

# OPEN DOORS

Issue 84  
July 2021



Open Doors Food and Clothing Pantry

19360 Tomlinson Rd. PO Box 196

Westfield IN 46074

(317) 867-8670

Website:

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

Hours of Pantry: 9:00am-12:00pm  
recurring every Tuesday,  
Thursday and Saturday  
Monday 4:30-6:30 pm

SUMMER  
EDITION



## OPEN DOORS OFFICERS

Bruce Watson

President

Carrie Larrison

Vice President

Kurt Wanninger

VP Operations

Kathy Patterson

Secretary

Jerry Rosenberger

Treasurer

## FROM the PRESIDENT

I hope this message finds you well, and not fighting COVID. It has been a crazy year, but it appears that we are getting ahead of the virus. Almost all of our volunteers have received their vaccine, and for the most part have remained healthy. We have modified our COVID protocols as the state and county requirements have called for. Our primary concerns are to keep our clients and volunteers healthy and not spread the virus. Our front room has been opened to 4 clients at a time, and they are required to wear a mask. Our advocates and front room volunteers and Pantry volunteers who handle food and interact with clients are also required to wear a mask.

Open Doors has had a busy spring and early summer. As reported earlier, our Spring Cleaning Basket program was a success again this year. The extra baskets that were not distributed in April are being given to all new Pantry clients. We participated in a highly successful Pack the Cruiser food drive with the Westfield Police. 970 lbs. of food was collected from the Kroger Springmill store along with \$842 in monetary donations and \$1,062 in Kroger Gift Cards. All the donations are being used for the Summer Lunch program for school kids from food insecure households. The remainder will be used for the Weekend Backsack program when the kids return to school in August. We are very grateful to the WPD, Kroger, and for the generosity of the people in the Westfield Community.

Open Doors is in the process of installing a pantry database computer software program called Food Bank Manager. Carrie Larrison is leading the installation and training. She has been working with a consultant customizing the program for our needs. Once installed, all of our client information will be available on a monthly basis. Instant reports will be able to be generated at the end of a month, rather than having to pull all the information together by hand. Carrie is holding training sessions for the volunteers who will be using Food Bank Manager. We are appreciative for all the hard work that Carrie has put into transitioning our records from manual to computer.

Last, but certainly not least, is the announcement that we are nearing breaking ground for the new addition to our building by the end of July. With all the expanding special programs being offered by Open Doors, we need additional space. Jerry Rosenberger has been performing the role of Construction Manager. Many of the same contractors that built the original building will be providing their services on the addition. We are planning to open the addition by the end of October or early November. Thank you, Jerry, for all the time and work you have done to move this project forward.

We wish you all a blessed, safe and healthy summer.

*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*

# Pack the Cruiser!

## To Feed Hungry Kids During the Summer Months

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Westfield Police Department and Open Doors conducted a food drive at the Kroger 161<sup>st</sup> & Springmill Road store to collect food to help feed hungry kids in our community. Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank coordinated this program with police departments and Kroger stores throughout the county. During the summer months, when the kids are not in school and receiving free and reduced meals, many of our kids will not receive adequate food to get them through the day.

For many years, Open Doors has provided Summer Meals to hungry school kids. Now, with the help of the WPD, this program will increase the amount of food we can distribute and help Open Doors expand the program to more hungry kids.

This was the first year that Open Doors partnered with the WPD, and it was very successful. Food was collected from 10:00am to 2:00pm with the help of police officers and volunteers at the store. Two trips were made back to the Pantry with a full van load of donations. Our "A" Team of warehouse volunteers at the Pantry sorted and put away all the food. In addition to the donations of food, generous shoppers donated almost \$850 in cash and over \$1,000 in Kroger gift cards.

Open Doors is grateful to the WPD and our generous community for their support of this important program. We will see you at the Kroger store around the same time next year.



Supporting the Westfield Summer Meals Program

*Food donated during Pack the Cruiser will be distributed to Westfield students that are enrolled in the Westfield Summer Meals Program'*

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**

**10 am - 2 pm**

**Kroger @ 161st/Springmill Rd**

If you are unable to participate in Pack the Cruiser, food donations Kroger gift cards can be dropped off at Open Doors or Westfield Washington Township through 5/15/21.





### **Back To School Backpack program – Beth Hoard / Carrie Larrison**

Signing up for school supplies began in May, and we will continue to accept names throughout July. Indiana Members Credit Union will be donating all of our 200 backpacks again this year. We will be receiving \$2,500.00 from Northview Church (Westfield campus). They are doing an online and in church fundraiser to donate money for school supplies to fill each backpack. Any clothing or school supplies donated to churches or businesses need to be delivered to Open Doors or Westfield Friends Church by Tuesday morning, August 3rd.

During the first week of August all stored and purchased supplies and clothing will be taken to Westfield Friends Church. Volunteers will organize tables of clothing (Westfield t-shirts, underwear and socks), backpacks and school supplies.

Giveaway day is on Saturday, August 7th from 9:00 am-12:00 pm at Westfield Friends Church. Families will pick up clothing, a \$25 Meijer gift card for shoes, and a backpack which students along with volunteers will fill them as the child “shops” for appropriate grade level supplies.

Backpacks will be filled for families that do not pick up on Saturday. They will be taken to Open Doors along with extra filled backpacks. These will be available for students that did not sign up.

Resa Glover, Beth Hoard and Jody DelGreco, BTS Clothing  
Marcia Evans and Angie Edwards, BTS School Supplies

## Advocate – Lorna Mills

**SUMMARY** During the second quarter of 2021, 369 families visited Open Doors. This represents 1,527 people, receiving 34,00 pounds of food. We gave out 72 children’s food bags and 40 family food bags. Nineteen new families signed up. As of June 30, 2021, we have 154 current families on file.

**GROWTH** Compared to the first quarter, we had 21 more families visit Open Doors representing 58 more people. We gave away 4,594 more pounds of food and had 12 more new families join Open Doors.

**MONDAY NIGHT OPENING** Being open Monday nights continues to be successful. Four (21%) of our nineteen new families were Monday night visitors. Sixty-one (17%) of our 369 visiting families were Monday night visitors. Monday, May 10th our advocate asked a visitor why she had not seen an advocate in several months. She had three small children and no one to watch them while she came to Open Doors during the day. We offered her an advocate visit that night. It worked so well that we added another volunteer to our Monday night crew and began doing advocate visits and accepting new clients. Since then, we have seen several families who could not come during the day for one reason or another.

**CLOTHING** We have established a limit of 25 pieces of clothing per visit and are no longer counting or tracking the number of non- food items that leave the building. 3,763 pieces of clothing were given away second quarter.

### OPEN DOORS COORDINATORS

Warehouse  
Bruce Watson

Food Rescue  
Bruce Watson

Advocates  
Lorna Mills

Clothing  
Sonia  
Nelson

Church Reps  
Kim Kercheval

Volunteers  
Ann Godby

Food Pantry  
Margie Smith

### E V E N T S C A L E N D A R

#### Board of Directors Meeting

- Oct. 14

#### Back to School Backpack Giveaway

- Aug. 7

#### Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

- Sept. 11

#### Thanksgiving Food Giveaway

- Nov. 20

#### Christmas Toy & Clothing Giveaway

- Dec. 4

#### Pantry Closed

- Dec. 25 & Jan.1

## Pantry Operations – Margie Smith – Outgoing Food

Out front/waiting room (now includes items that previously were in Advocate’s office) -----	5,700
Shepherds Gate/St. Maria Goretti -----	1,405
Open Arms/Sheridan -----	1,278
White River pantry -----	2,266
Crossroads Church (summer youth program) -----	823
Radiant Life Church (Friday meals) -----	259
Good News Mission -----	850
Wheeler Mission -----	1,205
Harvest Food Bank -----	1,976
Trash (chicken farmer) -----	1,165



## Volunteer News

### Carolyn Searle

It is with great disappointment that Open Doors has lost two valuable volunteers. Carolyn Searle and her husband Bruce have moved back to Illinois to be close to family. Carolyn spent the past 2+ years working in the warehouse developing a new color coded system to better organize our food stocks. She paved the way for an inventory system in the warehouse to coordinate the inventory with the back-up stock in the Pantry area. Carolyn and Bruce have spent countless hours sorting and organizing our inventory. They have also volunteered to assist with the food intake and sorting of many food drives and have assisted with a variety of other duties. Carolyn and Bruce both served the Pantry with servant hearts and will be greatly missed. We wish them all the best with their move and with Bruce’s retirement.

### Kenny Koehler

We are very happy to welcome back Kenny Koehler. Last July, Kenny and his wife left to take care of their new grandchild, Saylor, in Massachusetts, so their daughter could go back to work. Kenny has been a trusted volunteer for our Kroger Food Rescue program for many years. He can always be counted on to fill in for vacations and illnesses of other Kroger drivers and volunteers. Kenny has agreed to handle all of our van maintenance also. Welcome back, Kenny.

**Volunteer Report – Ann Godby** This quarter 5 volunteers have been trained including Bonnie Cook, Mary Hughes, Dianna Liddy, Lyn Nore and Karen Vannatta. Tom and Sarah Clark helped give one of the training sessions and Sarah did the training for another session. There are 6 new volunteers working on Monday evenings. Again, thanks to all that have stepped up and filled in when volunteers were needed.

WE ♥ OUR  
VOLUNTEERS

## Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Since things have been opening up due to improvements in the rates of the COVID 19 virus, we decided to hold our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic after having to cancel it last year. The picnic will again be held at Quaker Park, 17501 Dartown Rd., Westfield on Sept. 11. The three pavilions on the east side of the park have been reserved. Plan to arrive at 4:00PM for appetizers and camaraderie. If the weather permits, children can take advantage of the improved water park. Pastors are invited. The picnic dinner will be served at 5:00PM.

The main meal, sides and drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Everyone has always enjoyed the variety in the past. All Open Doors Volunteers are invited. Hope to see you there.



## Why the Name QUAKER PARK?

In the 1830's, the Quakers moved from the Carolinas and settled in Westfield, bringing with them honest business ethics and humanitarian values. Many of the Quakers moved north because of their opposed views of slavery, and many offered havens for the slaves who were escaping to Canada. Because of the history they brought to Westfield, the Town Council named Quaker Park in honor of that heritage when the park was established in 1997.



## Status of Food Bank Manager Database Software

Carrie Larrison

Kathy, Lorna, Shawna and I have been meeting together with a consultant from the company to get the initial set up done. Two trainings were held this week to begin showing the Advocates and front desk volunteers how to enter client visits and enter new clients so we can begin using those features. We need to assess what equipment we have and what we still may need going forward. The next step is to train a few Pantry volunteers so they can begin recording food donations from Kroger as well as donations we make to other food pantries/organizations/trash. Jerry can also begin recording incoming monetary donations as well. As we get more comfortable with the system, we will work on various reports as well as volunteer check in/check out.



Indiana Farm Bureau is holding a food drive in August to benefit Open Doors

### Kroger Food Rescue Program Bruce Watson



Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank: Open Doors will redistribute excess food to other pantries in Hamilton County. We will check into the possibility of a grant to fund a walk-in freezer to help facilitate this effort.

## 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 Wanniger

[Kurt.Wanniger@hotmail.com](mailto:Kurt.Wanniger@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**

[OpenDoorsWestfield@gmail.com](mailto:OpenDoorsWestfield@gmail.com)

## SHOP AND CONTRIBUTE



**KROGER...** Register with your Kroger PLUS CARD (free at the store service counter) on the [Community Rewards Website](#). 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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