

Opening Doors
1561 Jackson Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-582-7480
Contact: Ann Lorenz, Development & Marketing Director
Email: alorenz@openingdoorsdbq.org

For Immediate Release

Teresa Shelter Decked the Halls Thanks to Community Support!

DUBUQUE (November 30, 2015) – Staff at Teresa Shelter are happily decking the halls with new Christmas decorations thanks to a tremendous outpouring of support from our community over the weekend!

Last Friday, Opening Doors posted a Facebook request for Christmas decorations and over the weekend the community stepped up to donate everything that the shelter needed to create a festive atmosphere for the homeless women and children that take refuge there. Heather LuGrain, Teresa Shelter Director, was overjoyed with the amount of items that were donated. She said, “Our staff is truly blessed that we were able to provide our women and children with the Christmas that they deserve. We even got a tree donated!” Resident families and staff had fun as they worked together to decorate the entire shelter.

Opening Doors’ Holiday Wish List includes the following: Cash donations, gift cards, bath & body baskets, women’s and children’s pajamas, warm/fuzzy socks, and journals. Donations for Opening Doors (Maria House and Teresa Shelter) can be dropped off anytime at Maria House, 1561 Jackson Street. Toy donations can be directed to Bryce Parks at Toys 4 Tots (563-590-3840, email: bryce@dubuque365.com), Operation New View or Project Concern.

Opening Doors was established in 2000 to offer hospitality and opportunity to women, alone or with children, who are in need of emergency transitional housing related to support services. The Maria House provides a bridge for homeless women, striving to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency and independent living. Maria House residents can stay up to two years. The Teresa Shelter provides emergency (30-day stay) and extended stay (up to six months) for all women, who find themselves homeless due to circumstances beyond their control. Teresa Shelter can house up to 30 women and children and Maria House can accommodate 24 women and children (19,710 bed nights throughout the year). A Wish List of shelter needs is located online at www.openingdoorsdbq.org.

For more information, please contact Ann Lorenz, Development and Marketing Director, at 563-582-7480. For more information on this story, you can also contact Heather LuGrain, Teresa Shelter Director, at 563-690-0086.

#