



Open Door Mission

The Treynor Optimist Club meets every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. to listen to informative and motivational speakers. Candace Gregory, CEO of the Open Door Mission, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club meeting on June 21. She started at the Open Door Mission in 1994. She has four children, grew up in Canada, and has a lot of pets.

The Open Door Mission tries to inspire hope for lasting change in

breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Candace said that the largest population of homeless is women and children, at 60% of the homeless. The average age is 9. They will serve about 300 children this summer at camp. They also continue a tutoring program throughout the summer.

The Mission has three full classes offered by Dave Ramsey, focusing on not spending money you don't have. They have 121 people at the Lydia House trying to get their GED. 50% of the women at the Lydia House are recovering from domestic abuse.

The Open Door Mission is faith based. Candace said that she is seeing more and more moral decay, resulting in homelessness.

The fastest growing group of homeless is veterans. 36% of the homeless are veterans. There are 120,000 homeless veterans in the country.

The Open Door Mission offers 18 different life component tracks. They require setting short term and long term goals. Candace said "It's all about relationships."

The Open Door Mission sleeps 816 men, women, and children every night. They serve 2059 hot, nutritious meals daily. Studies show that 23% of children in Iowa don't know where the next meal is coming from.

91% of the graduates of the Open Door Mission are clean and sober one year after graduation. The average person stays there 26 weeks. The Mission follows people for 36 months after completion. 26% of the graduates are going to college. Every year 500 children get new clothes for school.

Candace said that the Open Door Mission is trying to buy an outreach center on Broadway in Council Bluffs. She encourages people to friend them on Facebook. Their web site is <http://www.opendoormission.org/>.