

Journeys of Hope

FALL 2025

**Always
Thankful
for You**

“Your
donations
saved
my life.”



opendoor
MISSION
RESTORING hope CHANGING lives

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Message from our CEO



Anna Valeria
CEO

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

— 1 Thessalonians
5:18, ESV

Thankful in All Circumstances

Dear Friend,

Thanksgiving Day comes just once a year, but giving thanks happens every day at Open Door Mission.

When a hurting neighbor comes in for a meal, or just to get out of the elements and enjoy some warmth and conversation, their gratitude is plain to see. For those who stay longer to work toward lasting life transformation, every day is clearly a blessing in their eyes.

That's just as it should be for all of us, every single day. Even in the most trying of times, there is always something, however small, to be thankful for. A wonderful way to show your appreciation is by sharing your blessings with others who are less fortunate — which is exactly what you do when you support Open Door. And everyone here is thankful for you!

That includes the men and women in our residential programs. Like Dubar and Debra in this issue of Journeys of Hope, many look forward to giving back to Open Door once they graduate and start new lives in our community. You are an inspiration to them and a blessing to us.

As you start thinking about your own Thanksgiving dinner in the weeks ahead, please remember Open Door. Send a gift of support or see what you can do at the Mission to make the holiday special for the men, women and children we serve. And always, keep us in your prayers. God bless you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna Valeria".

Anna Valeria
CEO

Worship Leaders & Bible Teachers Needed!

We have multiple opportunities for Christian musicians and vocalist to lead praise and worship events and also chapel services in both our men's and women's emergency shelter facilities. Please prayerfully consider engaging with the Mission in sharing your God-given gifts and talents with those we serve in the homeless community. Your involvement will change lives in ways you could never imagine. Visit OpenDoorMission.com to sign up.

Join our Dollar-A-Dove Campaign

It's time for our annual Dollar-A-Dove campaign, a wonderful and easy way for your business, church, civic club organization and sports teams to raise much-needed funds for Open Door Mission. If your business is interested in participating, please contact Chris Scribani at Open Door Mission at cscribani@opendoormission.com.



You Helped Dubar Find a Better Way to Cope

“This is the best thing that’s happened to me.”

Like many graduates of our Addiction Recovery Program, Dubar can identify a specific event that spiraled him into addiction: the murder of his younger brother.

At 17, Dubar had already been experimenting with marijuana for five years. With no father or father figures in his life, he turned to drugs and street culture to make sense of the tragedy. But that only led to more trouble, including prison time for selling drugs. “That was the most time I was clean,” Dubar admits.

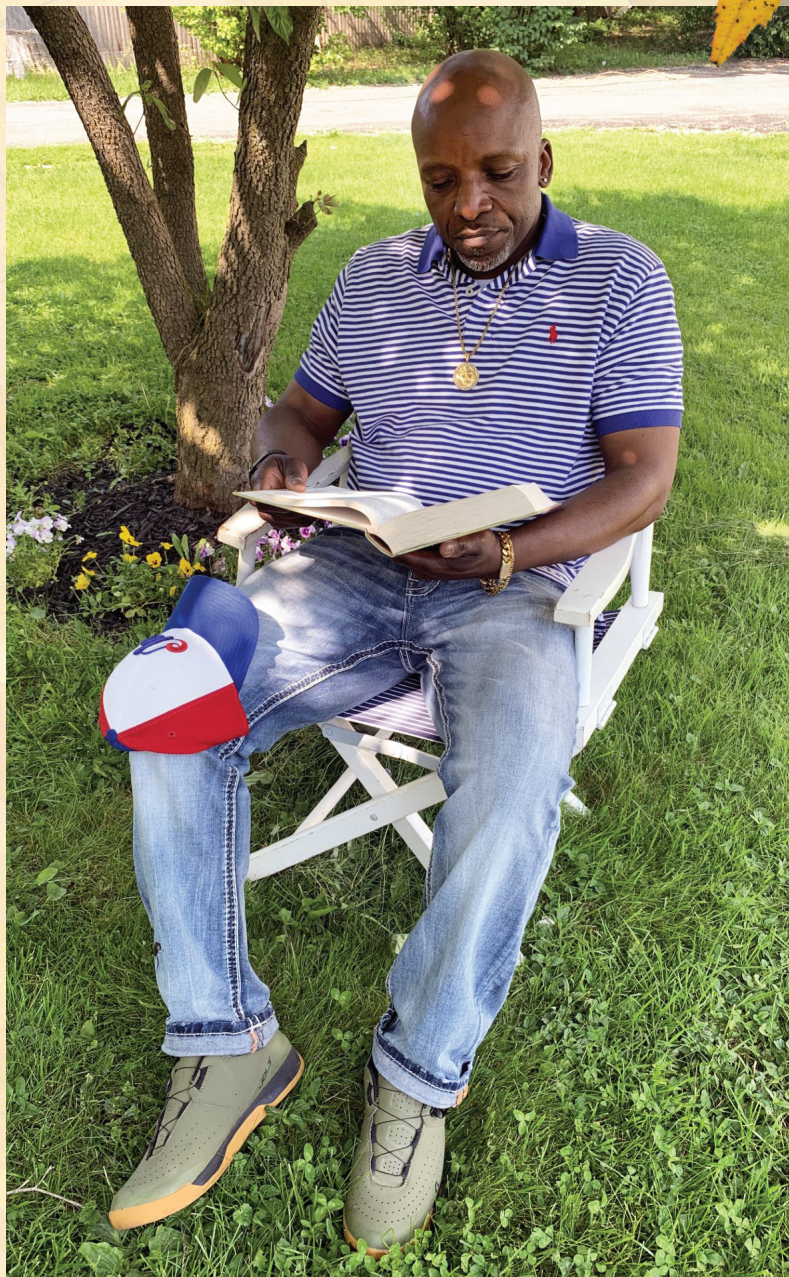
After prison, Dubar continued to use drugs to cope with his depression and anxiety. The one bright spot in his life was his marriage two years ago, but even that could not break the bond of his addiction. When his wife asked him to leave, he went into a 28-day rehab program.

In rehab, Dubar took stock of his life and began connecting with God. As he embraced his sobriety, he accepted the responsibility of leading a group. But he knew he would need support and spiritual guidance after the 28 days were done. He found both — and more — at Open Door Mission.

“The program helps you learn about Christ,” Dubar says. “Christ is the only one who can redeem us. We used to search for that in drugs and alcohol.” Later, Dubar also found the father figures he had searched for, in the elders at the church he joined. “I’m learning so much. This is the best thing that’s happened to me,” he says.

Dubar is living in our Genesis House Recovery Center while he works and saves money for a place of his own. We believe God has many more good things in store for Dubar — thanks to you.

He tells you, “Your donations saved my life and many others. I pray that I can be as much of an asset to Open Door as you are. I pray that Christ continues to bless your heart, to keep you wanting to do the work to help us out. There are so many who need this type of care. We can help more people change their lives.”



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You Gave Debra a Path Forward

Marriages fail for many reasons. Debra looks back on hers and says, “My husband and I were together for 15 years, and we drank our marriage away.” She still had a family — parents, siblings, two sons — but her addiction was taking a toll on those relationships as well.

Then her beloved son Danny died at 24. “Fentanyl got my boy,” Debra says. “He was my best friend.” Debra dealt with her grief the only way she knew how: by drinking. “I would have six to eight beers a night,” she admits. She wanted to honor Danny’s memory by getting sober, but she was unable to quit until she learned her liver was failing.



Five years later, Debra is still sober. However, those five years were filled with pain and hardship. She lost her job during the pandemic. Unable to pay her rent, she moved back in with her mother, but family dynamics eventually forced her out on her own.

Debra would have been homeless if not for her AA sponsor, who told her about Open Door Mission’s Coldwater Women & Children’s Home. She recalls her first night at Coldwater. “I was scared. I walked through the door and said, ‘I have nowhere to go.’ Miss T said, ‘Welcome home, honey.’”

Here at Coldwater, Debra has found another family — and a path forward. “I found a beautiful studio apartment in Rochester,” she tells us. “I’m hoping to get rental assistance, and I’m also blessed with a pension. Once I get settled, I want to come back and work in the kitchen at Open Door.” Debra would also like to speak at local high schools and warn teens about the dangers of fentanyl and other drugs.

To friends like you who support Open Door, Debra says, “My parents donated to Open Door Mission for many years. Whether you have 50 cents or 50 dollars, send it in to help these women and men. A lot of people need help. If they can make it here, they’ll walk out with a job and an apartment!”

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