



Sr. Helen Huewe
Hope & Healing Fund

www.openingdoorsdbq.org/hopeandhealing



**Opening
Doors**
healing • hope • home



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Sister Helen Huewe

“For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.” Then these just will ask, “When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?” God will answer them, “The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.”

Matthew 25:35-40



Sr. Helen Huewe



Jeff Vaassen, Sr. Helen Huewe, and Gary Collins
Photo courtesy of Digital Dubuque



Archbishop Michael Jackels and Sr. Helen Huewe

For her lifelong dedication to the poor, Sr. Helen Huewe, OSF, was named the 2019 recipient of Divine Word College’s Matthew 25 Award.

1935

Born in Remsen, Iowa on October 1

1955

Entered the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters

1961

BSN from St. Ambrose College

1968

Masters in Hospital Administration from St. Louis University



"We imagine a world where everyone has a place to call home. Each day, we work to fight homelessness by giving it a face while educating women about the systemic issues that contribute to its existence. Through education, structure, and housing, we are changing the narrative on homelessness in our community."

-Carol Gebhart/Executive Director/Opening Doors



Joe & Linda Chlapaty

Sr. Helen wrote a letter to Joe after learning of his philanthropy to the University of Dubuque and made a bold request that he consider helping Opening Doors. The letter sparked a friendship that continued for many years.

"I was shocked and saddened to learn of Sr. Helen's passing. I thought I could have and should have done more when she was alive. Linda and I wanted to do something to recognize her efforts and hard work throughout the course of her life. We wanted to establish a fund in her name that will recognize in perpetuity the good work and good life Sr. Helen lived."

-Joe Chlapaty

1974

Head nurse of the surgical unit at Xavier Hospital

1986-1997

President and CEO of Mercy Health Center

1998

Hired as Project Initiator for Opening Doors

2006

Led efforts to develop Crescent Community Health Center



Sr. Helen Huewe Hope & Healing Fund

The Sr. Helen Huewe Hope & Healing Fund honors Sr. Helen's passion of empowering women by supporting their physical and spiritual health and wellness. This fund will elevate the services provided by Opening Doors.

Established in 2021 with a seed donation of \$100,000 from Joe and Linda Chlapaty and your ongoing generosity, this fund will continue to provide additional services to the women and children of Opening Doors. These supplementary services will include education, wellness and brain health opportunities.

Her Vision

"To empower women to develop their gifts and talents to unlock those doors so that they can achieve their potential and build a life for themselves and their children to break the cycle of homelessness."

-Sr. Helen Huewe

Teresa Shelter



EMERGENCY AND
EXTENDED STAY SHELTER

Maria House



TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING

Francis Apartments



PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Our Values

In all that we do, the Sr. Helen Huewe Hope & Healing Fund

- Abides by Christian principles, including generosity, kindness and unselfishness.
- Upholds the highest standards of ethics.
- Respects donors' intentions.
- Manages resources efficiently.
- Knows when to stay the course and when to adapt.

"There is an energy in us that makes things happen when the paths of other persons touch ours and we have to be there and let it happen. When the time of our particular sunset comes, our things, our accomplishments won't really matter a great deal, but the clarity and care with which we have loved others will speak with vitality of the great gift of life we have been for each other."

"Wherever You Go"
St. Louis Jesuits

2008

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award,
Association of Fundraising Professionals,
Greater Tri-State Chapter

2010

Telegraph Herald First Citizen Award

2013-2020

Founding Board Member
of Steeple Square

2015

Driving force in Crescent's Pacific Islander Health Project
Celebrates 60 years as a Sister of St. Francis of Dubuque



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The Sr. Helen Huewe Hope & Healing Fund will help Opening Doors support the woman who wants to fight the pervasive influence of homelessness, poverty, and abuse by making her life better through education and wellness. This woman understands that the decision to create a better life rests on her with a hand-up from us and support from you.



**Number of
women served:**

2,600



**Number of
children served:**

1,300



**Number
of bed nights:**

100,000

Statistics taken from 2000–2020.



“We are all one, all people are our brothers and sisters, no matter the color of their skin, what they do, or where they live, or how smart or rich they are. We all breathe the same air, walk on the same earth, need the same water and have the same feelings and dreams, and the same basic needs. We all have the same DNA of being human persons, but we don’t all have the same privileges or the same worries.”

Sr. Helen Huewe, OSF, at the time of receiving the Matthew 25 Award at Divine Word College, November 20, 2019.

The donation you make today will help us continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children. Your secure online tax-deductible donation or check, will help fund our three doorways of hope for women and children experiencing homelessness in our community.

Online Giving

www.openingdoorsdbq.org/ways-to-help/donate

By Mail

2100 Asbury Road Suite 8, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

2016

Opening Doors’ Volunteer of the Year

2019

Divine Word College’s Matthew 25 Award

2020

Sr. Helen entered into eternal life on January 11.

Resident Testimonials

“Being here has shown me how to fall in love with my life and who I am as a person. I have many goals still to reach, and a lot of work to do toward them, but now I know I can do it.”

–Morgan



“Everything in my life changed. I see myself differently, I learned how to set boundaries, how to budget my money, how to be accountable for my actions. The staff encouraged and supported me. They saw potential in me when I could not.”

–former resident



“I am thankful for Teresa Shelter because without them, I would not be where I am today. Through my hard work and with the support of Opening Doors’ staff, I have been able to keep my daughter in my care and provide for her while accomplishing many goals of my own.”

–Lora



“I am starting to become the person that I’ve always longed to be. More importantly, I am becoming the mother that my children deserve.”

–Rachel

