come in...independent when they leave. Since 2000, Maria House has provided transitional housing, where residents can stay for as long as two years. In 2006, we opened Teresa Shelter. It offers the same transitional housing, as well as short-term emergency shelter services.

For more information on this volunteer need, please contact Jessica Bleile at 563-582-7480, or Heather LuGrain at 563-690-0086.

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