

OPEN DOORS



Of WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Open Doors Food and Clothing Pantry

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Westfield IN 46074

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Website: www.opendoorswestfield.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



WINTER EDITION

One year ago, no one would have ever thought that we would have been living with the COVID-19 virus and its terrible effects on our lives and our economy for a full year. The Open Doors Pantry has fared well, but we have had to make a lot of adjustments in the way we run the Pantry and serve our clients. We are all hopeful that 2021 and the COVID vaccines will allow all of us to return to some semblance of normalcy in our lives. We have missed many of our volunteers who have been hunkering down at home to avoid coming in contact with the virus.

In spite of everything that has taken place this year, Open Doors has not missed a beat in serving our clients. In fact, we added 59 new families during the year. Many new volunteers have helped us maintain our high level of service to our client families. We welcome them and appreciate their desire to serve.

Due to our many generous donors, Open Doors has been able, once again, to conduct all of our special programs. Spring Cleaning Baskets were distributed in April. Weekend Backsacks continued to be delivered to the intermediate and middle schools. Back to School Backpacks were again given out in August. An abundance of food was distributed during our Thanksgiving meal distribution. And this year we combined the Amanda Strong Food Distribution with our Christmas Toy program. Thanks to our many generous donors, Open Doors had an overabundance of toys for children in Westfield Washington Township. We were able to provide a second bag of toys from Santa to all the children.

As we begin the New Year, we are already thinking of spring and our Spring Cleaning Basket program. Be on the lookout for notices on our website and on social media for locations to drop off donations of cleaning supplies.

Election of officers took place at our Board Meeting on January 15. Those elected are as follows:

Bruce Watson, President **Carrie Larrison**, Vice President **Jerry Rosenberger**, Treasurer **Kathy Patterson**, Secretary **Kurt Wanninger**, Executive Advisor

We welcome Carrie to the Board and are grateful for her willingness to serve Open Doors in the VP capacity.

As the year unfolds, we are looking for ways to better serve our clients and to be able to provide for more families in our community.

Best wishes and Blessings in this New Year! Stay Safe and Stay Well!

Bruce Watson – President

OUR MISSION: Improving the quality of life of Washington Township area residents through food and clothing assistance, referral to community service and spiritual guidance.

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me.”

*Matthew
25:35*

OPEN DOORS OFFICERS

Bruce Watson

President

Carrie Larrison

Vice President

Kurt Wanninger

Executive Advisor

Kathy Patterson

Secretary

Jerry Rosenberger

Treasurer

WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS WELCOMES NEW YEAR

We had a very busy end of the year with multiple donations and food drives throughout the months of November and December, as well as opening up the warehouse to be used for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food distributions. I am pleased to say that we were able to sort and box all items by year end and we welcomed the New Year with a little less frenzy. A BIG thank you to all of our volunteers.

As January rolled around our focus has been removing all 2020 outdated food and moving out of the pick area. We are also taking all 2021 boxes in the warehouse and breaking them down by quarter and then updating the back-up pick area with food products labeled by quarter so that the food with soonest expiration dates will be used in the appropriate sequence and removing some items back to the warehouse. We are evaluating ways of not holding over any program items throughout the course of the year so that the warehouse can be used primarily for food and supply storage.

We are also in the process of reviewing all documentation that has historically been produced and creating a new Operations Binder. We may host some re-education meetings to all volunteers as a refresher of processes and opportunity for feedback. We have also been diligent in continuing to have all volunteers sign in and record temperatures and look for any trends.



Lastly, as part of our on-going participation with [Feeding America](#) and [Gleaners](#) we completed a recertification successfully in December with accolades on our organization.

Carolyn Searle



MEMBER CHURCHES

Christ United
Methodist Church
Westfield, IN

Crossroads Church at
Westfield Westfield, IN

Eagle Creek Friends
Westfield, IN

Hortonville United
Methodist Sheridan, IN

Legacy Stone Church
Westfield, IN

Lifepointe Church
Westfield, IN

Mts. Runn Baptist
Church Zionsville, IN

New Joy Lutheran
Church Westfield, IN

Northview Church
Carmel IN

Northview Church
Westfield Campus
Westfield, IN

Radiant Christian Life
Westfield, IN

The Journey Church
Westfield, IN

Westfield Friends
Church Westfield, IN

OUR BOOK PROGRAM

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”. — Frederick Douglass.

We want to remind everyone that only Sandy Rosenberger should move books from the stock room to the front. She reviews all books for age and content appropriateness and finds homes for books Open Doors does not accept.

We have a large number of books. We will encourage clients to take books and will check with Salvation Army and church schools to see if they would like some. We are considering placing a book box in the front of the building. *Sandy Rosenberger*

2021 Calendar of Events

Board of Directors Meetings *Jan. 14, April 8,
July 8, October 14*

Spring Cleaning Baskets Distribution *April 1-29*

Postal Food Drive *May 8*

Back to School Backpack Give Away *August 7*

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic *August 11*

Thanksgiving Food Distribution *November 20*

Christmas Toy and Clothing Distribution
December 4

Pantry Closed *December 25 and January 1*

**OPEN DOORS
COORDINATORS**

Warehouse
Carolyn Searle

Food Rescue
Bruce Watson

Advocates
Lorna Mills

Clothing
Beth Montag

Church Reps
Kim Kercheval

Volunteers
Ann Godby

Food Pantry
Margie Smith

SPRING CLEANING BASKET PROGRAM

Before you know it, spring will arrive here in Central Indiana. March 21st is just two months away. It is time once again to begin thinking about spring cleaning. This program is one of the most anticipated of the Open Doors Special Programs. This year, as a result of the COVID-19 Virus, keeping our houses clean and sanitized couldn't be more important. So, again we are asking that you help our clients out by donating some of the supplies listed.

Laundry Detergent	Large Roll Paper Towels
Fabric Softener	Dish Towel
Bleach	Dish Cloth
Dish Soap	SOS Pads
Scouring Powder	Sponge
All Purpose Cleaner (Pine Sol)	Scrub Sponge
All Purpose Disinfectant Spray	Scrub Pad
Bathroom Spray Cleaner	Kitchen Trash Bags
Window Cleaner	30 Gal. Trash Bags
Disinfectant Wipes	
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	



We distribute 115 – 120 baskets of cleaning supplies, so please be generous with your donations. Please begin gathering your donations now, as some of the cleaning supplies are in short supply. They can be dropped off at the Pantry anytime in the Donations Box or on a day when we are open. *Bruce Watson Coordinator*



Christmas Toys Delivered

We delivered new gifts and/or gift cards to 228 families (448 children) this year. We couldn't have done it without the generosity of the community. For donations, I used SignUpGenius listing all of the kids by ID# and their specific gift requests. Hundreds of individuals and businesses stepped up to donate gifts, and 80 people made deliveries in the rain on Saturday, December 12th. It was nice to coordinate our efforts and deliveries with Carrie, Amber and Shawna this year. Due to COVID-19 and Carrie's success with deliveries for Thanksgiving, we decided to deliver all the gifts along with their gift cards and food. We ended up with 13 folks not home for the delivery or had moved. Most of those were able to come pick up in the following week or one of us dropped off at a later date. It is difficult to name all the generous members of our community that chipped in a gift or a lot of gifts to make 448 kids very happy. I also want to thank everyone for passing along that SignUpGenius to their various groups. We truly had a very generous response from our community. ***LeAnne Zentz Coordinator***

2020 Holiday Food Distribution Efforts Continue Many Years of Service

THANKSGIVING We distributed food to 224 families this year. Thanks to businesses and community members, all canned items were donated, and Meijer donated gift cards that paid for all of the turkeys!

We distributed: 3108 canned/boxed items, 380 pounds of potatoes, 1200 apples, 350 pounds of carrots, 200 pounds of onions, 476 loaves of bread, 224 turkeys, 204 gallons of milk, 237 pumpkin pies, 222 boxes of margarine, 222 tubs of Cool Whip.

Special Thanks to the following, who assisted and/or donated food:

• Westfield Public Works Dept. • Rotary Club • Lions' Club • Westfield Teachers & Staff • Girl Scouts • Wittler Orthodontics • Kroger • Meijer • City of Westfield • Westfield Trustees office • New Joy Church • Abundant Life Church • Administrative Strategies *Carrie Larrison Coordinator*

PANTRY REPORT

Clients Served: 6216

Pounds of Food Distributed: 141,661

New Families Served: 59

Total Families Served: 1541

Pantry Hours

9 AM-12:00 PM recurring every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Additional hours have been added to better serve our clients for the front room only, Mondays from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. All the foods and clothing in the front room will be available. Honoring COVID-19 protocols, only four people at a time may shop, and masks must be worn. No children please.

CHRISTMAS We distributed food to 228 families this year. Thanks to businesses and community members, all canned items were donated! We were able to use the remainder of our gift cards from Meijer to pay for most of the perishable items.

We distributed: 2422 canned/boxed items, 520 loaves of bread, 276 turkey breasts, 214 gallons of milk, 245 apple pies, 228 boxes of margarine, 245 cartons of eggs.

Special thanks to the following, who assisted and/or donated food, plus our 80 delivery drivers:

- National Charity League
- Cub Scout troop 126
- Westfield Public Works Dept.
- Meijer

Carrie Larrison Coordinator

CHRISTMAS CLOTHING

Because of COVID-19, we had to make some adjustments to our clothing drive this year. We did not collect clothing donations but instead collected monetary donations in order to purchase \$25 gift cards so the kids could make their own purchases. This worked extremely well and at no time was I concerned with virus exposure for our volunteers.

450 KIDS RECEIVED GIFT CARDS

My hope is that we do not have to operate this way again. However, if we do, Target was cooperative with our bulk order and even rushed delivery for us. *Amber Janes and Shawna Harouff*



NEVER TOO YOUNG TO PACK
4
CANNED GOODS

FEATURES

Open Doors True Stories



Families Join Hands for Open Doors with Contribution

Open Doors received a number of generous donations from a Westfield family and their extended families around Indiana and Ohio. A few years ago, the family members decided not to exchange Christmas gifts among the adults and instead make individual donations to a charity. Every year a different family chooses a non-profit in their community, and all the other families donate to that charity. This year was a Westfield family's turn to select the non-profit, and they chose Open Doors. Together, 8 different families wrote checks to Open Doors in the total amount of \$2000! What a great way to make a difference in a community. We are extremely grateful to this family for their generosity to Open Doors.



Family Regains Footing

One of our families with seven family members notified us that they will no longer be needing our support. They have received help from Open Doors for the past seven years. The husband has graduated from college and now has a job. She has worked all along, but one income was not enough to support this large family. They are extremely grateful that Open Doors was here to provide their family with nutritious food during their time of need. We are happy to hear that they are back on their feet and can provide for their family without Open Doors' support. We wish them well and offer them our blessings.

Families in every state began experiencing hunger during the pandemic. Nationwide, 16 percent of families who said they had enough to eat before the pandemic now say their children sometimes or often have to go without food.

From Education Week

Seven New Volunteers Join the Open Doors Family

Open Doors has trained seven new volunteers this quarter: Julie Bannon, Ashley Colvin, Cheryl Curtis, Jill Doyle, Brad Henke, Jenny Henke and Hollie Johnson.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday a mother and daughter from the National Charity League come in to help with the food rescue from Kroger. NCL is a group of mothers and daughters who volunteer together.

We are thankful for the all the volunteers that help from front room workers, pickers, back room workers, sorters, Kroger drivers and aides, delivery people, those that track the stats, and all the donors.

Ann Godby, Coordinator



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Is provided by Open Doors for All Volunteer Positions

[Contact Ann Godby](#)

Advocate Report SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY ADDED for FRONT ROOM



During the fourth quarter 2020, 1,780 people were served, and 32,697 pounds of food were given out. 173 families met with an advocate and 235 families shopped the front-room-only for a total of 408 families.

Fifteen new families signed up during the fourth quarter which brings our year-to-date number to 59 new families. As of December 31, 2020, we have 187 families on file.

Monday, October 12th, we opened the opportunity for families to shop the front room in the evening. We are open every Monday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. So far, the number of Monday evening visitors has been 6-7 families.

In December, \$1,020 worth of Goodwill vouchers were given to families who saw an advocate. This program will end in January when our remaining vouchers are given out.

Lorna Mills, Coordinator

OPEN DOORS LINKS

****Pantry Needs, News, General Information, COVID-19 Protocols**

www.opendoorswestfield.org

****Suggestions, Ideas, Photos for Website and Newsletter**

Bruce Watson

bruce@westfieldconsult.com

****Facebook**

Kurt Wanninger

Kurt.Wanninger@hotmail.com

****Volunteering: Individuals, Groups (school, church)**
Many opportunities available: warehouse, stocking, client advocate and more.

Ann Godby

jagodby59@aol.com

****Like us on Facebook**



Open Doors of Washington Township

****Receive newsletter via email. Email "subscribe" in the subject line to**

OpenDoorsWashTwp@hotmail.com

SHOP AND CONTRIBUTE



KROGER....Register with your Kroger PLUS CARD (free at the store service counter) on the CommunityRewards webpage krogercommunityrewards.com. Select number **WY292** for Open Doors. Every time you swipe your card, KROGER will donate a percentage of your purchase to Open Doors.



AMAZON...Register with Amazon at smile.amazon.com and select Open Doors of Washington Township as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Open Doors.



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