

Opening Doors  
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For Immediate Release

## Volunteer to Help the Homeless!

**DUBUQUE (February 11, 2016)** – Opening Doors is stepping up their volunteer recruitment efforts to engage people that are interested in supporting our mission of empowering homeless women and children at Maria House and Teresa Shelter.

Opening Doors offers a full range of opportunities for volunteers to fit their needs and their personal goals for meaningful, supported volunteer engagement. Starting in March, Opening Doors will offer regularly scheduled bi-monthly orientations that includes an overview of volunteer opportunities, along with a tour of Maria House. **Offered every first Thursday and every third Saturday from Noon to 12:45 PM at Maria House (1561 Jackson Street), these sessions are open to the public (ages 18 and up).**

**\*NEW\***  
**OPENING DOORS**  
**Volunteer Orientations**  
First Thursdays  
& Third Saturdays  
Noon to 12:45  
Location: Maria House,  
1561 Jackson Street  
*First Sessions: March 3 & 19*

Volunteers have been an invaluable resource, both to our staff and residents over the past 15 years. **At this time, we have an urgent need for \*overnight volunteers at Maria House where volunteers have an opportunity to interact with the women and children we serve.** This is a sleep shift—typically allowing for 8 hours of sleep. Volunteers that assist in this capacity saves the organization thousands of dollars each year! Board President Sr. Mary Ellen Green had this to say about her volunteer experience, “Once a month I spend the night with the women and children at Maria House. Since my day to day life is so different from theirs, I appreciate the opportunity to share their world, to hear their stories, and maybe to encourage them a bit. For me it is a privilege to be with them and the experience enriched my life.” Other opportunities include special event

volunteers for our fundraisers, administrative aides, \*child care providers, and meal chefs. (*\*These positions requires a background check.*)

For more information on volunteering at Opening Doors, please contact Jessica Bleile at 563-582-7480, or email **[volunteer@openingdoorsdbq.org](mailto:volunteer@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 the same transitional housing, as well as short-term emergency shelter services.

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