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For Immediate Release

## Third Doorway for Opening Doors opens August 1!

**DUBUQUE (June 19, 2017)** – Opening Doors is pleased to announce the launch of a third doorway of hope in August. This doorway will be an option for permanent supportive housing to the graduates of Maria House and Teresa Shelter through a collaboration with Steeple Square at the new Steeple Square Apartments located at 1501 Jackson Street.

Our third doorway of hope is anticipated to open on August 1. The former St. Mary’s school is being converted into 12 two- and three-bedroom apartments. Eight of those apartments will be reserved for the graduates of our programs. Because these apartments are permanent housing, we will be able to serve families that include men in the household for the first time in the organization’s history. In addition, one of the apartments will be ADA accessible.

In 2000, Opening Doors opened its first door for homeless women and children at Maria House. Because the need was so great, a second doorway was opened in 2006 at Teresa Shelter. At these shelters, women are taught life skills and goal setting to rebuild their lives. According to Michelle Brown, Executive Director, “The challenge is—when a family is ready to move out—there is a severe shortage of affordable housing for them to move into. As a result, Opening Doors is seeing more and more women and families cycle back to the shelters because they don’t have the adequate job skills and the corresponding income to be able to afford market-rate rent. In fact, over the past three years, over one-fourth of the residents were returning guests.”

### **Steeple Square Apartments Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**Date:** Thursday, July 27  
**Ribbon Cutting:** 4:30 PM  
**Open House & Campus  
Tours:** 5 to 6:30 PM  
**Location:** 1501 Jackson St.

The official name of the apartments will be unveiled at this event!

Opening Doors' Case Managers will provide supportive services to the families that are selected to live in the Steeple Square Apartments. Permanent Supportive Housing is a combination of affordable housing and services intended as a cost effective way to help people live more stable and productive lives.

**An official ribbon cutting and open house for the newly renovated and restored apartment on the Steeple Square campus will be held on Thursday, July 27 at 1501 Jackson Street. A Dubuque Chamber ribbon cutting is scheduled for 4:30 PM with an open house and campus tours to follow from 5 to 6:30 PM. We invite the community to come help us celebrate this monumental moment for Opening Doors and Steeple Square. The official name of the apartments will be unveiled at this event!**

*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, please contact Michelle Brown at 563-582-7480.

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