

Opening Doors
1561 Jackson Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-582-7480
Contacts: Michelle Brown, Executive Director
Email: mbrown@openingdoorsdbq.org
Heather LuGrain, Teresa Shelter Director (690-0086)
hlugrain@openingdoorsdbq.org

For Immediate Release

Teresa Shelter Celebrates 10 Years of Service

DUBUQUE (May 24, 2016) – Opening Doors is proud to announce Teresa Shelter’s 10 year anniversary. The shelter opened on May 23, 2016 as Opening Doors’ second doorway of hope for homeless women with or without children. **The public is invited to an open house scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 from 3 to 5 PM at Teresa Shelter located at 1111 Bluff Street which will feature light refreshments, tours and special stories from existing Teresa Shelter residents.**

The history of Opening Doors started with Maria House which opened on September 25, 2000. Shortly after Maria House began operating, staff realized that it was difficult to serve both emergency and transitional populations under the same roof. At that time, Maria House usually had a waiting list of women who needed emergency shelter, but were not yet ready for a transitional housing program. In response to this need, Opening Doors opened Teresa Shelter.

In its short 10-year history, Teresa Shelter has become an invaluable resource in our community for homeless women, with or without children,” commented Executive Director Michelle Brown. She added, “Through the program offered at Teresa Shelter, women have accomplished things they never dreamed were possible.”

Teresa Shelter is a single-story building located at 1111 Bluff Street at the site of the former Meatpackers Labor Union Hall. Thanks to seed money from the women’s religious organizations, private donations, and federal weatherization dollars, the facility was renovated to meet the needs of the women and children. Teresa Shelter’s location is optimal because it is near the center of downtown, on the bus line and near existing service agencies. Teresa Shelter offers emergency (up to 30 days) housing with a focus on meeting basic needs. *To date, Teresa Shelter is the only emergency shelter in the tri-states that takes women **WITH** children.* Teresa Shelter

also offers extended stay housing with an emphasis on long-term achievement based goal setting where women can stay up to six months with a possible six month extension.

For more information, please contact Michelle Brown, Executive Director at 563-582-7480 (mbrown@openingdoorsdbq.org) or Heather LuGrain, Teresa Shelter Director at 563-690-0086 (hlugrain@openingdoorsdbq.org).

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 extended stay housing, as well as short-term emergency shelter services.

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