

# LIFE WITH THE MISSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OPEN DOOR MISSION



## OUR TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES

Here at Open Door Mission, not only are the lives of our men transformed but the Mission also is constantly changing and evolving to meet the needs of our men.

In the past two months we have debuted a new website, a new fundraising platform and now we are expanding our DoorWay Program to allow us to transform more men's lives than ever before. We would love to say there is a reduced need for drug and alcohol rehabilitation but unfortunately that is not the case. We have added a new Addiction Counselor and a new Clinical Assistant allowing us to serve more men because the need is out there.



## WE NEED YOU!

With the expansion of our program, comes the increased cost of running the Mission. The Mission is 100% donor funded without any government funding, so we depend on our generous donors and volunteers to help in the transformation of these men that want to change and start a new successful, sober life.

If you would like to help us in this mission, visit our website at [OpenDoorHouston.org](http://OpenDoorHouston.org) to find out how you can donate to or volunteer at Open Door Mission.

We thank you ahead of time for supporting this worthy cause and God bless you.

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In our Spring newsletter I spoke about trauma and its causes and promised to come back to it. In this letter I will address part two— Emotional Abuse.

# President's Letter

In review, trauma is caused by the stressors and abuses our clients experienced in childhood, and into adulthood. ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) can be emotional/psychological/verbal, physical, sexual, and financial. When multiple ACEs occur, trauma is present.

Today, I address the emotional abuse of fatherlessness. Our clients come to the Mission fatherless. It is ubiquitous amongst them. And the cycle continues. They have become fatherless to their children thereby continuing the emotional abuse of neglect, abandonment, and rejection.

As I say to our clients, **every child needs a positive male influence in his or her life**. Positive is the key word. In our mess we are not a positive male influence.

Next week is Father's Day. Visitation will occur on Saturday, June 15. At the Mission, it is our prayer that reconciliation might happen but only where it is appropriate. This can be the beginning.

Reconciliation is biblical and found throughout the New Testament. Begin with 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."* **Reconciliation is central to God's redemptive plan.** And it is central to our plan at ODM.

Reconciliation is to occur with our four relationships: one is with God, one with self, with others, and with all of God's creation. God comes first, then our family. Our children need their fathers. Their biological, adoptive, or stepfather **and** their eternal Father.

It is the Mission's dream to reverse the horrendous statistics that come from fatherlessness. Every child is starving for attention that only comes from love. It is time to end the senseless rising number of fatherless homes and bring the father back into the family and home.

I will continue this theme in the next newsletter; and I promise to speak about it at our monthly **Lunch With a Mission** open house on the second Thursday. Let's talk about reconciliation and relationships over lunch. Until then, or when you come for lunch, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,



**Tommy Thompson**  
President and CEO

61% of Black/African American homes in the US are without a father. The figure is 43% for Hispanics and 24% for White families.  
*Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation*



# Volunteer Spotlight

At Open Door Mission, faith is the cornerstone of recovery. But faith alone isn't enough. It takes a village to help individuals struggling with addiction rebuild their lives. This is where the invaluable role of volunteers comes in.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Open Door Mission, extending the hand of compassion and support in numerous ways:

## 1. Nourishing Bodies and Souls in the Kitchen

A hot meal can mean the world to someone who has been living on the streets. Volunteers in the kitchen not only prepare nutritious meals but also create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. This simple act of service can be a turning point, showing residents that they are cared for and valued.

## 2. Mentoring: Guiding with Experience and Empathy

Many residents at Open Door Mission have experienced trauma, broken relationships, and a loss of self-worth. Mentors offer a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on, and guidance based on their own life experiences. This one-on-one connection can be instrumental in helping residents stay on the path to recovery.

## 3. Tutoring: Empowering Minds for a Brighter Future

Addiction often disrupts education and career paths. Volunteer tutors help residents catch up on missed schooling, prepare for GED exams, or even explore vocational training options. This educational support empowers residents to envision a future beyond addiction.

## 4. Maintenance: Creating a Safe and Welcoming Environment

From landscaping to painting to general repairs, volunteers ensure that the Open Door Mission facilities are well-maintained. A clean and inviting environment fosters a sense of dignity and pride, which is crucial for residents on their journey to recovery.

## Why Volunteer at Open Door Mission?

- **Make a Real Difference:** Your time and talents directly impact the lives of individuals struggling with addiction.
- **Grow in Faith:** Serving others is a core tenet of many faiths. Volunteering at Open Door Mission is a way to put your faith into action.
- **Gain New Skills and Perspectives:** Whether it's cooking, mentoring, or tutoring, you'll have opportunities to learn and grow personally.
- **Become Part of a Supportive Community:** The Open Door Mission community is filled with compassionate individuals who are passionate about helping others.

## How to Get Involved:

If you feel called to serve, Open Door Mission welcomes volunteers from all walks of life. Visit [OpenDoorHouston.org](http://OpenDoorHouston.org) or email Bill White at [bwhite@opendoorhouston.org](mailto:bwhite@opendoorhouston.org) to learn more about available opportunities and how you can contribute to our life-changing mission.

Your willingness to serve can be the spark that ignites hope in someone's life. Together, we can open doors to a brighter future.

# Client & Staff Spotlight

## Richard McKinsey Client of the Doorway Program

Richard shares a similar story to other clients in the DoorWay program. Richard has been through this program before and even became an employee of the Mission. Unfortunately, even though Richard was doing well, life had a different plan for him and he relapsed.



Richard's life spiraled out of control hitting rock-bottom once again. Fortunately or unfortunately, Richard ended up in jail and that probably saved his life. He knew he needed more help and reached out to the Mission to find it.

Richard returned to the Mission humbly and started the DoorWay program again. Like it was for Richard, sometimes it takes going through the program twice before you truly understand the lessons in sobriety we teach. Since Richard returned, he has been asset to the staff here helping as the assistant to the Intake Manager. He greets men that are brand new to the program, gets them settled and makes them comfortable in their new environment.

Richard graduates in June and has a bright future. He is educated, talented and a gifted preacher having grown up in church his whole life. Richard will be taking over our Education Department and is going to achieve great things in his new life in sobriety and in Christ.



## JOHN MARTIN Clinical Supervisor

While many of the staff at the Mission are graduates of the Doorway program, John is not. But he is in recovery himself.

John came to us by chance while pounding the pavement looking for work. He just happened to ask at the front gate if if we were a rehab facility and the rest is history.

John is an incredible example of how someone could have everything this world has to offer, lose everything and hit rock bottom. For some that would break them, but for John it was just a new start. Now he has rebuilt his life, went to school for his LCDC and now serving the men of Open Door Mission.

John is truly an inspiration and we are lucky to have him as a staff member at the Open Door Mission.



## DO YOU NEED CATERING FOR YOUR EVENT?

Consider hiring Mission Kitchen Catering and help support the Mission and the men that come here for transformation.

Visit: [MissionKitchen.info](http://MissionKitchen.info) for more information or to place an order.



# Events Spotlight

There are two events that we repeat every month.

### Lunch With A Mission

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at noon for a catered lunch by our own Mission Kitchen Catering. Lunch also includes a presentation about the Mission followed by a tour.



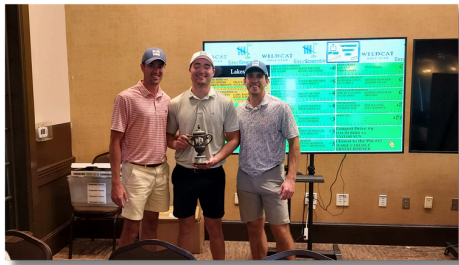
### Graduation Day

On the third Thursday of each month at 6pm, we gather in the chapel to celebrate the graduates from the DoorWay program.



For more information or to RSVP for these events, visit our website at [OpenDoorHouston.org](http://OpenDoorHouston.org)

## INNAGURAL DRIVING FOR CHANGE GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Driving for Change Golf Tournament was held on June 12th at Wildcat Golf Club and it was a huge success. Thank you to everyone that supported the campaign and we can't wait for next year! We will see you on the green!





# Programs Spotlight

## Philip Vaughn – C.O.O.



Everyone at Open Door Mission, clients, and staff, have heard me say it: “Recovery is not abstinence”. Recovery is a holistic journey toward building a meaningful and fulfilling life. Abstinence, the cessation of substance use, is an essential component of recovery, but it is not the entirety of recovery.

True recovery delves deeper, addressing the underlying issues that led to addiction and fostering personal growth, resilience, and a renewed sense of purpose.

At its core, recovery is about reclaiming one’s life from addiction. It involves identifying and healing the emotional, psychological, and sometimes physical wounds that contributed to substance dependence. This process requires introspection, therapy, and the development of coping mechanisms that do not involve turning to substances to escape.

A critical aspect of recovery is the pursuit of a life that one does not need to escape from. This involves creating a balanced and fulfilling existence, where an individual can find joy, satisfaction, and meaning. It includes building healthy relationships, engaging in fulfilling activities, and setting and achieving personal goals. Recovery is about rediscovering passions, hobbies, and interests that may have been overshadowed by addiction.

Ultimately, recovery is about finding purpose. Purpose gives individuals a reason to stay committed to their recovery journey. It may come from various sources: a career, a Mission, artistic pursuits, or simply being a supportive friend or family member. Purpose provides direction and motivation, making the prospect of relapse less appealing.

Recovery is a multifaceted and ongoing process. It is about much more than just abstaining from substances; it is about healing, growth, and creating a life filled with purpose and fulfillment. It is about transforming oneself and one’s circumstances to the point where the need for escape diminishes and is replaced by a genuine appreciation for life’s possibilities.







"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

-ISAIAH 41:10

# In Memoriam

## DAVID G. MICLETTE

Carmen Knapp  
 Todd Loehnert  
 Shaun Castillo  
 Butch Paschal  
 Nancy & Jay Kelley  
 Susan Toomey  
 Clay Rogers  
 Sara Paine  
 Douglas Fountain  
 Allen Knepper  
 Courtney Mitchell

Linda Moore  
 Robert Overbey  
 Gail Faris  
 Sally Giammalva  
 Peter Quinn  
 Samuel F. Brown  
 Ned S. Holmes  
 Jane M. Osborne  
 Mary L. Plumhoff  
 Frank & Debbie Jones  
 Elaine Ellis

Ron H. Drees  
 Kenneth L. Mattox  
 Pamela E. Sterlekar  
 Richard J. Kolencik  
 Robert & Maurine E. Garza  
 Tim M. McCommon  
 Jack S. Blount  
 Linda A. Summers  
 Jim Drew  
 A. Patrick McEvoy Jr.

## COLE MILNE

Darla Milne

## JUDY JOY

Glenn Edgecomb

## SCOTT YAYNER

Elini Brooks

## DAVE BOSTON

Frances Johnson

## V, L, AND J

Walter & Mary Linoski

# In Honor

## CASEY CLAY CROCKER

Pamela Crocker

## JOHN MARTIN

Susan LeBlanc

## THE CRAIN FOUNDATION

Susan LeBlanc

## PASTOR JON ALWORTH 100.7 THE WORD

Aaron Schrenk

## FRED SMITH (ENSEMBLE CHOIR)

Doug & Sally Abbott

## JULY/AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Yes! I want to support the men of Open Door Mission in their transformation

Enclosed is my gift of: \$50 \$100 \$125 \$200 \$300 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please add my email for news and updates from the Mission \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 849  
 Houston, TX 77001-0849  
 713-921-7520

Thank You!  
 Your gift is tax deductible.  
 Please make checks payable to *Open Door Mission*  
 You can also donate online at  
[OpenDoorHouston.org/donate](http://OpenDoorHouston.org/donate)



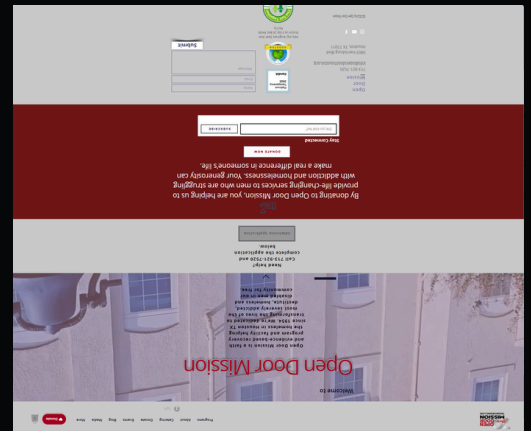
OPEN DOOR MISSION  
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 HOUSTON, TX 77011

OPENDOORHOUSTON.ORG

LIFE WITH THE MISSION

We are here for you. Our Doorway Residential Treatment Program is accepting clients and it's free of charge. No money or insurance needed. Contact our intake manager at 832-962-4256 or visit [OpenDoorHouston.org](http://OpenDoorHouston.org)

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED HELP FOR ADDICTION?



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE! Our new website is up and running with new features like live chat and new ways to donate.