

OPEN DOORS

Of Washington Township



Open Doors Food and Clothing
Pantry
19360 Tomlinson Rd.
PO Box 196
Westfield IN 46074
(317) 867-8670

www.opendoorswestfield.org

Hours of Pantry:
9:00am-12:00pm recurring every
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday
AND Monday 4 – 7 pm

MESSAGE FROM the PRESIDENT

SPRING 2023



Spring has finally arrived, and the trees and flowers are blooming. God's world has again come alive here in Indiana. Spring rains and warm weather are a welcome relief from the winter doldrums.

Open Doors is busy with new client families and special programs. With the school year ending, our **Weekend Food Bag** program will be ending soon as well. It has been a successful year of feeding our food insecure school kids during weekends and school breaks. The program will start up again in August as school opens in the fall.

We are busily preparing for the annual **Postal Carriers Food Drive** on May 13. Teams of people have been folding grocery bags and stapling post cards to them. The completed bags with cards will be delivered to the Westfield and Carmel Post Offices the week of May 8. Food donations will be picked up by the Postal Carriers on May 13, and delivered to Open Doors that day. Then the work begins: sorting and storing the 30,000+ lbs. of food typically donated. This will help feed our client families through the summer months and into the fall.

The **Pack the Cruiser** food donation program will take place on June 3. Open Doors along with the Westfield Police Department will collect food donations at the Kroger Springmill store. This food drive goes a long way to provide foods for the **Weekend Food Bag** program that begins in August as school begins for the new school year. We are grateful for these two programs as they go a long way helping us feed food insecure families and kids in our community.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Blessings,

Bruce 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*

Kurt Wanninger
~*VP of Operations*

Carrie Larrison
~*VP of Special
Programs*

Jerry Rosenberger
~*Treasurer*

Kathy Patterson
~*Secretary*

LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE MAY 13, 2023



Kurt Wanninger is coordinating with Greg Gorman, this year's Letter Carriers Union representative. Folded bags with cards stapled to them are due May 5. Sonya Carr will assemble the totes according to the number of bags needed by postal route and will get to the Post Offices by May 6 for distribution May 8 by the postal workers. Volunteers have been recruited for the Post Office locations. Thank you to Bill Black, Sonya Carr, and Kati Yeung. Carrie Larrison will send out a Sign-up Genius link for volunteers here at the pantry. Tim Carr is providing two box trucks to transport food from Carmel Post Office to Open Doors. There is a



need for more help folding bags. The target is 60k, 7.5k left to fold.

Hang your donation bag on your mailbox early!

2023 Calendar of Events

Board of Directors Meeting Dates July 13, October 12

Annual Meeting October 12

Postal Food Drive • May 13

Pack the Cruiser • June 3

Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway August 5

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic September 16

Thanksgiving Food Giveaway • November 18

Christmas Toy & Food Giveaway • December 9

Pantry Closed • January 1 • November 18 • December 9 • December 25

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Advocate – Lorna Mills

Open Doors First Quarter 2023 Compared to First Quarter 2022

	2022	2023	INCREASE
Family Visits	449	727	278
People Served	1910	3151	1,241
Veterans	28	20	-8
New Families	16	30	14
Lbs. of Food Distributed	34,350	42,304	7,954

There has been an increase of families from Eastern Europe and Venezuela. We appreciate the fact that these clients are patient as we attempt to communicate with them via a cell phone translation app. As an aid for our Spanish speaking clients, a Spanish to English item list is available. These clients circle the desired items from the list.

On March 28, Open Doors began issuing plastic coded cards to our clients. The cards are scanned by the clients at check-in, allowing for a more efficient system. Thus far, the cards have been received well by the clients because they can start shopping right away. Ninety-six cards have been assigned so far (40 % of client households).

The advocate team has two new valuable additions in training.

Clothing - *Sonia Nelson and Ann Godby*

First quarter total clothing items given out: 6311.



Pantry Operations - Margie Smith

Fruit and produce donations from Kroger have decreased. Meat is received in spurts causing the need to purchase hamburger two times in the last couple months. Thanks to Sarah and Tom, the shelf items are under control. We are out of some items we do not normally purchase so are looking forward to the NALC Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive! Dollar Tree continues to be difficult to work with online purchases, but prices are hard to match elsewhere on some items.

Warehouse Operations - Tom Clark/Kurt Wanninger

Highlights...

- Added to Warehouse Guidelines: glass stays on shelves 1 and 2.
- More short boxes (weigh less) needed. Short boxes go on shelf 4 for the safety of our volunteers).
- A physical inventory is conducted every month.

Kroger Food Rescue Program – Bruce Watson

Four excellent volunteers have been added to crew. They are Bruce Houtman, Scott Robinson, Doug Isaacs, and Chris Mannion.

Volunteer Report – Ann Godby/Sarah Clark

Eleven volunteers were trained this quarter. They are Denise Burdette, Bruce Houtman, Diane Houtman, Peggy Michalak, Cindy Olson, Esta Ottinger, Mary Ann Paritla, Michelle Parlos, Mikki Richter, Melody Wisely and Suzanne Woodward. We appreciate the dedication of each volunteer.

Another Good Samaritan Story from the Volunteer Team



A client came to Open Doors with her granddaughter. We asked the granddaughter, “What are you doing for Easter?” She and her family were returning to Whiteland, Indiana, to help a family after Whiteland had taken a direct hit by a tornado by helping clean up and providing water, snacks and sandwiches. While there, the girl had made friends with a girl her age. She joined her new friend in searching for anything that was blown from the girl’s room. Open Doors became a good Samaritan too. We sent the girl off with children’s food bags, lunch meat and bread from the Pantry to give to the Whiteland family. The girl was excited and thankful.



SPECIAL PROJECTS – Carrie Larrison

Christmas Clothing Overview – Carrie Larrison

Christmas Clothing leads, Amber Janes, Shawna Harouff, LeAnne Zentz, and Carrie Larrison, discussed the issue of clothing items for the children. In the past, we have given out sweats or pajamas, which clients did not seem to always like. With the pandemic, we switched to gift cards, but that is extremely expensive. We are proposing that we give out Westfield emblem clothing items this year. My Logo Shop has agreed to give these items to the Clothing Project at cost. To help defray the cost, monetary donations to the clothing program will be sought via Sign-Up Genius.

Christmas Clothing – Amber Janes and Shawna Harouff

Alternative ideas for our annual Christmas Clothing Program are being considered. In the past, donors have provided an outfit for each child. While we have generous donors, this effort presents some challenges given the number of children we serve. A common issue has been for donations to come in the incorrect size/gender, age appropriateness, etc. During Covid (2020 & 2021), we provided \$25 gift cards so the kids could choose something themselves. This option is costly and presents its own issues. This year, we are proposing to work with My Logo Shop to print Westfield sweatshirts (onesies for infants) to be given to each child in the program. The Christmas Clothing committee would be responsible for sorting them for distribution. George Sanburn at My Logo Shop provided the costs for items as follows:

- Hoodie (oldest kids, mainly adult sizes) = \$16.51 each
- Crew (next oldest, mainly youth sizes) = \$12.88 each
- Toddler Crew/Infant onesie = \$12.29 each
- XX sizes would be an additional \$1.56 per, and there would be a \$45 setup fee for the logo.

Mr. Sanburn recommended ordering in two batches, with the last order being placed 2-3 weeks prior to our distribution day. The print would be the same as a print purchased in the store – green sweatshirt with “WESTFIELD” printed in white. Onesies are a possibility for the babies. We are open to other ideas. Based on last year’s numbers, there were 606 kids, and the split of ages was 48 infants, 80 toddlers, 382 youth and 96 kids ages 15+. Using these numbers and assuming \$90 for the setup fee (\$45 x 2), the estimated total cost would be around \$8,200. This option provides the kids with nice, new, comfortable clothing, and ensures that each child receives a gift similar in value and quality while giving them the opportunity to show pride in their community!



Food Bank Manager Software

Recently a scanner was purchased for the computer and client cards. As clients come in they are assigned a number and given a card to take with them. They are expected to show us the card to scan when they come to the pantry, instead of giving us their name. This process is working well and has saved time at check-in.

Weekend Food Bags and School Food Drives

We are wrapping up the Weekend Food bags for the year, with only 1 month to go. Each school had food drives for us during the year that focused on food needed for these bags, and brought in food for the Pantry as well. This made a dramatic difference in the amount of food that we needed to purchase for this project. We did give out Kids Bags (1 for every 2 school-aged kids in the family) and Family Bags during Spring Break to help families a little more since their children were not able to have breakfast and lunch at school. Thirty-four Family Bags and 61 Kid Bags were distributed.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Back To School – *Beth Hoard, Marcia Evans, Resa Glover, Angie Edwards*

The committee is discussing changes to the program. Bruce Watson will follow up and get back to the Board before our next Board meeting.

What is Servant Leadership?

- Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

• Mark 9:35 (The Holy Bible)



MEMBER CHURCHES

Christ United Methodist Church
318 N. Union Street
Westfield, IN

Crossroads Church at Westfield (PCUSA)
19201 Grassy Branch Road
Westfield, IN

Eagle Creek Evangelical Friends Church
18325 Eagletown Rd.
Westfield, IN

Hortonville United Methodist
3080 W. SR 38
Sheridan, IN

The Journey Church
17716 Eagletown Rd.
Westfield, IN

Lifepointe Church
3233 W. 166th Street
Westfield, IN

Mts. Runn Baptist Church
250 S. 775 E.
Zionville, IN

New Joy Lutheran Church, ELCA
316 156th Street
Westfield, IN

Northview Church Westfield Campus
17171 Ditch Road
Westfield, IN

Radiant Christian Life
16162 Carey Road
Westfield, IN

The Journey Church
17716 Eagletown Road
Westfield, IN

Thrive Christian Church
15091 Towne Rd.
Westfield, IN

Trinity Baptist Church
1415 E. 191st Street
Westfield IN

Westfield Friends Church
324 South Union Street
Westfield, IN

OPEN DOORS COORDINATORS

Warehouse

Tom Clark

Advocates

Lorna Mills

Clothing

Sonia Nelson

Church Reps

Kim Kercheval

Volunteers

Ann Godby

Food Pantry

Margie Smith

Kroger Food Rescue

Bruce Watson

OPEN DOORS LINKS

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

www.opendoorwestfield.org

Suggestions, Ideas, Photos for Website and Newsletter

bruce@westfieldconsult.com

Suggestions, Ideas, Photos for FACEBOOK

Kurt.Wanninger@hotmail.com

Volunteering: Individuals, Groups (school, church, community)

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

SHOP and CONTRIBUTE

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

QR CODE CREATED for OPEN DOORS AMAZON WISH LIST

Scan code with camera and be taken to our Wish List. Select items to purchase, and they will be sent directly to Open Doors. This makes it easier for people who don't have the time to go to the store for donation items and deliver to Open Doors.

