

S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

# the Pulse

[www.OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org](http://www.OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org)

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

## Turning Faith into Action

Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."

Many people interpret this to mean that God will never give us more than we can handle. But I've got to tell you, so far 2014 has been a mighty challenge!

Just four months ago, we were struggling through some of the worst winter weather we've ever experienced. The strain on our resources was nearly overwhelming as we tried to make sure that as many people as possible were fed, sheltered, clothed and kept out of the bitter cold.

Now, we're facing summer – when donations almost always drop way down, but when just as many people really need help and support.

I believe God and His grace will see us through. But I also need you to be one of our partners who steps up and helps us turn faith into action!

  
Michael Hennessy  
Executive Director

## Kenny's Hope was Renewed!

U ntil he started smoking marijuana and drinking, Kenny was a good student and athlete in high school. "The alcohol changed me," he says. "I had more courage to speak to girls and such. **I fell in love with alcohol.**"

He went on to find work, marry, and start a family, but continued drinking and using drugs. "My mother was paying our rent and buying our food," he says. "I was stealing the food stamps we had and living a reckless and selfish life."

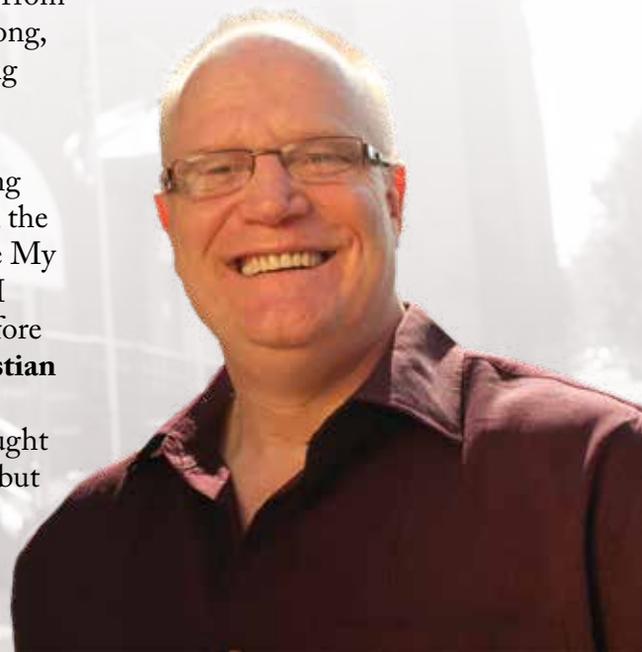
Kenny's marriage fell apart and his addictive behavior alienated him from his parents and siblings. Before long, he was living in the subway, eating from dumpsters, hopeless.

"I looked down at the raging Genesee River and said, 'I'm going to jump in.' About halfway there, the Lord spoke to me. He said, 'Take My hand and I'll show you the way.' I fell before Him. I was broken before Him and **I've been on this Christian journey ever since.**"

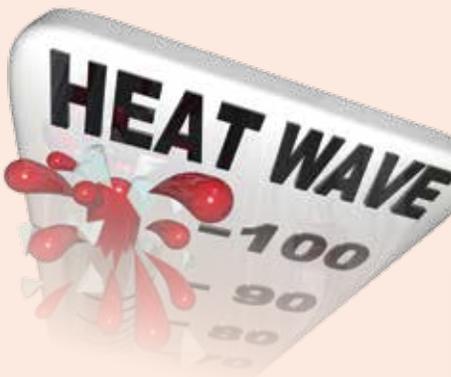
Kenny's family had once brought him to the Open Door Mission, but now he returned on his own and

entered our Christian Life Recovery Program. "They taught us to know Christ," Kenny says. "My hope has been renewed and I have a foundation built on a Rock, not on shifting sand anymore."

A program graduate, Kenny now serves as Assistant Supervisor of our Samaritan House Rescue and Shelter Center. "I'm there, **telling people the great things that the Lord has done for me,**" he says. "The word of God says, 'He will give you more than you can ever imagine.' I am extremely blessed."



## Weather Alert



### CODE RED

While many of us are able to escape this summer's heat and humidity, can you imagine what it is like for those who are homeless?

Dehydration, heat exhaustion and related breathing and heart risks are a real threat to those unable to escape the increasingly harsh summer weather.

To provide much-needed relief, the Mission can temporarily increase its shelter capacity, opening 30 more beds for those seeking shelter and relief from the heat.

That also increases our need for food, bedding and funds to keep our utilities running. Please consider making a special gift to the Mission to help us meet the needs of 30 additional guests.

You can use the reply card below and the enclosed envelope, or, make a gift on our secure donation site by visiting [OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org](http://OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org) and clicking on CODE RED. You can even use your phone! Just text CODE RED to 95577. Thank you!

## Fill a backpack for a child in need

Last year, approximately 300 children received backpacks full of school supplies during our Backpack to School Giveaway.

This year, we're expecting even more children – perhaps as many as 350 boys and girls who will come to the Mission's special Back to School celebration with their moms and dads.

This special event is about so much more than just backpacks filled with school supplies! It gives us 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!

We need to collect enough supplies to fill 350 backpacks before August 8th.

Here's how you can help:

- Purchase a NEW solid color backpack
- Fill it with supplies from the list below
- Drop the backpack off at the Mission before August 8th



Not only did he get a new backpack, but it was full of supplies that no one else had used! While many children are dreading the start of school because it means summer is over, other children (and their parents) are anxious or worried for an entirely different reason: they simply don't have the money to buy even the basic necessities on their school supply lists.

## School Supplies Shopping List

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

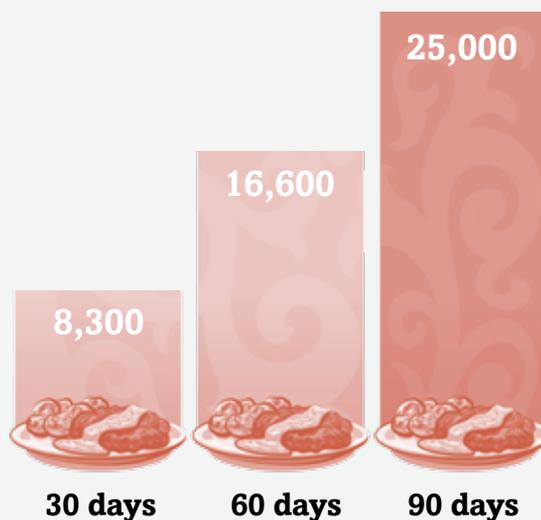
Use the enclosed envelope, or donate on our secure website at [www.OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org](http://www.OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org).



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

## Help serve 25,000 meals in 90 days



Hungry, homeless men, women and children need your help and support this summer.

In just 90 days, the Open Door Mission will serve more than 25,000 meals, and provide the shelter, care and spiritual healing that will change the lives of those who come to us for help.

Your support is vital if we are to meet this challenge. Please send a gift today in the enclosed envelope. Or provide immediate help by making your gift on our secure website at [www.OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org](http://www.OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org).



Sunday, August 24, 2014  
Gates Memorial Park  
160 Spencerport Road  
12:00 - 9:00 pm  
[AbruzzeseFestival.com](http://AbruzzeseFestival.com)  
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A Fundraising Event to Benefit:  
Open Door Mission  
Catholic Family Center  
Alternatives for Battered Women