

Opening Doors
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For Immediate Release

McDonough Foundation Funds Third Doorway of Hope

DUBUQUE (August 1, 2017) – Opening Doors is pleased to announce the fifth year of funding from the James B. & Melita A. McDonough Foundation. Opening Doors received \$15,000 which will partially fund rent subsidies for graduates of Opening Doors in the new Francis Apartments. Permanent supportive housing is the third doorway of hope and it completes the continuum of housing services offered by Opening Doors to homeless women and children.

Through a collaboration with Steeple Square, eight of the 12 apartments have been designated for graduates of Opening Doors. For the first time in Opening Doors' history, we will also be able to serve men in the apartments through this program. Tenants will continue to receive supportive services from their Opening Doors' Case Manager. In addition, Opening Doors will subsidize the rent so that no one will pay more than 30% of their income on housing.

The women and families Opening Doors will accept and refer to the apartments will be only those that have worked hard on improving their lives and meeting their goals. They are committed to rebuilding their lives and have demonstrated that commitment by the positive changes they have made while living at Maria House and Teresa Shelter.

The amount of their rent subsidy they receive is based on their current income. As their income increases, the amount of the subsidy decreases until the tenant is fully self-sufficient.

“Lack of affordable housing is the number one reason why families become homeless in the tri-state area,” said Opening Doors' Executive Director Michelle Brown. “The City of Dubuque Section 8 waiting list is currently closed. Since the list is so long, it is unlikely that any of our families will receive a housing voucher in the near future. The goal of this project is to break the cycle of homeless and poverty right here in Eastern Iowa.”

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 (DOORWAY 1) has provided transitional housing, where residents can stay for as long as two years. In 2006, we opened Teresa Shelter (DOORWAY 2). It offers short-term emergency shelter services and extended stay services. Permanent supportive housing at Francis Apartments (DOORWAY 3) completes the continuum of housing services to homeless women and children in the tri-states.

For more information, please contact Michelle Brown at 563-582-7480.

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