

NEWS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FURTHER INFORMATION:

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OPEN DOOR MISSION TO CHANGE SHELTER MODEL TO BETTER SERVE HOMELESS GUESTS

For the past several winters, Open Door Mission's emergency shelter has been operating dangerously over capacity. There have been too many men seeking shelter and not enough beds to accommodate them.

Open Door Mission's central vision is to provide each homeless guest, no matter how broken they arrive, with the opportunity to transform their life. In an overcrowded shelter, this vision has simply become too difficult to fulfill. By operating over capacity, we have seen a rise in behavioral issues and violence. Issues that often put both our guests and staff at risk.

The increase in capacity has caused Open Door Mission to reflect on our best practices. At the heart of what we do, is to provide for the very neediest of Rochester's population and those that are in true crisis. To do this to the best of our ability, we are changing our program model.

ODM will incorporate a two-prong approach. We will introduce a simple, yet effective, phased support system called R.A.P. **Rescue. Assess. Place.** The R.A.P. process will provide a 30-60 day framework to provide men with the opportunity to receive the basic care and resources they need. Our R.A.P. program will have 30 non-congregate beds for men.

During this 30-60 day window, our staff will work one-on-one with men and match them with a community program that will help them transform their life. Open Door Mission will also offer 30 beds for those wanting to continue to our life recovery program - a spiritual and holistic recovery program for 90 days. In total, Open Door Mission will operate 60 beds for men in crisis.

This winter, Open Door Mission would serve up to 100 men and very often would have less than 10 female guests. For this reason, at this time, the new shelter model will be for male guests only. Women staying with us have all been placed with several of our community partners. We will also continue to accept both mothers and single women into our transitional housing program at Coldwater Women and Children's Home located in Gates.

Please keep Open Door Mission in prayer as we transition to our new shelter model. We are excited about the transition and confident that it will maximize the best possible outcomes for those struggling with homelessness and addiction.

For more information, please contact Kate Munzinger at kmunzinger@opendoormission.com.