



OPEN M

A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope

941 PRINCETON ST., AKRON, OHIO 44311

330-434-0110 | WWW.OPENM.ORG

DECEMBER 2018 EDITION

50

YEARS

1968 - 2018



JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE!

Dear Friends,

As I approach this holiday season, I am compelled to "Make a Joyful Noise" as I reflect on all of the blessings bestowed to **OPEN M** in many varied ways.

..God renews my spirit every day...

As 2018 draws to a close, I'd like to extend our warmest wishes for the holiday season to each and every one of you. Christmas is a time of birth, wonder, sharing, and prayer. We celebrate this time of year in different ways depending on our culture, traditions, and beliefs. As a Christian

ministry, **OPEN M** celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that for all of you it is a time to relax with family, friends and reflect on the blessings of the past year.

At **OPEN M**, our mission is to provide pathways out of poverty for all by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and strengthening the community. Each of our programs is geared toward accomplishing that mission through the efforts of our dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers.

For example, we have the opportunity to work with those struggling with unemployment. Through our Community Works Connection program, we provide training and help clients find gainful employment and, in 2018, celebrated seeing many reach their one-year mark at the same job! Again, *God renews my spirit every day.*

In 2019, our clinic will reach new heights in patient appointments, surpassing the 3,500 we provided last year through the efforts of 70 doctors and many other medical professionals who

generously donate their time. This is such a blessing to our community. Thank you to all of our loyal and dedicated volunteers that make this possible.

Our pantry is likely to provide more than the 24,000 meals we served last year. Through our Mountain of Food and other events, and in conjunction with the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank, we'll provide needy families and individuals with over 122,324 tons of food or 489,296 pounds.

With your sponsorship, we have adopted over 600 children who will receive food, toys, gifts, pajamas, scarfs, hats, gloves, and more through our "Christmas, for the Love of Children" season.

What an astonishing job our volunteers and staff have done through the grace and strength of God!

Last, but not least, in 2018, we celebrated 50 years of service to our community and, with your help, are now preparing for the next 50 years.

However, the needs are still great, and we need your help!

Even as our clients' needs have continued to grow, there has been a decrease in funding from foundations and churches over the last few years, and we are depending on support from our donors to help us meet these needs. Our team at **OPEN M** continues to work extremely hard every day to be good stewards of the financial resources that God has entrusted to us.

As we look at what God has in store for us next year, we'd like to ask: Will you prayerfully consider giving financial support to our organization? Only with your help and God's strength can we achieve our vision of being a community leader in breaking the cycle of poverty and transforming lives, one person and one family at a time.

I sincerely appreciate your continued support of **OPEN M** and wish you a Merry Christmas and a bright and special New Year!

I covet your prayers and concerns.

In Him, Bob
r.titus@openm.org

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.

To speak with a specific department, please call 330-434-0110 and the following extension:

Clinic: 413 Community Works Akron: 434 Pantry: 416 Volunteers: 409



OPEN M CELEBRATES THE 39TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY DINNER

On the night that's most traditionally reserved for rushing around the house, cleaning, remembering to get the turkey brined or making that last minute run to the store for that one ingredient that somehow slipped your mind.

For many in our community that just simply isn't the case. They might not have anyone to share the meal with, it could be too large a financial strain or they simply might not even have a place to live. That's where OPEN M comes in and has for the past 38 years.

Every year OPEN M puts those people first and serves them a full service, table waited, Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings!

Over 90 volunteers partnered with OPEN M staff starting out in the morning peeling potatoes, making stuffing and preparing the birds, all 187lbs of them. All of our volunteers made the night super special for our guests, taking care of their every need!

Over 200 people were treated to a full meal that evening. Without the churches, organizations and businesses that donated food and money none of this would be possible.





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Return Service Requested



GIVE. PRAY. GO.

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

JANUARY

GIVE Purchase gifts for our Christmas program with after-holiday sales

PRAY Praise God for our partner churches, businesses, and schools

GO Check our website soon for all 2019 Volunteer opportunities!



A FEW NOTES FROM OPEN M



CWC is now Community Works Akron!

OPEN M's Community Works Connection program is getting a bit of an overhaul.

The program has always been structured on the proven Cincinnati Works program and now we're just making that official. We also want to make sure our program is Akron-centric and not just available to those in the Summit Lake area near OPEN M.

Community Works Akron (CWA) will continue the

mission of the old name but also focus on the long-term partnership with our clients.

Now that they've gained employment, how can we take it further? More effort will be placed on helping them retain and also advance in their position or move on to an even better opportunity. We're very excited to continue to grow this already very successful program in the coming years!



AKRON

JOB MATCHING RETENTION ADVANCEMENT