

Opening Doors

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For Immediate Release

United Way Awards \$48,242 Grant to Opening Doors

DUBUQUE (May 17, 2019) – Opening Doors is pleased to announce the 18th year of funding as an agency of the United Way of Dubuque Area Tri-States. This year’s grant award was \$48,242 for Maria House and Teresa Shelter for 2019-2020.

“United Way has been a crucial partner in our mission for 18 years providing hope for over 3,400 women and children experiencing homelessness,” said Executive Director Carol Gebhart. “Thank you United Way and to everyone who contributes each year to help those in need in our community.”

The United Way funds key life skills programming including Opening Doors’ permanent supportive housing program at Francis Apartments started in the fall of 2017. Opening Doors’ Case Managers provide supportive services to the families selected to live in the apartments. Permanent supportive housing is a combination of affordable housing and services that has proven to be a very effective way to end the cycle of homelessness.

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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