

Opening Doors

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For Immediate Release

Opening Doors Receives Two Grants from Community Foundation

DUBUQUE (June 11, 2019) – Opening Doors recently received two grants from organizations supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque—YAPPERS and the Women’s Giving Circle. Both grants will establish new initiatives that will impact the lives of women and children experiencing homelessness.

On June 1, the YAPPERS (Youth Area Philanthropists) awarded \$531.60 to fund the Shelter Art Experience. This new initiative offers women and children tools, mentorship and opportunities to express themselves through creative art experiences. Carla Heathcote who is an artist and a K-12 licensed art teacher will lead these workshops. She also leads the Graphic Design program at NICC. Carol Gebhart, Executive Director said, “Creative expression is an important piece of overall health and increases self-esteem and confidence...so needed by women experiencing trauma.”

On June 5, Opening Doors received a \$2,400 grant from the Women’s Giving Circle to establish an Emergency Health Fund to provide assistance in funding medications, treatments, counseling, eyeglasses, therapy, physicals, acute/emergency care and other medical services not covered by insurance for the women and children served at Teresa Shelter and Maria House. Carol adds, “Access to healthcare is critical to the overall wellbeing of the families we serve. We are excited to be able to much needed medical attention without waiting for benefits.”

Opening Doors is the nonprofit organization that operates Teresa Shelter, Maria House, and a supportive housing program at Francis Apartments. Women, alone or with children, who are experiencing homelessness 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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