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For Immediate Release

## **Record Breaking Success for “Attitude of Gratitude”**

**Dubuque, IA (November 29, 2018)** Opening Doors is pleased to announce the recent fundraising success of “Attitude of Gratitude” (AOG). With the phenomenal generosity of the community, the 17<sup>th</sup> annual event netted \$137,047 on Saturday, November 17 which is a record breaking 9.7% increase over last year. This event held at the Grand River Center features a plated dinner, silent and live auction, and sharing of a personal success story from a former resident of Opening Doors. AOG comprises one-sixth of Opening Doors’ annual operating budget.

One special feature of the live auction is “Empower-a-Life,” during which donors pledge to support nights of shelter for homeless women and children. This part of the event raised a record \$42,255 – a 27% increase! Many thanks to our Ruby Sponsors: Grand River Center, Portzen Construction, Prudential, Radio Dubuque, and Jim & Marita Theisen. Sapphire Sponsors include American Trust & Savings Bank, Joe & Linda Chlapaty, Conlon Construction, Telegraph Herald, and Verena Street Coffee Co.

Opening Doors is the nonprofit organization that operates Teresa Shelter, Maria House, and a supportive housing program at Francis Apartments. Homeless women, alone or with children, come to us to help build a new life. We provide goal setting and life skills training that will enable them to take care of themselves and achieve their full potential. We offer a hand up in the world, not a handout.

Since 2000, Opening Doors has served over 3,400 women and children through a continuum of services. Teresa Shelter offers emergency and extended stay programs. Maria House offers transitional housing for up to two years. Francis Apartments offers an opportunity for income-based affordable housing with support services; a combination that has proven to be effective at ending the cycle of homelessness. Our three doorways of hope for homeless women and children are much more than a place to sleep. We offer the opportunity for women to claim their own power and become self-sufficient.

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