



The Open Door Newsletter



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

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST APARTMENT OR HOME?

Our residents do too because that home gives them the tools and empowerment they need to change their lives and achieve their goals.

Prior to 2007, Bernie* was chronically homeless. He stayed with friends and went to local shelters just to keep a roof over his head. He had no income, no home, and little support, which made it difficult to live let alone take his HIV medications and make his doctors' appointments.

Then, Bernie met our team through a local HIV-related medical clinic and we moved him into The Open Door, that same day in 2007. That home and our team made him feel safe and secure as he said, "I didn't get a scratch on me when I lived there." Bernie said that transitional, supportive housing helped him stop drinking and focus on his health and quality of life. It helped him become prepared for his own apartment after being homeless for so long. It taught him patience through the community of family he made with other residents and staff. He added that representative payee services gave him peace because he knew his rent was paid and allowed him to learn budgeting skills for his new apartment. He finally had his own place where he could not only be safe but also, focus on being healthy and improving his art.

Bernie is an extremely talented artist and has used this gift to support our Open Door family on many times by designing beautiful cards for happy occasions and sad. Many of his pieces embellish the halls, apartments, offices, and community room in The Open Door. In fact, he designed the logo for the Resident Advisory Board we told you about in our last newsletter.

Bernie is proud to share that the tools he was given at The Open Door helped him to achieve all of his goals: maintaining sobriety (6 months!), achieving an undetectable viral load, moving into his own apartment, and budgeting his own money. He has graduated not only from our housing program but also from our representative payee services in November of 2015. His new building is safe and has great access to transportation. Some of his favorite memories at The Open Door include events and programs such as bingo, holiday parties, support groups, and summer cookouts. He still comes to all support groups and will be joining us for our holiday parties. Bernie was happy to share his story to "help The Open Door as we have helped him" and looks forward to always being a member of The Open Door family.

**Name has been changed to protect the safety and confidentiality of Bernie.*



Bernie would like you to enjoy viewing a few pieces of his amazing art he did for The Open Door staff and Resident Advisory Board!



DONATE TODAY



Because of our work at The Open Door, people like Bernie can go to sleep knowing he has a safe, affordable place to stay and the support he needs to take charge of his health and HIV. Stories like Bernie's are possible for anyone who is homeless and living with HIV. We need YOUR help so we can continue to provide our clients with the tools they need to become empowered to live independently, improve their health and quality of life, and ultimately improve their roles in our community.

JOIN US TODAY. Any gift you make, no matter how large or small, will give us the opportunity to provide opportunities for housing and healthcare to those who haven't been afforded them.

\$100 Would allow us to serve 15 individuals with representative payee services for 1 month so our residents, like Bernie, can achieve housing, financial, and medical stability.

\$250 Would purchase items, like art supplies, for 10 events so our residents, like Bernie, can teach an art class to other residents, most of whom have never had the opportunity to pick up a paint brush.

\$500 Would support a resident that we house with no income, like Bernie, for housing, utilities, food, and other basic needs for an entire month.



There are many ways YOU can donate to The Open Door, Inc.

Through Mail:

Check made payable to:
The Open Door, Inc.
PO Box 99243
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Through Our Website:

<http://opendoorhousing.org/how-to-help/donate>

Through Employee Matching Programs:

Check with your employer! This is a great way to increase your donation

Through Amazon Smile:

smile.amazon.com/ch/30-0354607

Amazon will make a donation to The Open Door through all of your purchases at no cost to you!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Through Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TheOpenDoorIncPgh



The Open Door, Inc. is a 501(c) organization and all gifts are 100% tax-deductible