



# OPEN M

A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope

2019  
MAY

## OUR MISSION

The mission of OPEN M, a Christian ministry, is to provide pathways out of poverty for all by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and strengthening the community.

### STAY IN THE LOOP!

FOLLOW US ONLINE



@OPENMministry  
[www.openm.org](http://www.openm.org)

For more information contact us at 330-434-0110 or email us at [info@openm.org](mailto:info@openm.org)

# MEASURING THE FUTURE



Have you ever asked yourself, "Why is it that everything we do is somehow measured?"

Measured as defined by Webster's: *Adjective- having a slow, regular rhythm.*

*Antonym- carefully considered; deliberate and restrained.*

Success for a person in business is measured and believe me, it is not done slowly or with a regular rhythm. Often times, at **OPEN M** we have been measured by the amount of people we feed, the number of people served in our clinic, also; how many clients we secure employment for through CWA. Society measures us by what we wear, where we shop and the friends that we associate with.

Occasionally, we are measured by the affiliations we have with county clubs, the 'depth' of our pockets & credit cards or the credit limits we have. Let us not forget we are almost always measured by the community we live in and the size of our homes.

Seriously, I know that all of this may be relevant to some, - however when we stand before our maker, do you think any of this will matter?

As some of you know, I recently had a

reality check in which my wife was diagnosed with glioblastoma cancer on her brain. As I deal with the sorrow and the reality of it all- I have had a chance to ruminate on what is truly important.

By no means is the following scenario meant to sound like I am I boasting or even having the audacity to say it, it is just one of many 'Aha' moments that I would have in this hospital setting. Recently while visiting my wife at University Hospital, I went to the cafeteria to get a quick bite to eat. While in line, I witnessed a young woman with a small child, I could only imagine what crisis she was going through. As she reached the register to pay for her food, she fumbled through her purse and pockets only to realize she didn't have her debit card. The discomfiture and gloom that showed on her face, plus the fact that she could not feed her child (never mind the reason she was at the hospital in the first place) was disheartening. She stood there with tears in her eyes as she explained

to the cashier her circumstance.

A memory flashed in my head (from a conversation that had taken place months ago), wherein someone asked me how I was doing and my reply was, Living the dream'

You may ask- what does this have to do with the young lady, it is this:

In the blink of an eye, your life can change and what was your normal is no longer. Your life has become that paradigm shift. What if I were here and could not pay for the services my wife needed and also not be able to feed my family?

It was in that moment, that one act made me stop, measure my emotions (remembering why I was there too) and thought to myself, this could be me.

The spirit prompted me to step forward and pay for her food. The look on her face was the only thank you I needed. She began to cry, overwhelmed with gratitude that

cont. →

# MEASURING THE FUTURE (cont.)

another person would give to her. At that moment there was no measurement.

Her thank you was unspoken however it resonated volumes.

I am living the dream, I CAN help!

Similarly, the same can happen at **OPEN M**.

It really is hard to measure the impact that OPEN M

has had in the South Akron community.

In March our clinic assisted 204 unduplicated clients. We handled 775 emergency food assistance clients, 691 hot lunch meals in 10 days and 84 senior (food) boxes. Community Works Akron continues to strive to place high risk clients in jobs throughout the Akron/Summit County area.

Are these results measured

the as success? I will let you decide for yourself.... I think success is measured when no one is looking, and you help one in need. This ministry has flourished in one of the hardest communities in Akron.

As Christ told us to help the least of these, will you look around and be aware of opportunities to help the less fortunate? This is one of the greatest measurable things

you could do in life.

I covet your prayers and concerns

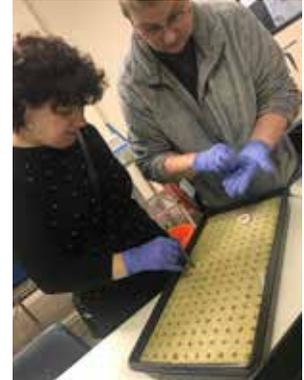
**In Him,  
Bob  
r.titus@openm.org**

## OPEN M Staff plants seeds to a better future

Each month OPEN M staff make an effort to spend time together as a team. Often times throughout the month various departments might not even see each other. The mission of OPEN M is large and takes up the majority of everyone's time.

This month our staff took a trip over to the Salvation Army's hydroponic farm program over near the former Rolling Acres Mall. They are doing some amazing things in efforts to educate the population on sustainable growing practices, plus providing some of the best produce to local food pantries, including OPEN M!

We planted 1,000 seeds that morning and plan to head back in about a month or so to harvest the fruits of our labor!



# CLINIC CORNER

## Even in the worst times

**OPEN M** strives to be a pillar of hope for those in our community and we hope that our clinic does the same.

People come to us in all shapes, sizes, colors and religions but the thing they all have in common is that they are in desperate need of healthcare.

We tend to see people at their worst, and yet they let us know how appreciative they are of our services.

We recently received a testimonial from one of our patients stating, "I give all thanks to the **OPEN M** clinic. I

was so worried about my son who has seizures and cannot afford healthcare or his medications. **OPEN M** helped him in so many ways, I don't know what we would have done without them. I am so grateful for the services **OPEN M** provided for me and my son."

Stories like these are what keeps us pushing to make more of an impact in our community.



### *Donations made in memory of:*

**Harry A. Donovan**

*by Mr. & Mrs. John Bonfiglio Jr.*

**Anita Tersigni & Peg Miller**

*by Mr. & Mrs. Hank Tersigni*

### *Donations made in honor of:*

**Rachel Nunez**

*by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bond*

**Martha Booth**

*by Joan & Kurt Weitendorf*

**Katie Titus**

*by Ms. Pepper Bates*

## UP Program is on the rise!

**UP**

**UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE  
UNDERSTANDING POVERTY**

Let's get excited!!! The UP Program (Understanding People, Understanding Poverty) is paving the way for their clients!

In April, 5 clients found jobs after participating in the UP Program and in May we added 6 more to the list. Now that's something to be excited for.

Now you're probably wondering what is The UP Program? Inquiring minds always like to be

informed. The UP Program is a program through JFS (Summit County Job & Family Services) which consists of able bodied individuals who receive TANF assistance (Food Stamps), these clients have to complete a three month job readiness training once a week to receive their benefits.

During the training clients learn how to apply for jobs, conflict resolution, confidence building, transferable skills, barriers in the workplace, and much more.

The UP Program is teaching their clients to inhale knowledge and exhale success. For more information about the UP Program contact Carmen Williams, Program Coordinator and the facilitator who also believes that being stuck is not an option. 330-434-0110 x.429.

## A brighter day ahead

Things are a bit brighter in OPEN M's pantry these days. That is due to a special gift from Montrose Zion UMC and the Akron Community Foundation for their gift of brand new LED lighting throughout the pantry. If you've been in lately you'll know just how big and needed of a change this is for us and our clients!



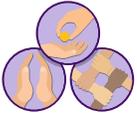


# OPEN M

A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope

**OPEN M**  
941 Princeton St.  
Akron, OH 44311

Return Service Requested



## GIVE. PRAY. GO.

To sign up for any "Give" or "Go" or for more information, visit [openm.org](http://openm.org) or contact us at [volunteer@openm.org](mailto:volunteer@openm.org) or (330) 434-0110 ext. 409.

**JUNE**

**GIVE** Collect diapers for our pantry families

**PRAY** For hope as our pantry families face basic struggles on a daily basis

**GO** Thursday Serve Day – June 6<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00 PM

WE WALK TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY.

# 2019 WALK THE TALK

MAY 18, 2019 · 1 MILE WALK & CELEBRATION

PRESENTING SPONSOR

# Jeff & Lani Murphy

LOVE SPONSORS

  
**MAYNARD**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

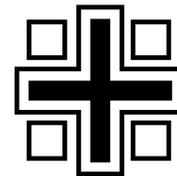
  
**AMSS**  
AUTOMATION MAILING AND SHIPPING SOLUTIONS

  
**SpeedPro**  
Imaging  
Great. Big. Graphics.  
[SpeedProAkron.com](http://SpeedProAkron.com)

  
**SEMANS**  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

## THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S WALK SPONSORS!

FAITH SPONSOR



Faith Lutheran Church

HOPE SPONSORS

United Methodist Church  
of Macedonia

Kelly & John Bonfiglio

Michael & Janet Pera

Hugh & Stephanie Pace

Carol Lynn and Richard Stratton

Kenmore Comics & Games

Shelley H. Walker

Third Federal Savings & Loan

Sylvia Trundle & Kay Hine

Harmony Springs  
Christian Church

Akron Tool & Die

John Margida