



SUMMER 2010

# the Pulse

[www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com)

A Newsletter from the **Open Door Mission** of Rochester, NY

## A Message from Ronald K. Fox

So where do I start?

Back before Christmas, the weather turned bitter cold quickly as some of us remember ... The Mission opened its doors during the daytime as a warming shelter for the homeless and also increased the number of beds for emergency housing from 40 to 65. January and February proved to do the same where the bitter cold remained with us for 3 weeks straight.

Many donors searched their closets and wallets to provide winter wear items so that everyone would have a coat, gloves, socks, or even footwear. What a blessing!

Now we are heading into the summertime and what that might bring. Some may think with nicer weather those we serve might have a lighter load in surviving, however, that is not always true ... the homeless still need a place to lay their head, fill their stomachs, or find

(continued on back)

## “Life Was Closing In On Me”

**A**fter years of drug addiction and several trips in and out of prison, Paul knew how the system worked. He also knew that if he tested positive for drugs while he was on parole, he was facing a life sentence!

“I saw my life closing in on me. I’d lost my apartment and I couldn’t pay my bills.”

Not only that, but Paul was using drugs again! His only hope was to “come clean” with his counselor and hope for a referral to a rehab program. But every one he tried had at least a two month waiting

list. And then the counselor said the words that changed Paul’s life: “I’ve got a friend at the Open Door Mission...”

Paul was admitted to our Christian Life and Substance Abuse Program almost immediately. There were struggles like not coming back to the Mission the first time he was able to go out on his own.

**“God gave me a choice.”**

God spoke to Paul that night. “I knew in my heart He was giving me a choice: I could continue to do crack cocaine and die, or I could follow Him.”

“At that moment, sitting by the railroad tracks, I chose Jesus.” Paul made his way back to the Mission “scared to death” that the Mission would turn him away. Instead, they asked him to start over, to begin at the bottom and work his way back up.

Fifteen months later, Paul graduated and became an intern at the Mission. A little more than a year later, he was hired full time. “Today, God is the one I turn to, not drugs. My life is getting better and better all the time and it’s a life I’m proud of!”



P.O. Box 14236 ■ Rochester, NY 14608 ■ (585) 454-6696 ■ [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com)

## YES, I’ll help the Mission celebrate “Christmas in July.”

Here’s my gift to provide food, shelter and care:



- \$XX.XX to help feed and care for X people
- \$XX.XX to help feed and care for X people
- \$XX.XX to help feed and care for X people
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible

I’ll also provide backpacks, school supplies and other vital services for homeless and at-risk children with my gift of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

- Please bill my credit card
- VISA  MC  AMEX  DISC

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ CIV/SEC # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Donate online at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com), or call (585) 454-6696 ext. 132.

Donor Name  
Donor Address  
Donor City, State Zip



Open Door Mission  
P.O. Box 14236  
Rochester, NY 14614-0236



## A Message from Ronald

(continued from front page)

that listening ear.

I want to say thank you! Thank you for your gifts of financial support! Thank you for the gifts of clothing! Thank you for the time you come down to volunteer! Thank you for praying for this ministry! Thank you for being a blessing from God!

Gratefully,



Ronald K. Fox  
Executive Director

## Easter Celebration!

On Sunday, April 4th the Mission celebrated Easter with a special chapel service at its Samaritan



House Men's Shelter. Following the chapel service, thanks

to the contributions of our faithful donors and helpful volunteers, a festive Easter dinner took place serving a few hundred visitors of the Mission.

Our special thanks to those who donated to this year's Easter campaign and also to those who took time out of their own Easter weekend to volunteer at our meal service.

For more information about this and other Mission events, visit our website at [OpenDoorMission.com](http://OpenDoorMission.com).

## Go Green! Save Green! Go Paperless!

No more paper or postage expenses ... please! Save the Mission green by going green! You can receive our letters and newsletters via e-mail instead. Send your e-mail address to [cscribani@odmmail.com](mailto:cscribani@odmmail.com) and we'll convert

you to our paperless database. (Please allow 60 days for a complete conversion.) Or you can donate and receive receipts from our secure website at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com).

## Walk-In Cooler Finally Installed

On the morning of April 7th the long awaited day finally came. Our walk-in cooler arrived!



The crane truck we had been anticipating for months pulled into the parking area of the Mission Caring Center to hoist our brand

new refrigeration system for our new walk-in cooler to the roof of the building. Shortly after that our maintenance staff began to disassemble the walls, floor and roof of our existing cooler. It was only a matter of a few days before the electricity would be hooked up and in full use. It has now been in place for a few months and is benefitting our kitchen on a daily basis!

Our special thanks goes out to all those who contributed to the cooler fund last winter. You made it possible. To arrange a tour of the Mission to see our new cooler and the rest of our facilities, please call (585) 454-6696, ext. 120.

## Mission Gets Canned at 2010 Motor Mania!

I'm sure the title of this article got your attention. Don't worry. Nobody canned the Mission, but we certainly want to thank Street Machines of Rochester for allowing us to participate in the 2010 Motor Mania Car Show this past April.

This was our second year in a row to be a part of this great community event. The Mission collected 81 boxes of canned foods and raised just over \$800. We want to extend special thanks to all the patrons of



2010 Motor Mania Car Show who contributed finances and/or a canned food item to help the Mission replenish its food cupboard for the summer months.

## Christmas in July?

Everyone loves Christmas! The celebration of our Lord's birth is a time of hope and joy when we also reach out to those who are less fortunate – sharing His blessings with neighbors who are alone, troubled or in need.

Christmas is also a time when those who support this ministry are most generous. In fact, over the holidays, we receive about 44% of our gifts for the entire year! We are

the best stewards we can be, but sometimes, by summer, we start to feel the pinch.



So even though the holidays are still many months away, I'd like to encourage you to share the joy and hope of the season – help us celebrate "Christmas in July" by providing the food, shelter and care many in this community so desperately need.

You can mail your Christmas in July gift in the enclosed envelope, or give online at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com).

# Backpack to School Giveaway



**It's so much more than just school supplies!**

Last year, a record number of needy children received backpacks full of school supplies as a result of our Backpack to School Giveaway – 200 to be exact.

This year, we're expecting even more – perhaps as many as 300 children and their moms and dads.

But the best part of all was **the opportunity to connect with children and their families** and enable them to learn more about Mission programs that can make an immediate and eternal difference in their lives!

**This year, we will need to fill more than 300 backpacks before August 27.**

Here's how you can help:

- Purchase a **NEW** solid color backpack
- Fill it with supplies from the list on the back
- Drop the backpack off at the Mission before August 27

If you're short of time, send a gift today, and we'll buy and fill a backpack for you.

Use the enclosed gift form, or go online at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com).



# Helping kids now can keep them out of trouble later on!



Thanks to you, he will get the tools he needs to succeed in school... and in life!



Lots of kids need our help.  
We don't want to turn anyone away!

*If you don't have time to buy and fill a backpack, send a gift to the Mission in the enclosed envelope and we'll buy and fill one for you! OR give a gift online at [www.OpenDoorMission.com](http://www.OpenDoorMission.com).*

## School Supplies

### Shopping List

2 folders  
Tissues  
Pencil sharpener  
2 glue sticks  
Box of #2 pencils  
Highlighters  
Pencil box  
Calculator  
Index cards

Box of 8 markers  
Box of 24 crayons  
Box of 12 or 24  
colored pencils  
12" Ruler  
Eraser  
Black & red pens  
Lined filler paper  
Spiral notebooks