

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

Winter 2025

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*

I hope that everyone had pleasant Holidays, and that your New Year has begun on a good note. The weather has certainly not cooperated with the snow and frigid temperatures we have experienced since the beginning of the year. Let's trust that we have seen the worst of the bad weather, and that Spring will be just around the corner.

Open Doors has been blessed with an abundance of food and clothing during the past year to share with our clients in need. We have also been blessed with an abundance of willing volunteers anxious to serve our clients. We are grateful for all those who come in to help on a regular basis.

We are also very thankful to the many donors who contribute to help keep the Open Doors operation open and running smoothly.

To those of you who are experiencing illness, we wish you all the best and a quick recovery.

Our Thanksgiving meal giveaway was a success again this year. The use of Meijer gift cards rather than turkeys and other cold foods was well received by our clients. The gift cards helped the distribution run smoothly also. Likewise, the use of Meijer gift cards during the Christmas food giveaway helped this program run more efficiently also. Our thanks for all the effort that Carrie Larrison and Leanne Zentz put into these two major holiday programs. Both programs were a big success.

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

Ann Godby and Sarah Clark are doing a wonderful job of scheduling our front room volunteers. Our goal is to have one receptionist, two advocates and two front room volunteers for the clothing...every time we are open.

We have trained most of the front room volunteers on how to be an advocate. If we have only one advocate on duty, one of the FA (front room advocate assistants) is qualified to step in. We also have clothing volunteers trained to step in as front room volunteers should the FA on duty need to fill an advocate place.

Our receptionists have done a good job on training the FA volunteers for the same reason. Most FA volunteers can enter the day's figures into the computer.

Clothing

We currently have 18 volunteers (9 on a regular schedule). To better schedule volunteers during regular operating hours, we are now using Sign-up Genius.

We distributed more than 40,000 clothing items in 2024. Currently, clients are allowed up to 25 items each week.

Pantry Operations

We are in the process of planning how we add TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) into our program. This is from USDA through Gleaners and may start 1st Quarter 2025. There are specific requirements we need to consider, including a dedicated freezer for meat, dedicated shelving for non-perishables, and a tracking system. Keep an eye out for these changes.

We have several shoppers who assist Tom and Sarah stock the shelves with items not donated. Carrie is ordering as much as she can from Gleaners and Meijer.

We saw more than 125,000 pounds of food distributed to clients and other programs during 4th Quarter 2024. This includes Thanksgiving and Christmas meal giveaways.

Warehouse Operations

We are keeping up. Our goal is to do an inventory each month.

Once again, Bob Peterson is coordinating the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive effort including getting all those bags folded. We hope to have a table set up in the back warehouse so anyone volunteering (and find themselves not busy) can go back and fold bags.

Bob has also assumed maintenance of the Open Doors van. It's been so helpful and he's doing a great job. He's taken it upon himself to replace a missing part and fix a flat tire. A good reminder to park the van inside to reduce potential damage.



Check presentation from The Mill Tavern in Westfield and Coca-Cola Consolidated to Open Doors on January 24, 2025. The Mill hosted their annual Joey's Stockings fundraiser over the holidays raising \$3000 from their patrons. The Mill owners, Christopher and Kristin Weiler matched the \$3000 bringing the total to \$6000. Partnering with Mandi Snyder, Community Relations Manager for Coca-Cola Consolidated, who committed to matching what the Weiler's could raise from the event, donated an additional \$6000. A total donation of \$12,120 was generously donated to Open Doors where it is appreciated and will be used to help keep the pantry stocked. Thank you to The Mill, the Weiler's, their patrons (Milligans), and Coca-Cola Consolidated!

COORDINATOR REPORTS *continued*

Kroger Food Rescue Program

We have three new drivers starting.

Food Procurement

Having the three extra shoppers is working well.

Volunteers

We have trained three additional volunteers this quarter: Amy Grovogel, Sarah Gillim (who speaks Spanish and is willing to assist with client communications), and Elizabeth Schurman.

All the food and front room volunteer positions are currently filled. We still have some positions to fill with the front room clothing helpers to ensure coverage for each of our open days.

We are thankful for all the people that are willing to give of their time to help others. THANK YOU!



Special Projects

Holiday Meals

We had more than 300 families sign up for Thanksgiving as well as Christmas meals.

This marked the first time handing out Meijer “Food Only” gift cards in place of cold items (meat, milk, eggs, pie, margarine, etc.) Feedback was very positive from clients, and it was a huge benefit for us. Not only was the project easier to manage, but we were able to use the remaining gift cards ourselves (to stock pantry shelves) rather than have a lot of extra food that we had to first store and then give away.

*Photos:
Volunteers at the
Christmas Meal
Giveaway*



Church Relations

2024 was a successful year of re-engagement for Open Door member churches. The strategy was to meet with each pastor, dust off the relationship, and propose that each church take one month a year to conduct food drives for the pantry. This was embraced. Food drives were conducted in each month January through October by 11 churches. This resulted in 4,300 pounds of food collected as well as financial donations. We’ve set a goal of 5,500 pounds for 2025.

Scheduled first quarter 2025 food drives include:

January..... North Circle Church

February.... Thrive Christian Church

March..... Lifepointe Church

Spiritual Concerns

All going well. Prayer requests were made through the advocates and passed along to the Prayer Partners.



2025 Calendar of Events

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

January 16
April 10
July 10
October 9

Annual Meeting

October 9

Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

May 10

Pack the Cruiser

June --

Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway

August 2

Thanksgiving Food Giveaway

November 22

Christmas Toy & Food Giveaway

December 13

Pantry Closed

January 1
November --
November 27
December --
December 25

**Election of the 2025 Officers were approved
at the January 16, 2025 Board of Directors meeting.**

President Bruce Watson
Vice President of Operations Kurt Wanninger
Vice President of Special Projects Carrie Larrison
Treasurer Jerry Rosenberger
Secretary Kathy Patterson

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
Karen Sutcliffe

Church Relations
Bill Black

Volunteers
Ann Godby

Food Pantry
Margie Smith

Kroger Food Rescue
Bruce Watson