

Opening Doors

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For Immediate Release

Two Sister Communities Award Ministry Fund Grants

DUBUQUE (September 22, 2022) – Opening Doors has received two Ministry Fund grants that will provide vital program staff salary support. Gifts include a \$12,000 grant from the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters and a \$20,000 grant from the Sisters of St. Francis.

“Grants that fund salaries are vital to our operations,” said Executive Director Carol Gebhart. “Program staff are the heart of our mission. The support they give to our clients inspires self-confidence and leads to self-sufficiency.”

In 1999, six Catholic women religious communities provided seed money to launch Opening Doors. “Now, all these years later, the sisters keep shining their light on us,” adds Ann Lorenz, Development & Marketing Director. These communities have had representation on our board of directors and committees since 2000.

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Opening Doors is a nonprofit organization that helps women and children who are experiencing homelessness. We provide goal setting and life skills training that enable them to achieve their full potential. We offer a hand up in the world, not a handout.

Since 2000, Opening Doors has served over 4,300 women and children through a continuum of services. Teresa Shelter offers emergency and extended stay programs. Maria House offers transitional housing for up to two years. Francis Apartments offers an opportunity for income-based affordable housing with support services; a combination that has proven to be effective at ending the cycle of homelessness. Opening Doors offers much more than a place to sleep. We provide the opportunity for women to claim their own power and become self-sufficient.