



The Open Door Newsletter

The Open Door, PO Box 99243, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

OPEN DOOR RESIDENTS SPOTLIGHT

Mark was referred to The Open Door in 2013 by the Positive Health Clinic. Before joining The Open Door, Mark struggled to find stable housing. He found himself homeless with no place to go after he was kicked out of his home when he was just 16 years old. He connected with several transitional housing programs for people who are homeless but still had to overcome difficulties related to his mental health and HIV diagnosis. Mark felt depressed and alone throughout these times as he tried to stay “right with God.”

Mark found stability in his life after moving into The Open Door. He was able to apply for social security and the newfound stability in Mark’s life has also allowed him to focus on his health. Mark is currently taking HIV medicine and is proud to say he is undetectable. He is also dedicated to improving his mental health as he continues to see his therapist at the Positive Health Clinic.

Different aspects of The Open Door have been beneficial to Mark. He praised the work of the residential monitors who were described as “perfect for the program.” The residential monitors benefit Mark by helping him navigate the local social and healthcare services and by being attentive and sincere. Mark also enjoys the events that are planned by the Residential Advisory Board. His favorite events have been the Gateway Clipper cruise and Kennywood’s Phantom Fright Nights. In addition to these activities, Mark finds support through the monthly wellness groups held at The Open Door. He gains support from the wellness group as he is able to see other residents “going through the same situation . . . homelessness, depression, trying to stay alive . . . staying healthy.”

Mark is using his time at The Open Door to find even more success in his life. He is looking to dedicate the next years of his life to school and has found a program through the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. He is excited about attending school in the future and plans on studying sociology. Mark’s short time at The Open Door has not only improved his health but has also given him the stability needed to achieve other goals in life.

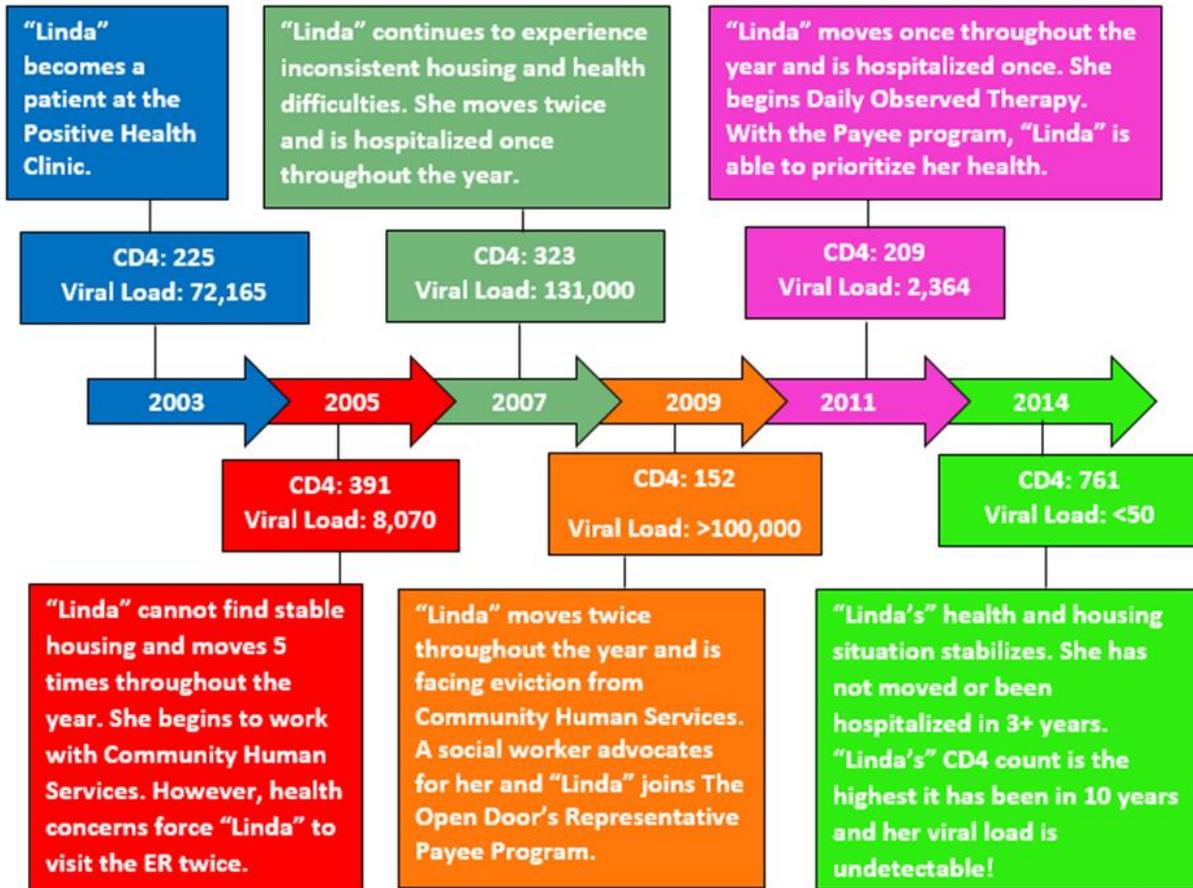
OFFICE RENOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

We are making great strides in improving our building. This year, we were able to install new flooring and paint in four apartments, including our community center (see photo). We hope to raise another \$10,000 to install new flooring in the entire building. Your donation, earmarked toward capital improvements, can help us to continue renovate our apartments and improve the quality of life for our residents!



REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE TIMELINE

In addition to supportive housing, The Open Door provides representative payee services to individuals who are experiencing housing instability and are living with HIV. “Linda” is one of many clients who found the stability needed to improve her health. Here is her timeline:

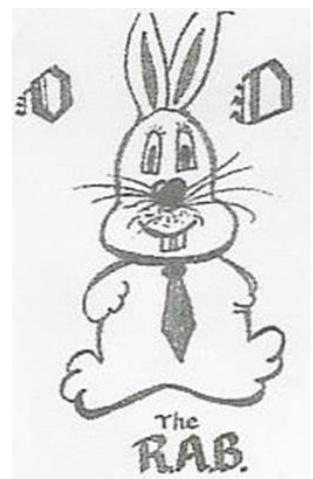


RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

The Resident Advisory Board (R.A.B.) continues to engage residents by planning events in a cooperative way that build a sense of community. The R.A.B. has successfully planned a variety of events in the past year such as a Gateway Clipper cruise, a trip to Kennywood's Phantom Fright Nights, and a trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo. They are always looking ahead to the future and have drafted a mission statement to keep their focus. It is their hope that future members will embrace and continue the mission adopted by the R.A.B.

Residential Advisory Board Mission Statement:

The mission of The Open Door Residential Advisory Board is to establish a family-oriented Residential Advisory Board that promotes harmony and peace among all residents. We aim to model The Open Door's mission of medication adherence, medical appointment adherence, and harm reduction while simultaneously understand the importance of the safety and security of the building and its residents. It is our goal to provide service to each other through events which promote and maintain the togetherness of The Open Door community.



R.A.B. LOGO designed by one of the residents