



The Open Door Newsletter



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Open Door Resident Moves On



Theo in his new apartment

Theo, who was highlighted in our May 2009 letter as our tither, has recently 'graduated' to subsidized housing. It was no surprise to residents and staff of The Open Door when Theo decided to move into his own independent housing because he had been such a model to both residents and staff during his 1 year tenure at The Open Door which is how long it took for his subsidized housing to go through. Theo has asked and been approved to continue to come to support meetings at The Open Door as well as continue the representative payee services that he receives. He feels that The Open Door is what is keeping him in stable housing through his access of all the supports they provide such as rep payee, support meetings, vocational rehab programs and some-

one to talk to at night when all other service providers are closed. Open Door board member visited him at his new apartment to take the picture for this newsletter and found that he had decorated his apartment so beautifully and asked where he purchased everything. Theo shyly reported that he had selected these items from the sidewalks where people were throwing these items out. Theo is busy visiting the local library, starting a school and volunteer work program, keeping up with his many medical appointments and attending daily recovery meetings. Theo has truly been a pleasure to serve here at The Open Door and we are so glad that he continues to meet with our residents at our night support meetings so he can convey his positive spirit to the rest of the group.

Dana Davis Honored for Open Door Work

Founding board member, Dana Davis will be honored by Pittsburgh Magazine as one of its "40 Under 40." Started in 1999, "40 Under 40" recognizes 40 talented individuals under the age of 40 who are making a positive impact on the Pittsburgh area's development. An independent panel of 12 judges, made up of former winners, business professionals and civic leaders selected the winners from a group of almost 300 candidates. According to the Pittsburgh Magazine "winners were chosen based on their passion, commitment, visibility, diversity and overall impact on the region." Dana was nominated for the honor by one of last years winners, Renee Cox. Renee was honored for her work as the Executive Director of Prevention Point Pittsburgh, the local needle exchange.

Prevention Point has been a great supporter to The Open Door both emotionally and practically. They have handled our payroll since the beginning of our organization for free and have also advised us in many

awards and grants that we have won over the years such as North Hills Community Outreach. The Open Door could not have done the innovative work that our programming targets without the groundwork that Prevention Point Pittsburgh has laid for all harm reduction activists in Pittsburgh.

Dana Davis was one of the eight founding board members of The Open Door when we first started planning in 2005 and when we first opened our doors in June 2006. She continues to serve as our volunteer board president to help manage and guide The Open Door into the future.

The 40 Under 40 will be honored in a ceremony at the new August Wilson



Dana Davis and Renee Cox

Center on November 6. For more information on the event, visit 40under40pittsburgh.org. And keep an eye out for the November issue of Pittsburgh magazine featuring the winners.

Donor Spotlight: Patrick Roddy

Patrick Roddy, a college friend of some of the board members and full time folk/rock singer in Asbury Park New Jersey has consistently been one of the largest donors every single year. We asked him if he would be willing to be in our newsletter as a highlighted donor and if he happened to have ever read our newsletter...

“Of course I look at the newsletters... c’mon now ...I think what you are doing is awesome and I’ve always been attracted to people and things that are for helping. I have a good friend who runs a second hand bike shop in Asbury Park where she has people donate bikes and the kids have to work on them for 15 hours then they get

their own bike. So, like I said, I’m attracted to do-gooders and I know what kind of work you put into the Open Door. I just like people who have less to get a chance at things. Second chances, third chances, I sure have had those opportunities.”

According to Patrick’s website, he’s been playing music for more than 14 years and has produced 3 cd’s of original material (www.patrodgy.com)

When asked about sending a picture for the newsletter Patrick tried to get out of it and stated: “Just put in Dave Letterman or John McEnroe, I look like them”



Roddy in New Jersey

New Volunteer Advocate



New Volunteer Advocate Brandon

Brandon has joined The Open Door staff as a Volunteer Advocate. He will work very much like our other resident monitors but on a volunteer basis because of his busy time schedule and his trying to slowly reenter the workforce after a number of illness’ that he has faced over the years. Brandon has already been a great help with the residents around the complex as he has set up an extra computer in our communal living space and is very knowledgeable about how to help our residents get as computer savvy as he is.

Brandon is currently enrolled at CCAC in the social work program and is the founder of Staying Positive. Staying Positive is a social networking group for HIV+ young adults in the Pittsburgh area (<http://stayingpositive.inpgh.org>). When asked about The Open Door, he said: “Open Door is really special to me. I feel like I’ve come full circle, having been a resident of

HIV transitional housing in San Francisco. Working here reminds me of how dedicated all the staff was at the Larkin Street Youth Services. I really have an appreciation for what that program has done for my life.”

Brandon is 28 and an AIDS & Kaposi’s Sarcoma survivor.

The Open Door

The Open Door, Inc. is a non-profit organization created by local, respected providers of HIV services. We are committed to connecting people living with HIV and AIDS to care. The mission of the Open Door is to provide a supportive housing program that improves the health of the forgotten population of high risk, chronically homeless people living with HIV.