

# OPEN DOORS



## OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Open Doors Food and Clothing Pantry

19360 Tomlinson Rd. PO Box196

Westfield IN 46074

(317) 867-8670

Website: [www.opendoorswestfield.org](http://www.opendoorswestfield.org)

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT



Open Doors has continued to serve our client families throughout the COVID pandemic. Donations in the way of food, clothing and money have remained steady and abundant. We have been able to provide our client families with an abundance of food and top-quality clothing and have added 20 new families to our client list over this period of economic stress and uncertainty.

Many new volunteers have begun to serve Open Doors since the beginning of the year. We are extremely grateful for their service in all areas of the operation. Our core of long-term, experienced volunteers continue to work diligently to provide courteous and caring service to our many client families. We thank them all for their dedicated service.

Our Spring Cleaning Basket program has just wrapped up. Many of our client families received their cleaning supplies at the Pantry or delivered to their homes on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The balance will be distributed as families come in for their monthly or weekly visits.

Planning has already begun for the Back-to-School Backpack program. Distribution of the backpacks loaded with school supplies and clothing will take place on August 7 this year.

Planning has also begun for Open Doors' Kids Summer Lunches program. Many of our client families depend on this program to help feed their kids while school is not in session during the summer months.

As Open Doors grows to serve more families and offer special programs throughout the year, we have experienced the need for additional space. Therefore, we have begun to plan for an addition to our building. Construction is planned during the summer and early fall, with proposed occupancy in October.

We are blessed with the ongoing support from the Westfield community and are committed to feeding and clothing the underserved in Westfield Washington Township.

*Bruce A. Watson President*

*"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

## Spring Cleaning Baskets Program

The COVID pandemic has again created challenges for collecting supplies from the community. Several churches have collected and donated supplies, along with **Community First Bank, Culvers, Village Pizza, Westfield Police Dept.,** and **Wittler Orthodontics**. The **Rotary Club** and the **Lions Club** also contributed supplies, monetary donations, and volunteers.

Quantities of donated supplies were down again this year due to business closures, and more people buying on-line rather than shopping at retail establishments. We depend heavily on monetary donations to purchase the shortfall of supplies from the Dollar Tree stores.

**This year we prepared 130 Cleaning Baskets. That is 20 more than in past years.**

The Rotary Club volunteered to set-up and load-out the baskets on Friday 4/9. Other volunteers delivered baskets and handed them to client families that came to the Pantry to pick them up on Saturday, 4/10. In the end, all of our client families received their Spring Cleaning Baskets. This is one of Open Doors' most popular special programs, and one that we are thankful we can provide.

Thank you to the Westfield Rotary Club for loading the totes with the Cleaning Supplies, and to Carrie Larrison and Kurt Wanninger for coordinating the pick-up and delivery of the totes this year.



## Volunteer Report – Ann Godby

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and serve the community. It is estimated the value of a volunteer is now \$27.20 per hour. There are over 63 million volunteers in the United States. The description of a volunteer is to give of oneself. It is about giving your time to an organization, your community and fulfilling needs.

Some skills that a volunteer needs:

\*Commitment    \*Communication    \*Compassion    \*Teamwork

I believe that all our volunteers fit that description!

This quarter Sandra Townsend has been trained and is working with Sonia Nelson in the clothing area.

## USPS – Postal Food Drive – Kurt Wanninger

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Bruce, Dusty, Sonya, and I met with Ronnie Rousch, Local Letter Carriers Union lead, to learn more about this year’s food drive. At that meeting Ronnie informed us that there will be a food drive this year, however, it will not occur on May 8th. Ronnie said it will more than likely occur late summer or early fall. He said as soon as he hears an announcement, he will let us know. So, at this time, we are in a holding pattern, however, the one thing I am sure of, is we have enough green beans, corn, and soup to get us through this.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Board of Directors Meeting July 8 October 14

Postal Foods Drive TBA

Back-to-School Backpack Give-Away August 7

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic August 11

Thanksgiving Food Give-Away November 20

Christmas Toy & Clothing Give-Away December 4

Pantry Closed December 25 & January 1



Bleeding Hearts

*Matthew 6:21*

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*



### 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

**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

## Advocate Report Lorna Mills

During the first quarter 2021, we served 348 families, which represented 1,469 people. We gave out 29,412 pounds of food. Seven new families signed up during the first quarter. As of March 31, 2021, we have 148 current families on file. Each family is allowed to see the Advocate once a month and can shop the front-room-only up to four times a month.

**We continue to have six to eight families shop the front-room-only on Monday nights from 4:30-6:30 p.m.** These are mostly people who are unable to come in during our regular hours because they are working.

Goodwill stopped their voucher program at the end of 2020, and most of the valid vouchers we had were given to visitors in January. We had a few valid vouchers given out in February.

Although clothing is not under the Advocate umbrella, we do keep track of the number of clothes taken from the front room.

**In the first quarter, 145 families visited the Advocate and took 1,251 items of clothing. 203 families visited the front room only and took 2,553 items of clothing. Total clothing =3,804 items.**

## Pantry/Food Margie Smith

Food supply is good. We have been getting a lot of donations and have not had to purchase much. Tom and Sarah Clark have taken over the majority of the in-person shopping for me and they have been a huge help.

Dollar Tree has eliminated a lot of items that could be purchased online in case lots during the pandemic, but has started opening up this inventory, which will simplify some purchasing.

I have not been able to find a home for our surplus green and black beans. All pantries I have contacted have no need of these items. We have taken some down to Wheeler Mission.

As new volunteers are assigned to [Kroger rescue](#), they are being trained in how to sort/put away items received.



**John 6:35** Then Jesus declared, *“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”*

## OPEN DOORS LINKS

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

[www.opendoorswestfield.org](http://www.opendoorswestfield.org)

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

Bruce Watson

[bruce@westfieldconsult.com](mailto:bruce@westfieldconsult.com)

**\*\*Facebook**

Kurt

Wanninger

[Kurt.Wanninger@hotmail.com](mailto:Kurt.Wanninger@hotmail.com)

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

Ann Godby

[jagodby59@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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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