



the Pulse

www.OpenDoorMission.com

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

God will provide

Every day, I see firsthand the truly miraculous changes that take place in the lives of people like Bill, whose story I'm sharing with you today.

God has demonstrated His love by taking hold of men and women who are suffering from deadly addictions, hunger or homelessness and He's given them the strength to turn their lives around!

He has also seen to our provision through your partnership and invaluable support that provides the food, clothing, shelter, care and counseling that makes these transformations possible.

That's why, in our prayers here at the Mission, we give thanks for God's grace and love, and thanks for you. Because your gifts really do make a difference in the lives of His children who are without food and shelter or friends and family to help them through difficult times.

Bless you for all you do!



Michael Hennessy
 Michael Hennessy
 Executive Director

FROM "DOWN AND OUT"

to caring for others!



Drugs and alcohol had taken everything from Bill.

"There was nothing left," he says, shaking his head. No family. No friends. No money. No clothes. "I had been incarcerated and lost a lot of weight. There I was, homeless. So I went to the Open Door Mission and stayed at the emergency shelter."

"Being at the Mission opened my eyes."

Not having to worry about a place to sleep or where his next meal was coming from allowed Bill to give some thought to changing his life, and that led him to join our Christian Life Recovery Program. That was seven years ago, and a lot has changed in Bill's life since then!

The year after he entered our program, he met his wife, and they were married in 2010. In 2011, he finished his management degree at R.I.T. A beautiful son was born to the couple in 2013 while both **Bill and his wife were starting their**

own ministry: Chloe Cares [Caring for the Happiness and Lives of the Elderly].

The idea took root when Bill was visiting his mother in a nursing home. "I would read to her. Others would come in and eventually I'm reading to 12 ladies!" Bill began taking his "ladies" on outings – to the zoo and out to eat. He continued reading to them, brought them fresh fruit, and played music they wanted to hear.

"Unless they get money from family, most of them don't have the means to do things like this," he says.

Today, Bill and his wife are working with several nursing homes, getting a few donations from local restaurants and individuals, and founding their own non-profit organization so they can expand their work!

Code Red



This winter, we survived some of the most dangerous wind chill temperatures in years. Now, we're facing record heat and humidity.

When the temperatures rise above 90 degrees, you can help provide much-needed items to those who become vulnerable to the dangers of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration and second-degree sunburn. Help the Mission make certain the homeless are equipped and properly fed to fight through the heat and humidity of summer.

Your donation of \$50.00 provides a backpack filled with personal hygiene products, cold packs, sunscreen, hand towels, bottled water and a first aid kit.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send a gift to help us supply those in need with a Code Red kit this summer. You can also make a secure gift online at OpenDoorMission.com or text **CODERED** to 95577. Thank You!

Every gift counts:

This summer, the Mission will:

- Serve 25,000 meals
- Provide 3,500 nights of shelter
- Save and change hundreds of lives!

Your gift does make a difference!

Backpack to School Giveaway

We must fill backpacks for 500 children!

Last year, with the generous support of individuals, churches and local companies, and despite a drenching downpour, 300 children received new backpacks full of school supplies... supplies that enabled them to start the year right.

This summer, we're anticipating that as many as 500 boys and girls – and their parents – will participate in the Mission's Back to School backpack distribution program, and we don't want to disappoint even one of them.

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 30th



Sandy Mihalitsis of Country Club Diner in Fairport has a long-standing dedication to our Back to School backpack program! This lovely lady delivered packed backpacks to 135 children in 2014. This year, her goal is 200, which would be tremendous.

School Supplies Shopping List

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 folders | Box of 8 markers |
| Tissues | Box of 24 crayons |
| Pencil sharpener | Box of 12 or 24 colored pencils |
| 2 glue sticks | 12" ruler |
| Box of #2 pencils | Eraser |
| Highlighters | Black & red pens |
| Pencil box | Lined filler paper |
| Calculator | Spiral notebooks |
| Index cards | |

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 OpenDoorMission.com. THANK YOU!

the Power of 1



How much difference can one gift make?

Here at the Open Door Mission, the answer is plenty!

With more than 8,333 monthly meals to prepare and serve, 1,167 nights of shelter to provide and hundreds of hours of care and education, your donations are always welcome, especially during the summer when needs continue, but giving drops off.

Here's another example of the power of 1: One gift, your gift, can also fill a backpack full of much-welcomed

school supplies for a needy boy or girl.

Every gift you give has the power to change a life. But it doesn't happen overnight.

Long-lasting, permanent change requires food, shelter, care and education to help individuals and families become self-sufficient...able to take care of themselves so they don't have to rely on us.

One gift – your gift – is vital to the continuing success of this ministry and our ability to truly make a difference in the lives of men, women and children in need.