



The Open Door

Home to the homeless

November 2016

A new initiative: Providing permanent housing and support

On September 19, the Government of Canada formally approved a grant to The Open Door, awarded under the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The grant, to be disbursed by March 31, 2019, will enable The Open Door, in partnership with the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, to house and support 16 men and women, primarily Inuit, in permanent housing of their choice. There is a huge need for this, as 30% of all the Inuit in Canada are now in cities in the south, and a disproportionate number of them end up on the streets. Program participants are currently being recruited, and we aim to have 12 individuals housed by March 31, 2017, with 4 more over the following year. The provincial government strongly supports this project as well, as it is the first program of its kind targeting primarily homeless Inuit people. Spending under the grant is closely monitored, however, and funds can only be used for this specific project.



Soup Group members Jane, Mary Anne, Jim and Elizabeth

Thank You!

- to Mary Anne McNally and the **Wednesday Soup Group** for generously and faithfully preparing huge and wholesome pots of soup every second week for two years already!
- to Marie-Claude Gadoury and Josée Croteau, co-owners of **Aubainerie Châteauguay**, for recent donations of much-needed new socks, underwear, blue jeans, shirts and other clothing.
- to the many others in the community who provide support.



Eight months ago, John* hit bottom and The Open Door helped him get into rehab, get sober and regain his confidence. He stopped by recently just to let The Open Door know that he is doing well.



Before coming to The Open Door three months ago, Richard* had been on the street for about a year. We put him in contact with a local contractor with whom he might be able to work. Richard now has a steady job and an apartment.



Tina* dropped in for a visit at The Open Door with a friend from the North. She wanted to make sure she attended her medical appointments in Montreal without “falling off the wagon” and staying in the city. One year ago, The Open Door helped her get her old job back up North and even secured her plane ticket home so that she could get off the street. Today she works in Kuujuaq and lives at home with her three children.

*names have been changed

Bobby

Over the years, public security and many local residents could readily identify Bobby, but not for good reasons... He was someone who would always say, "I can do it on my own". However, last year that changed. He started to attend daily AA meetings at St. Stephen's Church and afterward came into The Open Door and volunteered for hours on end. He moved back in with his sister and started eating healthy again, which led to dramatic weight loss. Most importantly, he has remained sober, even during the difficult passing of his brother. He has become a beacon at The Open Door to the people on the street because they look at him and say if he can do it so can I. That is the message Bobby shares with them, too. He has encouraged many of his old drinking buddies to seek the help they need, encouraging them to join AA with him. There is a strong network of family, Open Door staff members, social workers and outreach workers ready and willing to help him along the way to his 18-month chip and into the future.



The Open Door Assistant Director David Chapman and Bobby



Your generosity to The Open Door contributes to:

- ◆ Shelter from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, 5 days a week
- ◆ Complete meals
- ◆ Emergency food supplies
- ◆ Laundry service
- ◆ Clothing depot
- ◆ Free haircuts
- ◆ Free eyeglasses
- ◆ Free phone line
- ◆ Free Internet access
- ◆ Registered nurse care
- ◆ Community garden
- ◆ Job search centre
- ◆ Training program
- ◆ Community work program
- ◆ Accommodation search
- ◆ Spiritual counseling
- ◆ Gambling, alcohol, drug workshops
- ◆ Summer vacation camp

To donate to The Open Door, please send your cheque to:
The Open Door, 1 Weredale Park, Westmount QC H3Z 1Y5
Donations can also be made through CanadaHelps via our website.
Thank you!

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



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The Open Door is a mission of Emmaus Anglican Church, a Canadian registered charity.