

Opening Doors  
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For Immediate Release

## **Community Donations Fund Van for Opening Doors!**

**DUBUQUE (March 21, 2019)** – Opening Doors took home the keys to a 2018 Grand Caravan minivan on March 17 thanks to the generosity of the Dubuque community.

Earlier this year, the agency’s 2004 van became mechanically unreliable and some of the seatbelts and doors were not working. Having a safe and reliable agency vehicle is vital to the success of our programs as a lack of transportation is the number one barrier that homeless women and children face.

As this was an unbudgeted expense, Opening Doors reached out to the community for help. A \$5,000 match from McGrath Hyundai and McGrath Used Car SuperStore got the wheels rolling. Contributions poured in and the goal of \$21,500 was reached in 45 days. “We are so grateful that McGrath stepped forward to assist us in this immediate need,” stated Carol Gebhart, Executive Director. “Large expenses can really overwhelm a non-profit, so we are so thankful for everyone who donated toward this purchase.”

The Sisters of St. Francis contributed \$5,000, and the Sisters of Charity of the BVM and Theisen’s Home Farm Auto both contributed \$2,500. In-Kind radio coverage provided by Townsquare Media and van wrap services will be donated by Curt’s Signature Sign & Design.

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.

For more information, please call 563-582-7480.

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