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Please make all checks payable to: **Tioga County Open Door Mission, Inc.** Donations can also be made through our website (www.theopendoormission.com)

The Tioga County Open Door Mission, Inc. is a non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c)(3). Your donation may be tax deductible. For your benefit and as required by law, we state that the Tioga County Open Door Mission, Inc. did not provide any goods or services in consideration, in whole or in part for this contribution.

Contact Us

The Tioga County Open Door Mission

425 North Ave Owego, NY 13827

Phone: (607)687-1121

Fax: (607)687-7176

The Red Door Thrift Store & Community Center

359 Broad Street Waverly, NY 14892

Phone: 607-249-6062

THE TIOGA COUNTY OPEN DOOR MISSION INC.

425 North Ave. Owego, NY 13827

THE TIOGA COUNTY OPEN DOOR MISSION AND THE RED DOOR THRIFT STORE & COMMUNITY CENTER

*“Do not neglect to show
hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have
entertained angels unawares.”
Hebrews 13:2*



Executive Director: Mary Perry Rogers

Assistant Director: Donna Jantz

www.theopendoormission.com

Dear Friends,

The Tioga County Open Door Mission has been providing outreach services to those in our community and surrounding areas since 1968.

We maintain three food pantries and provide financial assistance to the working poor and impoverished in our county. We also provide shelter services for the homeless and financial assistance to families struggling to stay in their homes.

The following story is the personal journey of one of our residents. We hope that his story inspires you as much as he has inspired us.

My Story:

The Tioga County Open Mission (ODM) offers a variety of services and can provide much needed help to those who may find themselves in the dreadful position of being homeless. Besides numerous means of assistance that the ODM makes available to people in need in the community, it also has a sober living men's shelter. The men's shelter is a dormitory that provides a warm bed, hot showers, food, and many other necessities. In addition to these everyday necessities the team at the ODM offers support and encouragement to men residing in the shelter. The shelter also provides a safe and sober living environment for those who have battled with various forms of substance abuse and/or addictions. There is a recovery meeting held each week at the ODM and multiple meetings available at their second location at The Red Door in Waverly, NY.

I was recently offered the opportunity to give a tour of the men's shelter. I was honored to do so. This individual was very polite and inquisitive about the residents in the dorm. I was respectfully asked a question about how the men feel about living in the dorm. It was at that point I realized she did not know I lived in the dorm. Homelessness and the homeless are typically stereotyped and that stereotype is not often accurate. I was a successful college graduate with high honors and on the Dean's List at Binghamton University. I held a job as a social worker. It was because of poor decision making, high risk behaviors, and a history of substance abuse that I found myself without a job and homeless. It was on a cold night in February that I had no other choice than to sleep in the woods. Shortly after I ended up in jail. It was after my release that I came to the ODM seeking help. I was very anxious about living in a homeless shelter. I now look back on these reservations with a smile. What a Godsend this wonderful place has been to me. The people here have become my family.

The ODM shelter is a place of restoration and redemption, a place of renewed hope and second chances for those who want it and are willing to put forth some effort on bettering themselves. So much has been given to me during my stay here. Necessities, such as clothing, personal care items, shoes, and coats. I am also an avid reader and music lover. All these, too, were made available to me.

Commonplace to most but when you've been stripped of everything, they mean a great deal. These are things that not only make you feel good but also build a sense of confidence and self respect. Transportation is available for appointments and to conduct personal business. As a resident I also became a paid employee of the ODM.

Recently, I was offered what I consider to be the greatest Christmas gift I could ask for, my own apartment. I am excited to know that I will be in it before Christmas. It gives me the chills and brings tears to my eyes as I write this. With all these things given to me, what I mostly have been given is love and support and the feeling of family and a sense of belonging. I hope that when you read this, you get a better understanding of just how kind and generous the people at the ODM are and what this place stands for. Having squandered much of my personal possessions throughout the years it will be the ODM that furnishes the apartment for me. Despite my own faults and past reckless way of living I've had a very strong belief in God and truly believe I was sent here for a reason. I am eternally grateful. What a place and an incredible experience this has been for me.

Sincerely,
Jay Scordino

For more information about what we do, be sure to check us out on our website www.theopendoormission.com, and like us on facebook, or stop in for a visit. We are on Amazon Smile. Choose us when making Amazon purchases.