

Open Door Mission

Candace Gregory, CEO of the Open Door Mission, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 5.

She has worked for the Open Door Mission for 17 years. Candice said she has lived in Treynor for one year and one day. She and her husband have four children.

Candace said the best part of her work is seeing lives change. The Open Door Mission programs include the Lydia House which provides emergency services for women and families, the Garland Thompson Men's Center which helps men make changes in their lives, and the Timberlake Outreach Center which helps families remain in their own homes. They also sponsor a variety of life-changing programs. See <http://www.opendoormission.org/about/programs>

Candace provided a lot of facts about the Mission. The Lydia House serves about 300 women now. They treat for addictions without the use of foster care. The Timberlake Thrift Store offers free clothing and household supplies. They provided 90,000 diapers last year. 86% of the people coming to Timberlake are working. 20% of them are from outside Omaha and another 26% are from Iowa.

The Open Door Mission teaches independence, not dependence. 60% of the people they work with have a job.

The Open Door Mission was founded in 1954. In 1986 the city moved the Open Door Mission to its current place. It needed a lot of work, because 72% of the walls had mold in them.

The Open Door Mission does not currently have an industrial kitchen. They are using the one at MOMs Place while theirs is under construction. Construction is expected to be complete February 19.

The Mission also helps in the community. They served 900 flood victims, provided 1500 mattresses, and had a 37% increase in their services this summer due partially to the flooding.

The Open Door Mission programs are very successful. They have an addiction recovery program that has a 91% success rate after one year. In 1999 they started a smoking sensation program with Creighton.

60% of the adults they work with have less than a 6th grade reading ability. Over 300 retired teachers volunteer. They also have a 30 day program that offers GED classes on a computer.

The Mission has over 1400 volunteers who give at least 2 hours of their time each month to help. For more information on the Open Door Mission and its programs, see their website at: <http://www.opendoormission.org>