

OPEN DOORS

Of Washington Township

A FOOD AND CLOTHING PANTRY



Open Doors Food and Clothing Pantry

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

www.opendoorswestfield.org
[Facebook](#)

Hours of Pantry:

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Monday
4:00 – 7:00 pm

Summer 2024

SERVING THE WESTFIELD COMMUNITY SINCE 1990

MESSAGE FROM the PRESIDENT

*“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

It has been another exciting quarter with lots of activity and programs to help us feed our growing client base. May started with the Postal Carriers Food Drive which was another big success this year. Between the Westfield and Carmel Post Offices, we collected 33,000 lbs. of food. This will take us through the summer months until we begin to receive food from the school and church food drives.

The Pack the Cruiser Food Drive, hosted by Kroger on Springmill, saw another very successful food drive raising food for the Kids Summer Meals program. Volunteers and Westfield Police helped us raise 2425 lbs. of food, along with \$1063 in cash and gift cards.

The Meijer Simply Give program raised \$8460 in gift cards. This came about through the generous contributions from our community, our volunteers, and the Meijer Match and Double Match programs. These gift cards support the purchase of food for the pantry.

Gleaners Mobil Pantry started up in May. The first Tuesday of every month, a truck loaded with USDA-provided food pulls up at Grand Park to distribute food to anyone who needs it. Open Doors is able to receive a large donation and may take whatever is left over at the end of the evening.

August brings the 4-H Meating the Need program. We will receive 150 lbs. of ground beef and sausage. Open Doors makes a donation each year to help support this program.

As you can see, we are very fortunate to live in such a generous community. All these different programs make it possible for Open Doors to feed our diverse client base with a wide variety of foods.

Clothing is the other much needed item by our clients. Kim Fingers and her volunteer crew do a wonderful job of sorting the donations that arrive in our donation boxes daily. During the past quarter, we distributed 9956 pieces of clothing. This was a 45% increase over the same period in 2023.

Bill Black, our Church Relations Coordinator continues to do a great job of contacting new and existing churches, arranging monthly food drives, and recruiting new members. The Westfield Bible Methodist Church became our latest Member Church as it was voted in by the Board at our quarterly meeting on July 11. We welcome Pastor Jack Hooper, Asst. Pastor Aaron Wardlow, and their congregation.

My sincere thanks to all our many volunteers for all their time and hard work donated to serving our clients. Without your support, it would not be possible to provide all the food, clothing and services we do.

Bruce Watson, President

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

Advocates

New advocates have been trained. Second quarter statistics reported.

46,451.46 pounds of food distributed
9956 clothing items distributed
859 family visits
31 new families served

Clothing

We have 18 volunteers working an average of 60 hours per week collectively in the clothing area. The volume of donations remains high, for which we are grateful. Our volunteers are amazing and are doing an excellent job working together to keep up with sorting and keeping the front room stocked and organized.

Comparing 2nd Quarter 2024 to 2nd Quarter 2023, we saw a 45% increase in the number of clothing items that left Open Doors. During this same time, there was a 15% increase in the number of families shopping in the clothing area.



Thank you to Charlie Reynolds for donating the construction of our new clothing collection box!

Pantry Operations

Thank you to Patti Franz and Sarah Clark and Ann Godby for filling in during Margie's absence. Margie appreciates all the help and hopes to be able to be back on the schedule in August.

Warehouse Operations

It's going well. Inventory has been updated since the Postal Carriers Food Drive.

Kroger Food Rescue Program

We now have 13 drivers and 10 helpers. We will be looking to add more pickups with new grocery stores coming to our area.

Food Procurement

We have added approved shoppers which has helped the current overloaded shoppers.

Volunteers

We have trained four volunteers this quarter: Chris Flora, Becca Ostendorf, Mary Gaskill, and Gary Hinshaw.

We are thankful for the people who will sub when someone is unavailable. Thanks to all who do extra jobs. One that may go unnoticed is the volunteers who make deliveries to some of our clients.

Ann is thankful for Tom and Sarah Clark. We work as a trio in training new volunteers.

Ella Goldberg, one of our Westfield High School students, received a \$2,500 scholarship from the Westfield Education Foundation, in part because she did a lot of volunteering at Open Doors. She is going to IU this fall in the field of Nutrition. Thanks, Ella, for your great help (her mother, Jen Goldberg, is an advocate for Open Doors.)

COORDINATOR REPORTS *continued*

Special Projects

This summer we decided to offer choices to the clients participating in the Summer Kids Bags and made a list with “meal” items including oatmeal, cereal, hot dogs, spaghetti, and miscellaneous food we got free or low cost from Gleaners. This program runs through the end of August. Starting in September, Weekend Food Bags will be available through the school.

Our Back-To-School giveaway is scheduled for August 3. We estimate serving 250 students compared to 221 students last year. Donations to date are low. We are shopping around for best prices.

Church Relations

In April, Christ United Methodist Church collected over 400 pounds of food. The weight, however, does not accurately reflect the overall generosity as there was a significant amount of much needed cereal collected.

In June, New Joy Lutheran Church donated 531 pounds of food and 8 bags of clothing. Bill was able to address the congregation to share a bit of the history and mission of Open Doors. They tied in the food drive with their VBS to

encourage the youngsters to be generous and learn to have a servant’s heart.

Radiant Christian Life will be conducting a food drive for the month of July.

It was voted to approve Westfield Bible Methodist Church as our 15th member church. Welcome Pastor Jack Hooker, associate pastor Aaron Wordlaw and their congregation.

Spiritual Concerns

It has been decided that Open Doors should form a Prayer Partner Group. An email was sent out to all volunteers with six people responding with interest. This is still in the planning stage, and we hope to have it all in place by September.

Many of the requests will come from the client through the Advocate, who will then pass the request on to the Prayer Partner Group. The group has a long list of others for whom they will be praying.

Our Prayer Partners include Laura Zenuik (chairperson), Anne Lins, Dianna Liddy, Karen Isminger, Lyn Nore, and Melody Wisely. We are excited about this new project!



Pack the Cruiser Food Drive

We collected 2425 pounds of food as well as \$1063 in cash and gift cards at this year’s event on June 1.



Flower Beds

Thank you to Leanne Zentz for planting and caring for the flowers around the building!



2024 US Letter Carrier's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Another successful year, and Open Doors was blessed with over 33,000 pounds of donated food.

Thank you to the many people it takes to make this event happen...

- Those who promoted the event across the county, especially Greg Gormong, the local Letter Carrier's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Coordinator.
- Those who folded over 60,000 shopping bags and stapled post cards for distribution.
- Those who helped prepare for this event;, especially Sonya Carr, Bob Peterson and Carrie Larrison.
- Those who presorted at the Post Offices and the leads at Carmel (Bob Peterson and Sonya Carr) and at Westfield (Dusty Janes and Bill Black).
- Those who received and sorted at Open Doors and the leads (Bruce Watson, Bob Peterson and Margie Smith).
- The countless volunteers who sorted and dated each item with Bob Peterson leading the effort. It was completed in record time.

The percentage of dry goods is increasing compared to canned goods. So, total pounds may look lighter, but needed items are still being received. With the rapid growth in this area, we estimate preparing for 65,000 mailboxes in 2025. That means folding bag season will begin shortly!

Pictured, top to bottom:

Bill Black, Carrie Larrison and Kim Gettings,
Manager, Westfield Post Office

Carmel Post Office Volunteers

Open Doors Annex full of donations

Upcoming Meijer Simply Give Double Match Days

August 17

September 14



2024 Calendar of Events

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

January 11
April 11
July 11
October 10

Annual Meeting

October 10

Postal Carriers 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

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

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

Westfield Bible Methodist Church

219 W. 161st Street
Westfield, IN 46074

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.



AMAZON...

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



OPEN DOORS LINKS

*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

Church Relations
Bill Black

Volunteers
Ann Godby

Food Pantry
Margie Smith

Kroger Food Rescue
Bruce Watson