

OPEN DOORS

Of Washington Township

A FOOD AND CLOTHING PANTRY



Open Doors Food and Clothing
Pantry

19360 Tomlinson Rd.,
PO Box 196
Westfield IN 46074
(317) 867-8670

www.opendoorwestfield.org

[Facebook](#)

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

Winter 2024

SERVING THE WESTFIELD COMMUNITY SINCE 1990

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me.” Matthew 25:35



MESSAGE

FROM the PRESIDENT

Another year at Open Doors has come and gone, and we are looking forward to the many possibilities to help our neighbors in need again in 2024. The fourth quarter was a very busy one. More new families than ever came to the Pantry for food and clothing --- 171 new families. We added additional hours every day we were open to serve all our families. This increase has

kept our volunteers very busy, especially our Front Room and Pick Area volunteers. It also depleted a significant amount of our back up food stock in the warehouse. Fortunately, donations came in in recent months to make up the shortfall, and our shelves are again well stocked. A couple of the elementary schools ran food drives and the Munciana Volleyball tournament donated a van full of canned foods. Our warehouse volunteers have been kept busy sorting the food from these food drives. Donations continue to come in from the community as well. The elementary Schools are taking turns running monthly food drives for our Weekend Meals program.

Carrie Larrison, our Special Projects Coordinator, did a great job organizing the Thanksgiving and Christmas meal giveaways. We provided 335 families with a Thanksgiving meal, 73 more than last year. 348 families signed up for a Christmas meal, 73 more than in 2022. Leanne Zentz coordinated the collection and distribution of toys for children who might not otherwise receive any Christmas gifts. She worked with Ashley Knot from the Westfield Schools and Mat Gaylor from the NSpire church to coordinate a community-wide effort to collect toys this year. It was a big success, and they will work to make it even better next year.

Carrie Larrison also ran the Weekend Food Bag program and along with Elaine Hinshaw and her team, provided Weekend Meals to 286 Elementary and Middle School kids each month. In addition, we passed out Family Food Bags over Christmas break to help our families' children over the 2-week break. We added a new position this year, the Church Relations Coordinator. Bill Black has been doing a wonderful job meeting with the church pastors and setting up a schedule for monthly food drives. He has food drives set up every month through July. These church and school food drives will provide Open Doors with a steady supply of food to serve our client families throughout the year.

We had three inspections in the month of December. ... The Hamilton County Health Dept., Gleaners Food Bank, and the Westfield Fire Dept. All three inspections were passed with flying colors.

2023 has been a very productive year for the Open Doors Pantry, and we look forward to continuing to serve our growing number of client families in 2024 and in the years ahead. We are thankful for the many contributions from our community, both food and clothing.

Happy New Year! May God be with you in the year ahead. *Bruce Watson*

OPEN DOORS OFFICERS

Bruce Watson
~*President*

Kurt Wanninger
~*VP of Operations*

Carrie Larrison
~*VP of Special Programs*

Jerry Rosenberger
~*Treasurer*

Kathy Patterson
~*Secretary*

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Advocate – Lorna Mills

Clients can now come in four times a month, one combined with their advocate visit. Lorna Mills spoke regarding the rules for the front room which are posted in the front room and are explained to clients when they arrive. We have sent out a letter to our clients regarding the criteria for who we serve in our community. The information will be used to determine the eligibility criteria for our clients.

Clothing – Kim Fingers/Ann Godby

Kim Fingers is the new Clothing Coordinator. She and her volunteers are doing a great job.

Pantry Operations – Margie Smith/Sarah Clark

iTown Church donated 75 each \$25 vouchers. All the vouchers have been used. Open Doors is exchanging meat with Harvest Food Bank. Open Doors has exchanged frozen meats with the Hamilton Harvest Food Bank (HCHFB). We had excess frozen turkeys and HCHFB had excess frozen hamburger and fish.

Warehouse Operations –Kurt Wanninger/Tom Clark

The warehouse is approaching full capacity. There are up to 430 cases of food -- 300 is an average. Clients can now come in 4 times a month, including their advocate visit. Bob and Kurt Wanninger have been discussing painting and sprucing the place up. Snow removal is set up this year and will be monitored during storm events.

Kroger Food Rescue Program – Bruce Watson

The program is running smoothly.

Church Relations – Bill Black

• *New Member Church*

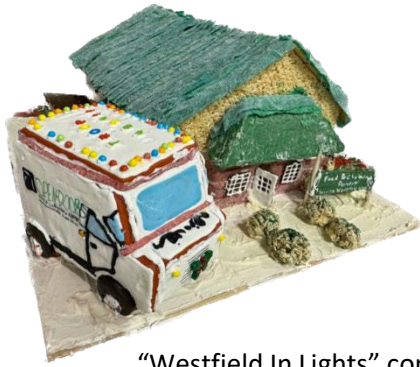
The Board unanimously agreed to accept the North Circle Church as a new Member Church.

• *Church Food Drives*

The North Circle Church conducted a food drive February 7th, 14th, 21st, and 29th. The food will be picked up on February 29th.

The Thrive Church is conducting a food drive throughout the month of February, with a special drive on Super Bowl Sunday. Bill Black took the Open Doors van to the Thrive Church to promote the Super Bowl food drive. Thrive conducted a monetary drive, collecting \$2,677!





"Westfield In Lights" conducted a Gingerbread House contest. The 5th grade Girl Scouts made one to resemble the Open Doors Pantry along with the van. The contest raised \$1,400 which was donated to Open Doors.

2024 Calendar of Events

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

• January 11 • April 11 • July 11 • October 10

Annual Meeting • October 10

Postal Food Drive

• May 11

Pack the Cruiser

• June 1

Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway

• August 3

Thanksgiving Food Giveaway

• November 16

Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway

• November 23

Christmas Toy & Food Giveaway

• December 14

Pantry Closed

- **January 1**
- **November 23**
- **November 28**
- **December 14**
- **December 25**

Special Projects – Carrie Larrison

CHRISTMAS MEALS and KID’S GIFTS

348 families signed up for Christmas assistance, 67 more than last year. 41 families did not come to get their food or gifts. This year we partnered with the schools and several local churches to buy gifts for families. As with any new program, there were issues. The main issue was matching up our list with the list from the schools. Sometimes a grandparent signed them up with us, but a parent signed them up at school; others used nicknames on one form but not the other. If a family signed up through the schools, they picked up their gifts with them. We only passed out gifts to families who did not also sign up through the schools. Enough gifts were donated through businesses and individuals so Open Doors did not have to spend any money on gifts. Leanne Zentz did an amazing job getting all of them organized.

CHANGES FOR 2024 HOLIDAYS

WE CAN PURCHASE “FOOD ONLY” GIFT CARDS FROM MELJER. IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL HAND OUT THESE GIFT CARDS INSTEAD OF SOME OF THE PERISHABLE ITEMS WE NORMALLY GIVE. IT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED YET IF ALL THE COLD ITEMS WILL BE REPLACED WITH A GIFT CARD OR JUST SOME OF IT, BUT IT WILL DEFINITELY SAVE TIME, FREEZER SPACE, AND MONEY BY GIVING CLIENTS A GIFT CARD IN PLACE OF THEIR THANKSGIVING TURKEY AND PRODUCE. IT WILL ALSO GIVE CLIENTS MORE OF A CHOICE SINCE SOME MAY NOT WANT A TURKEY OR HAM, OR THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE THE FREEZER OR REFRIGERATOR SPACE FOR IT.

WEEKEND FOOD BAGS

The Food Bags Program continues to go well. This project continues to receive great donations with schools taking turns having food drives. Family bags were passed out over Christmas break to help families who have children since they weren’t in school for over two weeks to get their breakfast and lunches there. Luckily, Gleaners had some nice free, or almost free, items like chicken sandwich sliders, frozen French toast, and waffles, providing an affordable variety.

THANKSGIVING MEALS

335 families signed up for assistance, 73 more than last year. After the distribution day, families could come get their food up until Thanksgiving. There were 44 families who never came.



Dedicated Volunteers in the Warehouse

OPEN DOORS OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

MEMBER CHURCHES

OPEN DOORS LINKS

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

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

Eagle Creek Evangelical Friends Church
18235 Eagletown Rd.
Westfield, IN

Hortonville United Methodist
3080 W. SR 38
Sheridan, 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

North Circle Church
20101 Grassy Branch Rd
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

Pantry Needs, News, General Information, COVID-19 Protocols
www.opendoorswestfield.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

OPEN DOORS COORDINATORS

Warehouse
Tom Clark

Advocate
Lorna Mills

Clothing
Kim Fingers/Ann Godby

Church Relations
Bill Black

Volunteers
Ann Godby

Food Pantry
Margie Smith

Kroger Food Rescue
Bruce Watson

SHOP and CONTRIBUTE

KROGER... Register with your Kroger PLUS CARD (free at the store service counter) on the [CommunityRewards Website](#) 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 and LINK 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 do not have the time to go to the store for donation items and deliver to Open Doors.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2LWM3RXR49QKR/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?redirectFromSmile=1

