



OPEN DOOR MISSION

Your Generosity At Work!

N • E • W • S

Tommy wanted to go back to school...

YOU HELPED OPEN THE DOOR!

Tommy thought his life was beyond repair. "I was virtually at the point of suicide...living a life of crime and drugs," he says. "One night, I asked the Lord for help...I wanted, at the very least, to die with a good heart." God had a better plan.

Surfing the internet for help, Tommy landed on Open Door Mission and read the stories on our website. He was drawn here because he was hungry—but not so much for food. Sure, he needed meals and shelter. But when he cried out to God, he felt an instant change.

"At that point, I really believed for the first time," he explains. "I received Christ and He went to work in my life at that moment!" His newborn faith is what brought Tommy to our

Mission. As he says, "I came in here for *spiritual* help."

Getting Serious

It didn't take long for Tommy to discover that we're equipped and eager to help people start over. As he says, "Everything a person needs to turn his life around, this Mission can provide and *will* provide—if that person is serious." Tommy was serious! First, he dug into God's word, laying a firm foundation. "There's a lot of Christian classes here," he says. "I started reading the Bible and...I kept my focus on Christian-oriented things."

By his seventh month in the Alan and Ann Craft DoorWay Recovery program, Tommy was spiritually strong and drug-free. He was ready to think about the rest of his life. He already had his Associate of Arts degree. Now, as he says, "I realized I wanted to go back to school and get my Bachelor's degree."

Through the Open Doors

After graduation from the DoorWay Recovery program, Tommy entered the Disciple Partners Program. He soon found out through our education instructor, Veronica Oyervides, that he was eligible for a grant to return to college. He applied...and the door opened. "Then I was made aware that the Mission would commit to me

having a place to stay while I went to college," Tommy explains. Around this time, someone recommended the College of Biblical Studies—a school endorsed by many Houston ministers and pastors. "I had the opportunity. The door opened!" Step by step, God was moving Tommy forward.

Today Tommy is enrolled in an accelerated program at the College of Biblical Studies, working on his degree and looking forward to serving God in ministry. In the meantime, he's also volunteering in our education department—tutoring men who need help to get their GED so they, too, can make a fresh start. These days, Tommy can hardly relate to those moments when he considered taking his life. "I asked God to let me die with a good heart," he recalls. "He had other plans. He let me *live* with a good heart!"

Tommy thanks you for your support.
 "There aren't many places like this," he exclaims.
 "The Spirit definitely works here!"

GOOD NEWS inside...



A second chance at hope **2**



A man who is giving back **3**



It's a date! **4**



MY VIEW

A Message from Rick Hill

As a friend of Open Door Mission, you know about our Christ-centered ministry of meals, shelter and hope to hurting men in the Houston area. You may also know about the Russell M. Scott, Jr., M.D. Convalescent Care Center—the largest free respite care facility in the Houston area.

But how much do you know about our Education Department? For example, do you know that we offer classes in the most popular business software applications—such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet access to men and others in the community? And our Education Department provides assistance in preparing applications and securing financial aid for programs at Houston Community College that offer certification in auto mechanics, culinary arts, food service, plumbing, landscaping, and maintenance?

And there's more you may not know about our educational services. But since I've run out of room, let me simply say...a million thanks to you for helping to open doors of hope through our "school of second chances"!

Richard H. Hill, Jr.

Richard H. Hill, Jr. Executive Director

You helped give Craig... A SECOND CHANCE AT HOPE

Most days, from mid-morning until late afternoon, Craig can be found in Open Door Mission's Education department. As he works his way through the DoorWay Program, Craig is already giving back by using his talents and skills to help others get their GED. "Every time somebody comes into the program, we take them and administer an assessment test," he explains. "I do the tests. And I've always been good at math, so I've been helping with algebra and geometry."

When Craig isn't tutoring, he's attending classes, Bible studies or Chapel services. He's laying a solid foundation for the future... and he's building it on the Rock. "I knew God before, but I don't think I was letting Him guide me," says Craig. "I'm spiritually growing right now."

Making the Most of Mistakes

About a year ago, Craig was paroled to Open Door Mission after serving time for selling drugs. He had been a dealer—and a user—but he was ready to clean up his life. The Mission gave him a place to stay while he looked for a job. When an opportunity came about a month later, Craig took it. He also took off. "I made a

lot of money...selling furniture," he recalls. "I had an apartment in the Heights...I had a truck paid for." Things were going well. Then, unexpectedly, Craig was laid off. "I kind of started backsliding into my old habits and addictions," he says.

At first, Craig was reluctant to return to our Mission. Perhaps he felt like his early departure had shut the door here. "At that time, I'd lost just about everything I had," he remembers. So he decided to come back...and see what happened. So what did happen? Craig found an open door and a warm welcome. As he says, "It was quite an experience!"

Craig is grateful to friends like you for making that experience possible. "I'd just like to say that the donations don't go to waste," he says. "They are truly meant to help and support the community and the people that live here." In other words...Craig thanks you for giving him (and so many others) a second chance at hope.



"I never thought I'd teach anybody anything," says Craig, shown here (left) tutoring a GED student. "But I've always been good at math. I've been helping with algebra and geometry."

"...with God's help, (donors) are doing incredible, wonderful things here!"

CONGRATS TO OUR GRADS!

As you can see, it was a Kodak moment! On May 15, 2008 friends, family and staff of Open Door Mission gathered to celebrate the graduation of Samuel, Patrick, and David. Please join with us in congratulating these hardworking men and in praying for God's guidance as they step forward into the future with Him.



Knowledge empowers people. Thank you and God bless you!

meet Carlos... a man who is giving back

Shown here with one of his GED students, Carlos came to the Russell M. Scott, Jr., M.D. Convalescent Care Center to recuperate from an injury. By the time he was well, we just couldn't let him leave! Carlos helps out Mondays through Fridays, teaching Spanish and Math to GED students in our Educational Program and serving as an interpreter whenever we need him. "When I came to Open Door Mission, I came because I needed some help," he says. "But I got my GED here...I just thank God for that! Now I'm able to help somebody else, and I think it's a blessing from the Lord." All of us here at the Mission think Carlos is a blessing from the Lord!



DID YOU KNOW - ?

- All of Open Door Mission's educational classes are open to men in our programs as well as the people in the community.
In 2007, many people received assistance in preparing for the GED exam. We are proud to report that 19 passed and were awarded their GED.
Your support helps make these services and achievements possible.

Thank you!

Share this Good News with a friend. When you are done reading this newsletter, please pass it on ..

It's a DATE! Coming events

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						OCTOBER							
				1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Annual OPEN HOUSE

You're invited!

On October 15 from 1-3 p.m. you are cordially invited to our Annual Open House. Come visit the Mission and take a tour. It's a great way to learn about the wonderful educational programs and services we offer and to see firsthand the difference your donations make in the lives of those we serve. For more information, call (713) 921-7520, ext. 213

August 21
DoorWay Graduation
6 pm, Chapel

September 17
Doorkeepers Wild Game Dinner
For more information contact
Becky: (713) 921-7520, ext. 218

October 15
Annual Open House
1-3 pm

September 18
DoorWay Graduation, 6 pm, Chapel

Wish List

Back to School

Donating school supplies and study materials is a practical way you can help the men in our Educational Program. Your donations will equip them for their Bible and academic studies and also be an encouragement to them as they move diligently forward. Here's a list of items we need:

- Spiral notebooks
- Pens
- Pencils
- Portfolios
- Notebook paper
- Highlighters
- Webster's dictionaries (English & English/Spanish)
- Large-print Bibles
- Study Bibles
- Reading glasses
- Bookmarks
- CD blanks
- Art supplies
- Basic office supplies
- Spanish Level I Textbooks



Thank you for your help!

Please bring your donations to 5803 Harrisburg, 7 am – 9 pm, seven days a week.

Please note: In order to responsibly steward funds, interviews for our newsletter stories are conducted long before the print date. The information herein is based on the interviewee's opinions and experience at the time of the interview.

Here's my gift for Houston's neediest men:

- \$25 \$50 \$150 \$_____
- I commit to a monthly gift of \$_____

To give a gift by credit card, visit us online at www.opendoorhouston.org or call (713) 921-7520, ext 214.

Please return this form with your gift to:
OPEN DOOR MISSION
Richard H. Hill, Jr., Executive Director
PO Box 849
Houston TX 77001-0849

Please make your check payable to: Open Door Mission
THANK YOU!
Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
We will send a receipt for your records.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____@_____

(_____) _____

Telephone _____

This gift is in memory of/ honor of: _____

Please notify: _____
Name

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NH08A 8N/08 13129