



HOLIDAY 2011

the pulse

www.OpenDoorMission.com

A Newsletter from the Open Door Mission of Rochester, NY

“God Has Been Successful Where Others Weren’t”

Todd was born and raised in Rochester. It’s where he started drinking beer and smoking marijuana as a teen and where he graduated to harder drugs – cocaine and heroin – as his addiction worsened.

Amazingly, even though he was “drinking 24/7,” he managed to hide his drug and alcohol use from his family.

Back in the 80s, when he was making good money working for his dad, drugs were easy to come by. But as his dependency

worsened, it started affecting his life more and more.

By the mid-90s, Todd was “losing jobs and getting kicked out of apartments” until he finally lost everything. With no money, no job and no home, Todd began living on the streets, doing “whatever I could” to get alcohol or drugs.

When he got tired of sleeping under bridges,

one of the homeless guys he hung out with told him about the Open Door Mission. One night, during the chapel service before dinner, “something hit a nerve.”

Todd began coming to the Mission more regularly. He got to know some of the people who worked here and eventually signed up for our Christian Life Recovery Program.

Todd went through the program and married a Christian girl. They had a son who’s now 12 years old. But there were “trials and hardships”

“I could actually feel God touching my heart!”



Volume 8, Issue 11

Don't miss...

A Christmas message from Michael.....2

“This Place Gave Me a Chance”3

Your FREE 2012 Calendar.....3

still to come. There was a divorce, and an accident that permanently disabled Todd.

But through it all, he “held fast.” His troubles would have been a “good excuse” to go back to drinking and drugging. But Todd did “a lot of praying,” and things worked out.

Now, he and his son have their own place in Springwater... “a little slice of Heaven on earth.”

Todd’s life today is a far cry from his years of alcohol and drugs. He shares his testimony with others...how he cheated and stole, how he lost the trust of his family and how **a simple meal at the Open Door Mission led him to the Lord**, who healed and restored him when others could not!

A Personal Word from the Executive Director



Beyond the Threshold

Luke 2:6-7 says, "So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

It never ceases to amaze me that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords chose to come into this world, not in the greatest temple or mansion, not even in a modest dwelling, but He chose to come into this world **homeless**, at least for this season. Mary and Joseph were transients, technically.

But then again, it shouldn't surprise us that this humble King, this compassionate Lord, came into our world as one of the least of us, as it says in Matthew 25:38-40, "When did we see you hungry, and feed you... or as a stranger, and take you in?" Jesus says, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

May God bless you abundantly this Christmas season as you partake in the ministry of this Mission, to bless those who have nothing, which is the greatest act we can do while on this side of the Kingdom!

Michael Hennessy
Executive Director

East Rochester Youths Lend a Hand

Giving back to the community is what the East Rochester Youth Center is all about.

These young adults came together to organize a collection drive of personal hygiene products for the Mission. Donations were collected primarily from the seniors throughout the village and town of East Rochester.

Special thanks to the Youth Center for helping to bring more awareness to



the topic of homelessness and for providing positive ways to get their peers involved in community service.

To learn how your group can organize a collection drive to benefit the Mission, visit our website at www.OpenDoorMission.com.

The Open Door Mission Motorcycle Run Is Back!

Thanks to the local chapter of Cycles for Christ, one of the Mission's favorite fundraising events that returned after a five-year hiatus.

The Open Door Mission Motorcycle Run made it back on the road in July and raised a total of \$760 to benefit the Mission.

Special thanks to Cycles for Christ, Light Blue (a Christian blues band),



Victory Baptist Church and all those who helped organize the day-long event, including food and entertainment after the run.

If you missed out in participating



Left to right: Bruce Lockhart; Executive Director, Mike Hennessy; Dennis Tyson and Director of Development, Chris Scribani

this year, you can be sure we'll be back with this event in July 2012!

To learn more about this and other annual Mission events, call (585) 454-6696 or visit www.OpenDoorMission.com.

"The Very Best Christmas..."

What is the very best gift you can give someone who is hungry or homeless?

Here at the Mission, there are as many ways to help as there are people in need.

Volunteer. Serve a meal at Samaritan House. Lend a hand at the Caring Center. Organize a drive to collect food or clothing. E-mail Tammy Thimm at tthimm@odmmail.com or call (585) 454-6696, ext. 113 for more information.

Donate. Our shelter is in need of twin bed sheets, bath towels, and men's socks and underwear, shampoo and disposable razors. The kitchens could

use milk, breakfast cereal, eggs, cheese, meats, butter, celery, lettuce, sugar, creamer and coffee. Call (585) 454-6696 or drop donations off at the **Caring Center, 156 N. Plymouth Avenue, Rochester.**

Give a gift. Use the enclosed envelope to send a gift to provide meals and more. Donate by check, credit card or online at OpenDoorMission.com.

Pray. Pray for this ministry and the men, women and children who come here during their time of greatest need.

Thank you for helping make this the very best Christmas!

“This Place Gave Me a Chance.”

Dave has gone from having everything to having nothing and back again. What he has today is something money can't buy.

At one time in his life, Dave “had it all”...two children, three homes and a serious problem with alcohol and crack cocaine.

He went to rehab in Albany and managed to stay clean and sober for six years, even trying to reconcile with his wife.

“We were seeing each other and said we should get back together,” Dave says. “But a week before I was going to move back in, she changed her mind.”

What Dave wanted most was to be with his kids who were eight and nine at the time. He had taken them on trips all over the country...he even opened an ice hockey school for his son who loved the sport.

Dave was teaching power skating...there was a ton of money coming in. But when he became despondent, instead of calling his 12-step sponsor, he went out and used cocaine.

Over the next two years, Dave lost everything – his job, the money in his retirement fund and his pension... over a quarter of a million dollars!

When friends and family deserted him, Dave remembered his mother who used to “send money to the Mission at Christmastime.” “I remembered they had a shelter, so that’s where I went.”

Dave’s first stop was Samaritan House on West Main where he found food and a place to sleep at night. Once his basic needs were met, the shelter manager started talking to him about the more permanent changes that could be made in our Christian Life Addiction Recovery Program.

“I’d been in other programs before and been ‘cured’ about the time my

insurance ran out. When I came here, they didn’t ask for insurance.”

Dave is convinced that insurance isn’t the only thing that separates the Mission from other recovery programs: It’s the people.

“Everyone was so kind to me. They just kept me putting one foot in front of the other. When I got a call that my mother was in the hospital and dying, there was no question that they would take me up to see her. **I really found out who my friends were!**”

Once Dave graduated, he started getting job offers. The guy who used to make \$50,000 a year was now working for \$8 an hour. Then, he was hired by Eastman Kodak and works there to this day.

Dave is thankful for the Mission and for the people who support it and helped him get “back on his feet.” “They didn’t ask me for anything, and they gave me what I needed in return.”



Christmas Shoebox Gifts



Christmas is just around the corner and we need your help to get ready!

Each year, we collect gift-wrapped shoeboxes filled with travel-sized hygiene items and distribute them to our guests.

We need you to help us prepare them. Here’s what to do: fill a shoebox with travel-sized personal hygiene items such as deodorant, toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, etc. You can also include a new pair of tube socks, gloves, mittens, a hat or scarf. Giftwrap the shoebox and label it to let us know if it is for a man, woman or child.

Please deliver the shoeboxes to the Open Door Mission’s Caring Center, **156 N. Plymouth Avenue**, by Sat., Dec. 17.

He found himself homeless, living in parks under bushes.

to make \$50,000 a year was now working for \$8 an hour. Then,

he was hired by Eastman Kodak and works there to this day.

Dave is thankful for the Mission and for the people who support it and helped him get “back on his feet.”

“They didn’t ask me for anything, and they gave me what I needed in return.”



As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2012 calendar as our way of saying “Thank you!”

To receive your FREE 2012 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

Reserved for you:

2012 Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends like you, this ministry to our community’s neediest people would not exist.

As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2012 calendar as our way of saying “Thank you!”

To receive your FREE 2012 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

Go Green! Save Green!

Reduce the paper and postage expenses ... please! Save the Mission green by going green!

There are many ways to go green: sign up to give automatically via EFT giving, request fewer letters by checking the box on the back of your reply device, donate online or join our e-mail list.

Contact Chris Scribani at (585) 454-6696, ext. 108 or cscribani@odmmail.com or visit OpenDoorMission.com for more information.

Visit Us Online!



Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at www.OpenDoorMission.com.

Join us



Backyard Fun-Raiser For the Mission

Admission to waterslides, games and food – all for a package of underwear! That's all it took for the Cowie family to support the Mission's clothing program for women and children.

In July, they invited all their family and church friends to their backyard for a day of summer fun. The only requirement for guests was to bring a package of new underwear to donate to



the Open Door Mission. What a great idea!

For information on how you can

host a collection drive to benefit the Mission this holiday season, call (585) 454-6696 or visit OpenDoorMission.com.

12th Annual Stuff-A-Bus Food & Clothing Drive

Please join First Student Transit Company, the Buzz 98.9FM and WBEE 92.5FM for the 12th Annual Stuff-A-Bus Food & Clothing Drive.

Please help us fill a school bus with new and gently used men's, women's and children's clothing, coats



and winter outerwear, paper products, non-perishable foods and financial donations.

Join us from Fri., Nov. 18 through Sun., Nov. 20. Visit our website at OpenDoorMission.com for locations.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Donate Your Coat and Get 10% Off

Please join us for the 5th annual Warm Coats & Warm Hearts Coat Drive presented by Burlington Coat Factory, One Warm Coat and Good Morning America!

Just bring your gently worn coats to Burlington Coat Factory and get 10% OFF your total purchase! All coats collected will be distributed to children and adults served at the Open



Door Mission and throughout OUR community.

For more information, call (585) 454-6696 or visit www.OpenDoorMission.com. Tune in to ABC's Good Morning America for feel-good coat drive stories.