



# OPEN M

A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope

JANUARY 2011

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## OPEN M's St. Nicholas and Guardian Angels

by Dottie Achmoody



Dottie Achmoody

The other day, on my way home from work, I caught the tail end of a radio broadcast on WCRF giving the history of modern day St. Nicholas. They stated how he was kind, loving, and most of all had a very giving heart. It was

interesting how he depicted the love of Christ through the love he showed to others.

Christmas is a time of giving, and OPEN M is blessed to have wonderful donors who believe in the work that OPEN M is doing for the community. I feel that OPEN M has many St. Nicholases helping create a special day for those in need every day with their monetary donations and contribution of time.

You have probably heard the saying, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." That is the philosophy of many of our donors. Giving to enhance another's life brings them joy. We have many donors that choose to give anonymously. They do not want credit or praise for anything. Their goal is truly to build up and help others.

Unspecified donors do not know it, but when they give so generously, they not only bless the

people they give to through OPEN M but they bless me too! They have taught me so much through their kind actions and loyalty. Over the years, I see the same unnamed donors give continuously, their character is steady and their hearts are pure. They have no underlying motivation. Their only inspiration is to spread love, help others, and truly be that guiding force to provide OPEN M with the necessities to reach so many in the community.

One of our special donors helped with certain needed food items for our 200 Christmas food boxes, and toys to provide Christmas for the 30 families that were on our waiting list.

More blessings piled in as a call came in from Florida. The voice said, "Dottie, I'm sending you my monthly check for \$1,000."

I especially appreciated the unique idea one of our trustees had when he and his wife invited 60 guests for dinner and told them not to bring any food or gifts for them, but to bring a toy or game for the children of OPEN M. He looked like Santa when he pulled up with a vehicle packed to the brim with gifts!

I must also share the excitement that came when another special friend of OPEN M knew we were struggling with finances during the summer months and sent in \$25,000.

continued on Page 2



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Lastly, I am so thankful for the year-end donors of OPEN M that sent in money to help defray the costs of year-end expenses, thank you my dear friends.

These modern day St. Nicholas' are guardian angels to OPEN M and do not know that each of them is an answer to prayer and an instrument of our Lord. With all these examples, you must think wow, OPEN M is set! Not exactly, our needs have increased enormously. For example, this month some of the days in our food pantry, more than 37 families came in for emergency assistance. Each family received between two and five bags of groceries depending on the size of their family. This is not uncommon for OPEN M.

Trust me, the need is greater than ever. People are hungry, people need healthcare and medicine, we receive an inordinate

amount of calls from people literally crying because they have recently become unemployed and for the first time they do not know how they are going to pay their bills because they are struggling to get food on the table.

OPEN M can only do so much. Even though we are frugal, and have cut back wherever we can, we will still end 2010 with a deficit. If you find it in your heart to share what you have with others, please know we stretch every dollar to close to \$7 in value of services. Investing in the lives of people is a great investment! Hearing God's provision in another's life encourages you to know that he will also provide you with your needs. You can never out give God. I thank you in advance, and from my heart to yours, for your gift of life and fulfillment to others.

## Holiday giving from St. Luke's Lutheran Church

St. Luke's Lutheran Church is one of OPEN M's 86 covenant churches. This year St. Luke's Lutheran church representatives Lori Heilmeier and Pauline Ellis came up with a creative idea to raise money for OPEN M. They raised \$220 selling Christmas ornaments to decorate their church Christmas tree. They sold "in memory of" and/or "in honor of" ornaments for \$5. The person purchasing the ornament got to write a loved one's name on the ornament and hang it on the tree. On Christmas Eve, they got to take their ornament home and put it on their own tree.

Thank you to St. Luke's Lutheran church and church representatives Lori and Pauline for thinking of a creative idea to give back.



# Christmas for the Love of Children



As we begin the New Year, we look back on December as a busy and fulfilling month here at OPEN M. This year, our Christmas for the Love of Children program was a blessing to our staff, the sponsors, and all the families involved. Sponsoring families in the area who needed assistance with Christmas, OPEN M was able to fulfill its mission

Catholic school who donated hats, gloves and scarves, Holy Trinity Lutheran church donation of coats, and First UMC in Cuyahoga Falls for sponsoring and purchasing presents for over 100 children! In addition, we would like to express our gratitude for the Stow Munroe Falls Basketball Team for sponsoring families and donating their time to help with distribution day!



of strengthening the community. Through our program, we gave assistance to over 300 families in receiving Christmas gifts and food for their children and we were able to spread Christ's joy during the Christmas season in a great way! Distribution day was December 16, 2010 where families came from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to pick up gifts and food. While Christmas music played and volunteers came in with Christmas sweaters on, it was a smooth day full of joyful laughs and even a visit from Santa Clause!

One of our long time guardian angel donors even took Tonie Wilson shopping to get gifts for around 85 children that were on our waiting list! The list goes on and on, and we are thankful for each individual who helped us this Christmas. The morning after distribution day, we received a large amount of calls where parents were near tears thanking OPEN M for all they did. "Thank you. I was very shocked with what we got yesterday- God bless you," stated one of our clinic patients.

As with all we do, it was all made possible with the incredible support of volunteers, donors, covenant churches and areas businesses who sponsored families in need. Thank you so much for the great impact you made, every year we are overwhelmed with support. We are very grateful for places such as St. Paul's

As fun as it is to unwrap a new present, giving them away to others filled OPEN M with such thankfulness this year. Thank you to everyone who helped us provide a beautiful Christmas to so many families. Tonie Wilson, our Christmas Coordinator, did an excellent job as well!



## AAHAM Gives Back

A big thank you to AAHAM (American Association of Healthcare Administration Management) Western Reserve Chapter who chose OPEN M as their charity this Christmas! AAHAM consists mostly of hospital management staff; therefore, they were excited to hear about our free health clinic and everything OPEN M is able to offer our patients. Each year, AAHAM has a Christmas meeting where they choose one non-profit to receive the funds raised from their raffle. This year, the board decided to match the amount raised during the meeting, at the end of the Christmas meeting \$2,060 was presented to OPEN M. Thank you to AAHAM and the professionals involved for helping our community!

# Fairlawn Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Auction

On December 13, even though the temperature was 18 degrees and the area was hit with a blustery snowstorm, OPEN M saw warmth of support from the Fairlawn Area Chamber of Commerce (FACC). Every year the FACC holds a holiday auction and chooses charities to donate the proceeds. We felt blessed OPEN M was chosen as one of the favored charities. They had more than 150 silent auction items and over 200 people in attendance to show their support to the charities and the Fairlawn Area Chamber of Commerce. Members brought in food, gifts and donations for us to bring back to OPEN M. Everyone was in the Christmas spirit! It was a wonderful event; OPEN M appreciates the support of the Fairlawn Area Chamber of Commerce and their members.



## Hot Lunch Headlines

<b>Mon. Jan. 17</b>	<b>Hudson UMC</b>
<b>Tues. Jan. 18</b>	<b>Fairlawn Lutheran</b>
<b>Wed. Jan. 19</b>	<b>Granger UMC</b>
<b>Thur. Jan. 20</b>	<b>Twin Falls UMC</b>
<b>Fri. Jan. 21</b>	<b>Macedonia UMC</b>
<b>Mon. Jan. 24</b>	<b>St. Barnabas Northfield</b>
<b>Tues. Jan. 25</b>	<b>Stow UMC</b>
<b>Wed. Jan. 26</b>	<b>1st. Cong. Hudson</b>
<b>Thur. Jan. 27</b>	<b>Green Valley</b>
<b>Fri. Jan. 28</b>	<b>Montrose Zion</b>
<b>Mon. Jan. 31</b>	<b>Al Kaf Court 144</b>



## A new way to make an impact “Bridges out of Poverty informational session”

Thinking of doing something different in 2011? Want to impact a life? We are looking for volunteers to partner with individuals striving to get out of poverty who have graduated from our “Getting Ahead” program. We are holding an informational session for anyone interested in learning more about Bridges Out of Poverty, understand the work done within our Family Development program and to ask questions about what becoming a “partner” would mean.

The informational session will be held at OPEN M on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 9 a.m. This opportunity is open to everyone, so bring a friend, family member or co-worker with you! If you are planning on attending, curious about the details or just have a question, please R.S.V.P. to Hannah Nitz at [family@openm.org](mailto:family@openm.org) or call 330.434.3250. This is a great opportunity to help the clients of OPEN M in a meaningful and impactful way.

# Kudo's Corner

- Thank you to all of the OPEN M supporters who donated food and gifts for our Christmas for the Love of Children program
- Stow Basketball team for helping with our Christmas for the Love of Children distribution day
- Fairlawn Area Chamber of Commerce Members for donating food and gifts for our Christmas for the Love of Children Program
- All the faithful volunteers who have donated their time to OPEN M this past month
- St. Paul's Catholic School for donating boxes of hats, gloves and scarves to keep those in need warm this holiday season
- Lauren Sullivan from the Job Center for helping our Diamond Ladies with job readiness, conducting person interviews and offering her wisdom and advice!
- Erica Minter, Medical Assistant Student. Her clinic externship is almost complete and she has been doing a wonderful job; she consistently goes beyond what is required.
- Matthew Croston, DMD: For offering to volunteer in the dental clinic. Dr. Croston started his volunteer work in November and has fully embraced the true meaning of serving.
- Kim Spontarelli: Assistance with preparing 100 bagged lunches for the Flu Shot Clinic held in November; also, for decorating the clinic for Christmas. She devoted her time as well as donated ornaments for the cause.
- Dorothy Garrett and Darla Hopkins for their continued hard work with the Patients Assist Program in the clinic. The program assist eligible patients with obtaining medications from pharmaceuticals that could not otherwise afford to purchase. By assisting patients with the program, not only does it help the patient, but it also helps the clinic save money.
- Women's Board for the many different ways they minister to us and the OPEN M community throughout the year.
- Dennis Spontarelli: Volunteering to do front desk during Clinic. He has worked many clinics in the past month, and always puts a smile on the patient's faces.
- Dennis Getz: For his continued dedication to our clinic, even with such a busy schedule. The patients notice when he cannot make it, and are always glad when he is here.
- To all the Clinic's front desk volunteers: You have made the transition for Kristina, the Clinic Office Manager, much smoother with your patience and willingness to help out whenever needed. Thank you so much!



- Thank you to all the volunteers and churches who helped provide and pack food boxes for Christmas for the Love of Children
- Doris Fuson and the group from East Market Church of God who helped sort our Christmas gifts!
- Winnie Newtabower and her junior high girls who helped out with Christmas- they are going to be great leaders!
- Girl Scout Troop 978 Hudson for making and donating cookies for our Christmas for the Love of Children Program

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

## OPEN M Donor List November 24th through December 24th

AARP Coventry Chapter 3820  
The Rev. & Mrs. K. Lee Achmoody  
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Lynne Dougherty  
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**In Honor Of**  
Ruth Hinkle  
Betty Oren  
by  
Esther Circle - Family of Faith UMC

**In Honor Of**  
Jane Gracan  
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Mr. Stephen Mileski

**In Honor Of**  
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Peg Neely  
Ruth & Wendell White  
Jo & George Honig  
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**In Memory of**  
Miriam Keller  
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Dr. Kevin Lonsdorf  
by  
Suburban South  
Family Physicians Staff

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Roger Hoover  
by  
Women's Auxiliary of  
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Janet DasVarma  
Sandra Dawson  
Jean Foust  
Robbin Harvey  
Mary Keller  
Froncie Repetti  
Alice Bergstrom  
by  
Sylvia Yankey

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Mr. & Mrs. David Christ

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Genne Jim" Baratuci"  
by  
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Marilyn Hartnett  
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by  
Nancy Mann

**In Memory Of**  
Lance Wernowsky  
Connie Wernowsky  
by  
Mrs. Norma Wernowsky

## OPEN M Annual Benefit Dinner

Knute Larson will be this year's keynote speaker at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Beacon of Hope Benefit Dinner. As the recently retired pastor of The Chapel in Akron, where he served for over 25 years, Knute Larson is an author and the newest Associate Bible Teacher for RBC Ministries. Knute's passion is to teach and coach young pastors.

The Annual Benefit Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the Silver Lake County Club. Appetizers and cocktails will start the evening off at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m. Proceeds benefit the OPEN M free health clinic and the overall mission of OPEN M.

Please contact Darlene Szilagy at [nurseadmin@openm.org](mailto:nurseadmin@openm.org) or call OPEN M at 330-434-0110, Ext. 414 or Tiffany Stahl, Ext. 404 for more details. We appreciate your support!

## New Year and a new addition to the OPEN M family

OPEN M welcomes Sandy Trado as Accounting Manager. Sandy comes to OPEN M with a diverse background in business and finance. He is a Certified Public Accountant with over 25 years experience with profit and not for profit organizations in all accounting and tax matters. He has a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration with concentration in accounting. Sandy is also the principal of his accounting practice, True North Accounting and Tax, LLC.

Sandy attends Parkside Church located in Bainbridge. He heard about OPEN M through CEO, Dottie Achmoody and he is looking forward to using the gifts God has given him to support OPEN M wherever possible. Sandy also mentioned that he is excited to learn all about OPEN M and is eager to share our services to those in need. Sandy is originally from Connecticut and enjoys golf, running, yard work and officiating football in his spare time. OPEN M is proud to have Sandy join our team!

## OPEN M play day

On Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 17, 2011 OPEN M will be hosting a "play day" from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for the neighborhood kids. This is a wonderful way to show our support for the neighborhood youth. It also gives the kids a great educational way to spend their day while not in school. There will be a stimulating performance from the Illusion Factory at 2p.m. Other activities will be games, movies, sports, reflection, music, science and more! Lunch will be provided to all who participate. There will be 25 kids enrolled to participate in the play day. Any students or groups that need to complete service hours or would like to be involved in this event please contact Felicia Bronner at [homework@openm.org](mailto:homework@openm.org) or call her at 330-434-0110, Ext. 410.

**play!**

## Special Thank you to Gleaner Life Insurance Society

A special thank you goes out to the Summit Arbor 765, a service chapter of the Gleaner Life Insurance Society. Gleaner Life Insurance, a fraternal insurance company, has been in business since 1894 and is based in Adrian, Michigan. Over the past year the Summit Arbor, who meet at the Firestone Branch of the Akron Library;

have collaborated with OPEN M on several projects including: donating a picnic table, planting flowers and shrubs around OPEN M with our Diamond Ladies, and donated food and other items to our food pantry. Recently the chapter gave OPEN M a Good Samaritan check they received from Gleaner Life Insurance Society in recognition of 3,262 volunteer hours performed by arbor members. The \$750 donation is greatly appreciated as well as the time and effort they have dedicated to OPEN M.



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## IMPORTANT DATES

### January 2011 -

No Monthly Membership Meeting

### Friday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.-

Benefit Concert with the House Popes  
At Musica in Akron

### Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m. -

ANNUAL Membership Meeting

### Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. -

Monthly Membership Meeting

### Saturday, April 9 -

Annual Benefit Dinner  
at Silver Lake County Club

## Volunteer of the month: Linda Stephenson



When looking at all OPEN M does, it is obvious that we could not serve our community as we do without the help of our loyal and committed volunteers. With such a small staff, we need the support of our many volunteers to be able to continue to support the community. This became apparent on a completely new level when looking at our Christmas program this year.

Serving over 300 families in the Akron area, Christmas for the Love of Children could not have been as successful as it was, without the hundreds of hours put in by Linda Stephenson.

This year, Tonie Wilson was hired on part time to help with our Christmas program. Realizing all of the work that needed to get accomplished, Tonie recruited a close friend of 14 years, Linda. Linda has been married for 36 years to Brad, and they live in Bath, Ohio. During her spare time, she enjoys volunteering, gardening, cooking, and computer work. With a large family in Michigan, they are there often, always playing the role of the “cool aunt and uncle”. Linda was not familiar with OPEN M, but has a large heart for serving others through volunteering and therefore agreed to help

Tonie with the Christmas for the Love of Children program. Linda worked over 25 years for different Fortune 500 companies, and has accomplished great things throughout her working career, including 5 years of running her own business. “I’m done with the corporate world”, Linda stated, “and now I have transitioned into my ‘giving years’. I like to volunteer and help out in my spare time.” Asking Linda to describe herself, Tonie jumped into the conversation and stated 4 words about Linda: hardworking, intelligent, self motivated and generous. Throughout the months of her volunteering, those qualities were displayed daily. Linda did everything from inputting information on excel, shopping for presents, organizing the gifts, running parts of distribution day and even mopping floors. No task was too easy or too challenging for Linda, as she poured her time and energy into the Christmas for the Love of Children program.

Linda often mentioned how she knew the great need that existed in Akron, but she was able to experience it in a whole new way this year. She commented on the impressive amount of generous sponsors and the great job OPEN M does of reaching so many different families in Akron. We are incredibly thankful for all the hard work Linda did, and how smoothly Christmas ran because of her help. Linda, you are our volunteer of the month, and we appreciate all you do for OPEN M and our community! If you see Linda around OPEN M or in Akron, thank her for all she does.