

Opening Doors
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For Immediate Release

Hometown Banks Invest in Program for the Homeless

DUBUQUE (April 25, 2018) – Two local financial institutions have established an “On My Own” program fund for Opening Doors. American Trust & Savings Bank and Dubuque Bank & Trust have both committed to \$15,000 to establish a self-perpetuating rent security deposit fund to assist residents of Opening Doors’ programs.

“On My Own” was developed to assist the residents of Teresa Shelter and Maria House with security deposits when they move into Francis Apartments, or other permanent housing. Executive Director Carol Gebhart said, “Saving enough money to cover a security deposit plus first month’s rent is a definite barrier to our residents. “On My Own” offers a way to break through this barrier to help our residents move into housing while continuing to receive programming services.” Currently, there is a lack of resources available in our community that will help cover these costs. Some organizations do assist with first month’s rent however; it is rare to find assistance for security deposits. In order to qualify for an “On My Own” security deposit, our women must agree to follow-up services with their Case Managers to ensure that they remain stably housed, are paying their rent on time, and adhering to other individualized goals.

This project aligns with the mission of the federal CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) illustrating an innovative way in which these financial institutions are serving those in need in our community while filling a current gap in assistance.

“I greatly enjoyed collaborating with Opening Doors to create “On My Own” which will aid women and children for years to come. It is rewarding knowing we are removing a barrier for these residents.” Dawn Danielson, American Trust & Savings Bank, First Vice President, Credit Risk Management

“Dubuque Bank and Trust is happy to support Opening Doors and many women and their families through the On Our Own program. As a community bank, we invest in our community, in programs like this, to help enhance the quality of life in our area as well as the economic vitality of the communities we serve.” Beth Rowe, Director of Marketing and PR.

Opening Doors is the nonprofit organization that operates three doorways of hope: Teresa Shelter, Maria House and Francis Apartments. Since 2000, homeless women, alone or with children, have come to us to help rebuild their lives. We provide goal setting and life skills training that enable them to take care of themselves and achieve their full potential. Women are dependent when they enter...independent when they leave. Teresa Shelter offers emergency and extended stay housing services. Maria House provides transitional housing where residents can stay for as long as two years. Our permanent supportive housing program at Francis Apartments completes our continuum of housing services to homeless women and children in our community.

For more information, please contact Carol Gebhart at 563-582-7480.

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