



**A FRESH APPROACH
TO ENDING LOCAL HUNGER**

THE OPEN DOOR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

A fresh approach to ending local hunger through **access to healthy food**.

We at The Open Door believe that all people should have access to healthy, fresh food and that no one should go hungry.

Population Served

Low-income, food insecure populations in Dakota County, Minnesota. An estimated 7.5% of Dakota County residents are defined as food insecure.

About The Open Door

The Open Door is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) hunger relief organization dedicated to ending local hunger through access to healthy food. Founded in 2009, The Open Door has grown to **provide fresh and healthy food to more than 6,000 low-income residents across Dakota County each month**. Through our healthy food focus and innovative programs, we have sought to redefine how our sector approaches hunger relief. We view hunger through a community-health lens, and work to help our clients improve access to healthy food in an equitable manner.

The Open Door is the **largest food shelf serving Dakota County**. Over the past nine years The Open Door has grown from a small food shelf in the basement of an old parsonage to an innovative leader in the hunger relief community. By placing the dignity of our clients at the forefront of our work, offering healthy foods that not only fill but nourish, and finding ways to bring that food to where it is needed most, we know what it means to be an effective food shelf.





The programs we have created, specifically The Mobile Pantry, which is the **only mobile food program serving Dakota County**, and Garden to Table, are lauded as models for addressing the unique challenges of suburban hunger. We know there are issues in Dakota County that our clients face such as a shortage of affordable housing, and wages still failing to keep up with the cost of living. We work hard to ensure that our innovative programs continue to support our clients.

Major Programs of The Open Door

- **The Pantry, Eagan** - A fixed-site pantry offering milk, eggs, dairy, meat, chicken, fish, bakery, fruits and vegetables to food insecure families at every visit. At least 70% of the food offered is fresh and perishable. Families select their own food, as no food is pre-bagged for the client.
- **The Mobile Pantry** - Our freshly-stocked bus lined with pantry shelves travels to designated sites on pre-arranged schedule. Clients "shop" the bus, selecting the foods they need. Like our fixed-site pantry, 70% of the food offered is fresh and perishable.
- **Pop-Up Produce Stands** - Fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables are offered at five "pop-up" sites in low-income communities. This is in addition to clients' monthly appointments.
- **Garden to Table** - Nearly 200 adoptable garden plots, seeds, plants and tools are available for food shelf clients at no cost at one of eight gardens throughout Dakota County.
- **The Mobile Lunch Box** - We distribute healthy brown-bagged lunches at low-income housing complexes to food insecure children during the summer months. Children also participate in literacy, physical, gardening and art enrichment activities led by volunteer groups.
- **Family Advocacy** - Trained volunteer Family Advocates link families to various local social service agencies.

The Open Door in 2018

- The Open Door is serving **26% more clients overall** this year over last year.
- Our Mobile Distribution Program has served **89% more clients** over 2017.
- The Open Door **more than doubled** its Pop-Up Produce stands in 2018. This innovative program makes farm-fresh produce available in walking distance of low-income communities. Over 55,000 pounds of fresh and healthy food was distributed at five sites.
- Garden to Table, in its sixth growing season, supported a **record number of client gardeners**. The program added two gardens, including a new, neighborhood-based garden in a low-income mobile home community. The program celebrates **eight garden locations and 187 plots** throughout Dakota County.
- This year, The Open Door was honored with the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce **Community Impact Award**.



The Open Door Financials

Revenue

Contributions and Grants (including in-kind donations)	\$2,373,234
Investment Income	980
Other Revenue	6,274
Total Revenue	\$2,380,488

Expenditures

Grants and Similar Amounts Paid	\$1,652,719
Salaries, Other Compensation, Employee Benefits	526,667
Other Expenses	359,400
Total Expenses	\$2,538,786

Assets & Liabilities

Assets	\$322,753
Liabilities	74,414
Net Assets or Fund Balances	\$248,339

Functional Expense Allocation

Program Services	\$2,264,004
Management and General	196,416
Fundraising	78,366
Total Expense	\$2,538,786

Total Program Cost

Total Program Services Expenses	\$2,264,004
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**Based on 2017 IRS Form 990*



In-kind Donations

In 2017, The Open Door received in-kind donations of food totaling **\$1,548,070**.

Volunteers at The Open Door

Every week, volunteers are busy answering phones, meeting and listening to clients, and welcoming them to The Open Door. They stock shelves, shop with clients, stock and drive the Mobile Pantry and keep the Pantry in tip-top shape.

In 2017, individuals and groups contributed **23,749 volunteer hours** to The Open Door. As of November 2018, volunteers have already logged **21,739 hours** of work.

Volunteer Spotlight: Donna

Donna has been a dedicated volunteer at The Open Door for more than six years. Last year she **averaged 85 volunteer hours per month** for The Open Door! Donna brings enthusiasm, spirit, a hard work ethic, kindness and dedication to our pantry every day that she volunteers.

Donna is a Volunteer Leader (which means that she runs the show at the pantry). When she is not lifting 40+ pounds of food on and off of shelves, stocking the pantry, managing individual and group volunteers, ensuring that everything is running smoothly, she is found giving a warm hug, smile or hello to clients, volunteers, staff, donors and anyone who walks through the pantry door.

Donna has a soft spot for children and her eyes light up when you tell her there is a child in the waiting room. She keeps her own stash of trinkets and treats at The Open Door to hand out to children.

In addition to her gift of time and talent, Donna is also a generous financial supporter.

Our work to support food insecure people in Dakota County could not be done without Donna. Each week, Donna gives not only numerous hours of her time to our Eagan Pantry, but her love, compassion and service to others as well. At The Open Door, we could not imagine our mission being fulfilled without her.

2018 Board of Directors

Karen Dare
Carol Wirsbinski
Karen Levra
Kim Christianson
Ann Deiman-Thornton
Jen Joly
Scott Lanners
Michael Mangold
Mike Miller

The Open Door Staff

Jason Viana
Executive Director

The Open Door has 12 paid full-time, part-time and seasonal staff.

Contact Information

Administrative Offices: 3910 Rahn Road, Eagan, Minnesota
Eagan Pantry: 3904 Cedar Grove Parkway, Eagan, Minnesota
Mobile Pantry Center: 14757 Energy Way, Apple Valley, Minnesota
Phone: 651-605-2882

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