

# OPEN DOOR MISSION

## N • E • W • S

*Your Generosity At Work!*

## Thanks to your support, Juan has found **FORGIVENESS AND A SECOND CHANCE**

How do you know when you've hit rock bottom?

For Juan, this humbling moment came after he'd sold his parents' TV, furniture and clothes, and driven his mother to tears of despair.

"It hurt me to see her like that... I knew I needed help," he says. "My wife had also kicked me out of the house."

This was the culmination of 17 years of drug and alcohol abuse—a period in which Juan had been assaulted six times with a gun, and shot once. He was also in and out of rehab, but couldn't stay clean.

Addiction destroyed Juan's marriage and severely damaged his bond with his two children. Nothing mattered except getting

high—until his mother's tears washed his denial away.

### The door to salvation opens

Alcohol and drugs had become the only life Juan knew. He was trapped. Though he longed to be a better man and stop hurting those he loved, he didn't know where to begin.

Then his mother called and told him about Open Door Mission. He traveled from McAllen to Houston right away to check into our recovery program. And he accepted Jesus on the spot.

"I wanted to change my life," he says. "I knew I couldn't do it anymore. I had to get help."

### Recovery and a new life

As Juan worked on his recovery at Open Door Mission, his mind and spirit began to transform.

"First, I got to know God," he says. "This program helped me understand things; to open my eyes and see how I'd messed up my life."

Juan also got help with math, spelling and the other basics of education he'd neglected since he dropped out of high school years before. Now he plans to return to school, get his GED and reunite with his wife and children.

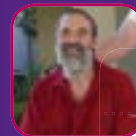
"I want to work and make a new life," he says. "There's a lot of help in this program. I never imagined it would be like this."

**"I want to work  
and make a new life."**



*Drug addiction led Juan down a dark road of pain and deceit—but with God's help and the support of caring people like you, he's now clean and reunited with his beloved family.*

## GOOD NEWS *inside...*



A lost leg—  
A new life

2



Graduates  
give thanks

2



Holy Week  
chapel service

4



**MY VIEW**

A Message from  
**Rick Hill**

**“...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”**

—2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

*I love celebrating the Easter season and the boundless potential for change it brings to the men seeking a fresh start at Open Door Mission.*

*The words above from Corinthians are especially meaningful to those who've traveled the road of darkness and suffering to make their way here. They assure them that the past can be redeemed, that broken lives can be mended, and that any man can renew himself through faith in God.*

*Your prayers and donations are also an essential part of this process of renewal. By supporting the Mission, you let each and every man who comes here know you believe in him, and that you feel he's worthy of a second chance. This is of immeasurable value to those who've lost all dignity and hope.*

*So please accept my most profound gratitude for all you do to give new beginnings to men seeking a brighter path at Open Door Mission. May God bless you for your faith and generosity.*

*Richard H. Hill*

Richard H. Hill, Jr.  
Executive Director

## Your compassion helped Marc find God and new strength at Open Door Mission

After spending a lifetime fishing the oceans between Canada and Cuba, Marc found himself too old for the work and without a safety net.

“My health wasn't that good. I started selling the *Chronicle* for pick-up money. It was better than begging,” he says.

Little did Marc know how dangerous his new job would be. While selling the paper on a median, he was struck by a

**“Marc is one of those people that help me continue to be grateful for all the blessings God has poured into my life.”**

Tim Lloyd  
Open Door Mission trainer

car. The next thing he knew, he was in the hospital with a colostomy bag and an amputated leg.

With no money and nowhere to go, Marc found his way to Open Door Mission, where our personal trainer, Tim Lloyd, started Marc on intensive physical therapy. Lots of exercise, occupational training and re-acquaintance with God have given Marc newfound strength and self-esteem.

“God is slowly going to bring me out of the hole,” he says. “I learned how NOT to quit.”

Marc's faith, courage and optimism have inspired everyone around him, including his trainer, Tim.



Marc recovered his strength and self-esteem by working with Open Door Mission trainer Tim Lloyd.

## NEW BEGINNINGS for DoorWay Graduates

Your support of the Alan and Ann Craft DoorWay Recovery and Rehabilitation Program is a profound blessing for graduates like Clarence and James, who found new beginnings in the fellowship and spiritual guidance they received.



Clarence

“I knew I needed a change of life. I asked the Lord for help and He gave me Open Door Mission.”



James

“Open Door Mission is a place of rest, comfort and shelter...I was able to restructure my life through setting my priorities in order and keeping God first.”

## “Drugs and alcohol turned my life into a living hell”

Sometimes the reasons behind a man's addiction are hard to fathom. That was the case for Derek. He grew up in a nice Christian household with loving parents and siblings. He did well in school and sports, and had his sights set on college.

But he never made it past high school.

“That's when I started going down a different road. I got involved in drugs and alcohol,” he explains.

At first it seemed fun and harmless. Derek was just “partying with friends.” But his substance abuse increased. He went through relationships with women quickly and had three kids, but never married. Then one day he realized he'd lost control.

### Turning the corner

“Drugs and alcohol turned my life into a living hell,” he says.

“[I] had different thinking, different attitudes, different respect values toward others.”

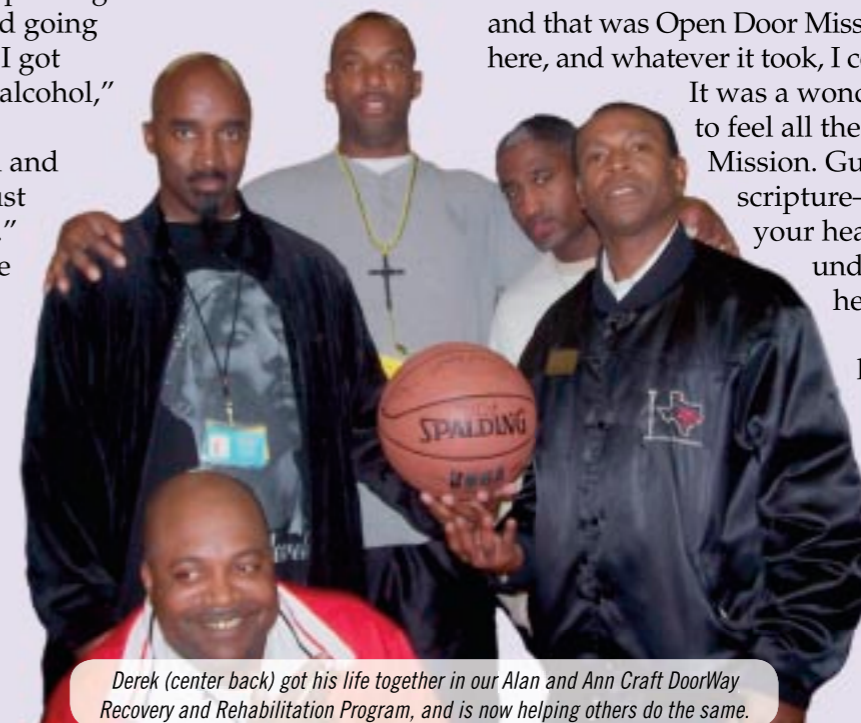
Then one day, while hanging out on a street corner, Derek met a man who impressed him deeply. He had an air of confidence and serenity.

“I asked him what he did and he told me where he was, and that was Open Door Mission,” says Derek. “I came here, and whatever it took, I committed myself to doing it.”

It was a wonderful experience for Derek to feel all the love and peace at the Mission. Guided by his favorite scripture—“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...” (Proverbs 3:5)—he turned his life around.

Now, focused and on track, he's determined to help others who are struggling as he once was.

“[The Mission] has helped me by opening my mind back up to thinking better and making right decisions for myself,” he says. “The things I have received...I can give back...”



Derek (center back) got his life together in our Alan and Ann Craft DoorWay Recovery and Rehabilitation Program, and is now helping others do the same.

**2008 UPDATE**

**Last year with your help, we accomplished the following:\***

- 172,000** meals provided
- 3,500** people served
- 59,000** nights of shelter
- 42** decisions for Christ
- 89** lives restored
- 61** DoorWay graduates
- 15** GEDs completed
- 62,694** classroom hours in recovery education interventions
- 60,000**

**God bless you**

for helping make each and every one of these life-changing accomplishments possible! Together we can help even more hurting men build new lives in 2009.



\*Numbers are based on 11 months actual and 1 month projected.

**Holy Week Chapel Service and Foot-Washing**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

To celebrate this time of renewal, we invite you to join us for worship and foot-washing of our recovering guests, followed by feasting in

our dining room. Make your Easter truly meaningful this year through devotion, humble service and warm fellowship.



For more information or to make a reservation, please call (713) 921-7520.

**Easter celebration: Dinner and Children's Egg Hunt for our recovering residents and their families**

**Date: Easter Sunday, April 12 Time: 4:30 p.m.**



To volunteer, please call (713) 921-7520, ext. 231

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 Easter 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in  memory of/ honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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