



Open Door Mission

January
2005

N • E • W • S

Good News INSIDE...

A "cool" proposition 2



The power of education 2



Curtis Lovett: Helping men move on 3



Matching gift opportunity 4



His name on the mailbox...

Crippled by childhood polio, Robert Perry has spent most of his life in a wheelchair. The youngest of 23 kids (**yes, 23!**), Robert's options were limited. But he had his dreams—and one of them was simply to someday have a home with his own name on the mailbox. Although Robert worked off and on repairing televisions, his income was never enough to support himself. He lived with a sister, until one day he took to the streets. "I wanted to be alone," he recalls. And so he was...homeless and alone in downtown Houston, for five years.

On the streets in a wheelchair

Being homeless was incredibly hard for Robert, who has to wheel himself around. As hunger took its toll, he became less and less mobile, sleeping the days away and growing weaker and thinner. He might have died if God had not led him to Open Door Mission, where he entered the Russell Scott, Jr. M.D. Convalescent Care Center, previously called the Healing Dorm. As manager George Steed says, "We provide food, clothing and shelter. We have collective agreements with agencies to provide health care, arrange permanent housing, establish a health care routine..."

For Robert, the first challenge was getting his health back. But with regular, nutritious meals, he gradually put on weight and grew strong again. As he made friends in the

Center and attended Chapel, his lonely heart and soul also began to heal. His appetite and skin tone returned, he found hope and joy in the Lord...and today he's ready to move on.

Independence Day

With a new motorized wheelchair, Robert's going everywhere now! The Center has helped him get into the Metro Lift program, a handicapped shuttle service—and soon Robert will move into his own apartment in ODM's Independent Hall. Here he'll have a support system that will empower him to be self-reliant, while providing meals and other services he needs help with. As a special perk, Robert will finally have his name on a mailbox. Who says that dreams can't come true?



Robert Perry is gaining a new life of independence.

"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

~2 Corinthians 3:17



MY VIEW

A Message from Rick Hill

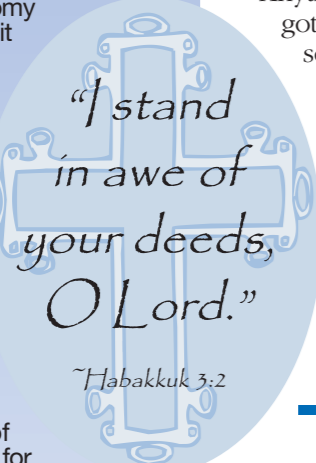
As 2005 dawns on the world at large, Open Door Mission begins a new era of ministry to the homeless and needy right here in Houston. As you may know, we have just completed a year of celebration in honor of our Golden Anniversary. What a glorious year it was! And now it's time to turn our eyes toward the future. As we do, I am reminded of how Moses eased the fears of his people as he prepared them for their work in the Promised Land. He said, "...the eyes of the Lord God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year." (Deuteronomy 11:12) What a comfort it is to know that God is looking out for us, all through the year!

Already our calendar is filling up with exciting events and opportunities to help us make a difference for the needy people we serve. We've listed the dates here, so you can plan to participate. I don't know every detail of what God has in store for Open Door Mission as we begin a new era in our service to hungry, homeless people. But I do know one thing: Changing lives is part of the plan. Will you join hands with us? I wouldn't want you to miss out!

Thank you, and may God bless you,

Richard H. Hill, Jr.

Executive Director



A "cool" proposition

\$18,500 raised!

About 60 Open Door Mission staff, volunteers and clients recently joined with other local nonprofit organizations to help with a clean-up operation at the closing of west Houston's Town & Country Mall. The mall's owner invited charity workers to come and salvage leftover store merchandise, light fixtures, plants, air conditioners... you name it! "We've stripped it," said Curtis Lovett, director of ODM's Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Work Study Program.

"Anything that's got a value, we're selling it off. Then we'll pool the money, and all the charities will benefit." During the clean-up the

Mission was able to collect scrap aluminum and copper, which was sold. Proceeds are earmarked for the installation of an air conditioner—a cool proposition indeed for the 214 men who had to sleep through 90-degree nights last summer.



At the closing of Town & Country Mall, staff, volunteers and clients helped with a salvage operation to benefit the Mission and other local charities.

"No matter where they are today, they can overcome"

As Director of the Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Work Study Program, Curtis Lovett has a tough job. With more than 100 men enrolled in the program and others waiting, it's not easy to give every client the individual attention he needs. "You sort of become their parent," says Curtis. "I love it, but it's a challenge. I hope and pray I'm doing the right thing for each one."

Under Curtis's leadership, men are

receiving the spiritual and practical guidance they need to turn their lives around. "We've started so many things," Curtis explains enthusiastically. "Bible Studies, Alpha classes [an outreach program], more education and opportunities to build self-esteem..." As Curtis ministers to the many and varied needs of the men he serves, he strives to teach them that God is their shepherd.

They're not alone, and as it says in Philippians 4:13, they can overcome every problem through Jesus. As Curtis says, "It's important for them to know that no matter where they are today, they can overcome."



"When you hear the stories and become friends with these guys, life has a whole different perspective," says Curtis Lovett (at left).

It's time for another Gala Celebration!



It's that time again! Last year over 300 friends of the Mission attended our annual Gala, and we're expecting even more at this year's celebration, to be held at The Houston Country Club. Honored guests will include three past presidents of our Board of Trustees: John B. Brock (1991-92), Walter P. Zivley (1992-96; 1997-2000) and Sam Sorrell (1997).

A limited number of tickets are available for this year's Gala. Every ticket sold—at \$300 each—helps Open Door Mission share God's blessings and change lives. Call Meg Naumann today at (713) 921-7520 ext. 218 for reservations and more information.

The power of education



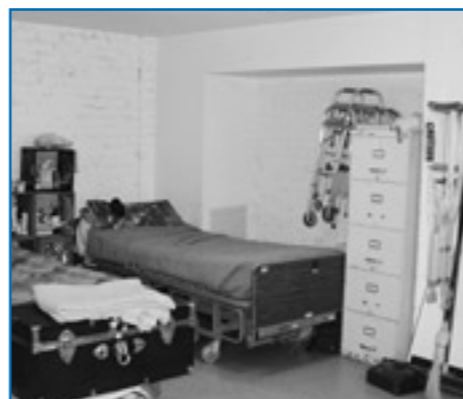
At Open Door Mission, we tailor our education programs to match the needs of each client.

When it comes to preparing men for life, Open Door Mission really lives up to its name. Our Education

Department "opens the door of opportunity" by equipping and enabling men with the knowledge and skills to succeed. Each man is given a series of diagnostic tests, and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is tailored to meet his educational needs.

For example, men without a high school diploma receive instruction to obtain their General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Students with limited knowledge of English are helped to develop proficiency in pronunciation, vocabulary, spelling and grammar. And in our Computer Lab, men learn skills that are viable in today's workplace.

Our Healing Dorm has a new name!



In honor of a generous gift, ODM's Healing Dorm was renamed the Russell Scott, Jr. M.D. Convalescent Care Center at a dedication ceremony held on November 30. We've expanded from 22 to 40 beds to accommodate more and more men who need help to recover from injuries, illnesses or disabilities.

Happy Holiday



Memories

Open Door Mission would like to thank all of you who helped us make the holiday season a happy, joyful time here at the Mission. Over 1,600 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals were served to some of Houston's most needy. And more than 100 children received gifts through the Toys for Kids drive, thanks to the generosity of our caring donors and corporate partners in this project: The Flexitallic Group, Union Stationers, Kingdom Kids Learning Center and The Art Institute of Houston. God bless you one and all!

MAY WE PLEASE ASK...

Do you have a car, van, or truck you'd like to donate?

Is the vehicle located in the Houston Metro area?

Do you have a clear title in your possession?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, contact Tonica Allen at (713) 921-7520, ext. 223 or e-mail tallen@opendoorhouston.org to learn about our vehicle donation program. We'll even pick up! You'll get a tax-deductible receipt—and the great feeling of knowing you're helping some of the most needy people in the Houston area. Why not call now?



This faithful van is on its last legs. PLEASE HELP!!

Planned Giving

As you make plans for your estate, remember Open Door Mission! Please consider leaving a legacy to guarantee that the Mission will continue to be here to do our vital work for many years to come. For details, check out our website at www.opendoorhouston.org.

Your employer may match your gift!

You may be able to double the impact of your gift to Open Door Mission—and help twice as many homeless, hurting people! Many employers in the Houston area have matching gift programs. There's a partial list below, but if you don't see your company's name...ask your Human Resources representative or call us here at the Mission.

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Administrastaff | Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas Royalty Trust | PC World/IDG Central Services |
| Altura Energy, Ltd. | Gatx Corporation | PepsiCo |
| American International Group | Glaxo Welcome | Pfizer, Inc. |
| American Ref-fuel | Hoechst Celanese | Phillip Morris |
| Andersen Consulting | Home Depot | Pitney Bowes |
| Apache Cooperation | Input/Output | Pogo Producing |
| Arco | John Hancock Mutual Insurance Company | Pohlad Family Charities |
| Baker Hughes (Subsidiaries not included) | JP Morgan and Company | Prudential |
| Bank of America | KPRC/TV 2 | Puffer Sweiven |
| BP | Kemper Group | Quaker Oats |
| Burlington Resources | Keystone International | Rust International |
| Champion International | Landmark Graphics | Safeco Insurance |
| Chase Bank | Kirby Inland Marine | Sara Lee Foundation |
| Charles Schwab | Lubrizol Corporation | Seitel |
| Citicorp | Lyondell Petrochemical | St. Paul Companies |
| Clorox | Maquire Oil | Sherwin Williams |
| Compaq Computer | Massachusetts Mutual Life | Stride Rite |
| Conoco | McFonnell Douglas | Tandy/Shack |
| Cooper Industries | Millipore Mobil | Temple Inland |
| Cray Researcher | Mony | Tenet Healthcare |
| Dain Rauscher | Morgan Stanley | Texas National Bank |
| Dixie Carrier Inland | Murphy Oil | Thermon Manufacturing |
| Dynegy | Mutual of America | Toshiba |
| EOG Resources | Newfield Exploration | Toys R Us |
| Equistar Chemicals | NGC Corporation | Transamerica Corporation |
| Equitable Life | Northern Trust Company | United States Fidelity and Guaranty |
| Equiva Services | Norton Company | Union Pacific |
| First Data Corporation | Ocean Energy | Union Texas Petroleum |
| Freeport Data Corporation | Oracle | W.W. Grainger, Inc. |

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

- \$25 \$50 \$150 \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT _____

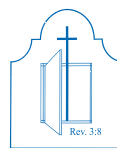
CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

THANK YOU!

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

Please return this card with your gift to:



Open Door Mission

**P.O. BOX 9356
HOUSTON, TX 77261-9356**