

MARCH/APRIL 2024

# LIFE WITH THE MISSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OPEN DOOR MISSION



## CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!!

Founded 70 years ago, The Open Door Mission in Houston, Texas, stands as a beacon of hope and transformation in the community. Since its inception, this remarkable institution has been dedicated to serving the most vulnerable, offering a lifeline to those in need. Through decades of unwavering commitment, the mission has evolved into a vital force, providing shelter, food, and support to countless individuals experiencing homelessness and hardship. With each passing year, its impact deepens, reaching further into the lives of those it serves, offering not just immediate relief, but also pathways to stability and self-sufficiency. As they celebrate this significant milestone, the mission reflects on its journey, honoring the resilience of those it has served and renewing its pledge to continue transforming lives for generations to come.

## THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
PAGE 02

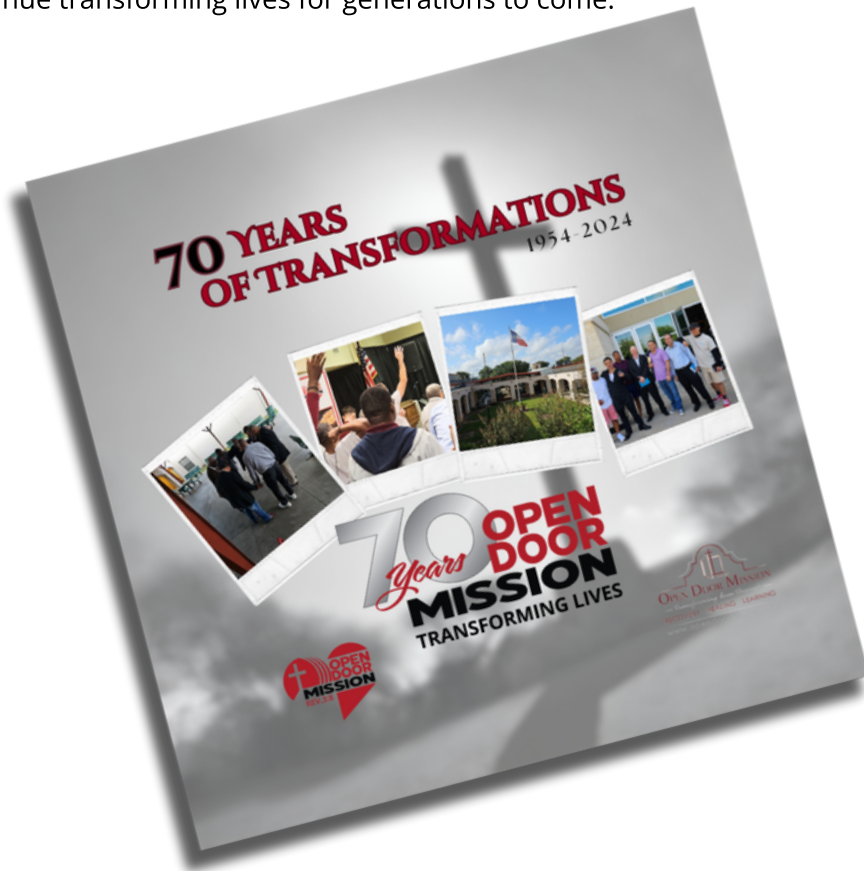
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT  
PAGE 03

CLIENT AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT  
PAGE 04

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT  
PAGE 05

PROGRAMS UPDATE  
PAGE 06

IN HONOR AND MEMORIAM  
PAGE 07



Daily I speak about adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma. As you read in this newsletter, we have changed our program curriculum to trauma informed care (TIC). TIC is an emerging best practice that influences our clients, and all of us, to better understand **the causes** behind abusing drugs/alcohol. Simply put, trauma is a hurtful wound that leaves a scar.

So, what **causes** trauma? The list is too long for this space, but each of us has experienced trauma in our lives. As adults we usually recognize it, but many people have suffered trauma and don't know it.

Our hurts cause us to seek pain relievers. Analgesics and opioids relieve pain. Thankfully, God gives us natural opioids in our bodies with dopamine, endorphins, serotonin, and oxytocin.

Our client experienced ACEs many times over, and when he found drugs/alcohol, he found the pain reliever he was seeking.

Much of the trauma is **caused** by the stresses and abuses his mother endured before, during, and post birth. She was likely a single mother, known as the hardest job in the world.

Our children need attention. They are starving for loving attention while we parents work our tails off to put food on the table and gas in our cars. We see our kids for a max of four hours a day and that time is hurry to get to school, hurry to eat, and hurry to get to bed. Family time is gone because we are so stretched. Our kids are screaming for their parents. Family trauma occurs when parents are too busy to parent.

Our client didn't know he was traumatized as an infant. But he knew it when he was traumatized as a child and teen. This is why the ODM program's curriculum is trauma informed care.

To know more about ODM and about TIC, have lunch with me. Our next newsletter will address **the solution** that may be hard to hear. Until then, or when you come for lunch, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

## President's Letter



Tommy Thompson  
President and CEO

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

-JEREMIAH 29:11



**FEATURED VOLUNTEER**



**JEROME SIMON**

Jerome is special in many ways but what makes him unique is he has been a client, a staff member, and now a volunteer, but always a strong man of God. Jerome has touched many of our lives and he continues to touch the lives of the new men in the program. He leads the Christianity 101 class, Celebrate Recovery and has Holy Ghost Friday for the clients devotion hour on Fridays. He does all of these things in addition to tutoring kids outside the Mission and starting his own ministry. The inspiring part of Jerome's story is his battle, even to this day with cancer. Jerome has not let anything slow him down in his service to God. Jerome continues to inspire many clients and staff. We are lucky to have him.

Thank you Jerome.

**Volunteer Spotlight**

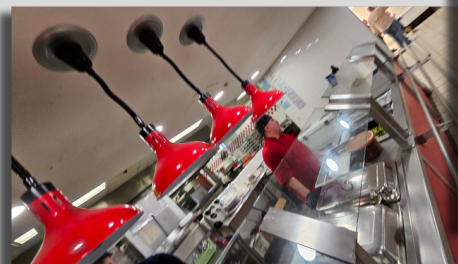
**COMMUNITY OF FAITH CHURCH**

In February we had the staff from Community of Faith Church located in Hockley Texas volunteer at the Mission to paint our chapel, prepare a meal, fellowship, and share a meal with the men.



**NEW FISHER'S CHURCH**

Also in February, we were blessed to have Angela James and New Fisher's Church prepare an amazing meal for the clients and their families on visitation day. They gave the men some words of encouragement then shared the lunch with them.

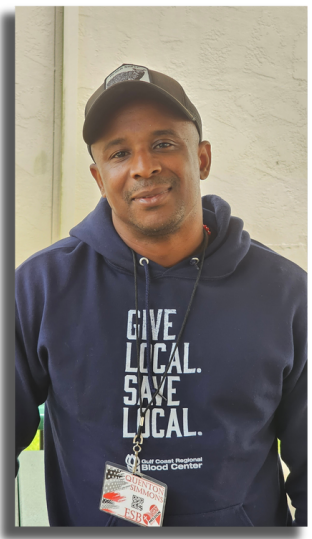


# Client & Staff Spotlight

Quenton Simmons

## Client of the Doorway Program

Quenton came to us from one of our partners, the Harris Center. Even though Quenton had been to other programs, he knew this time was different. This was rock bottom and he was “sick and tired of being sick and tired”. Now it is four months later and graduation is just a few weeks away. When Quenton was asked what was different this time, he pointed to the heaven’s and said “my relationship with God” and “I have turned my life over to Jesus”, which was different than the other times he tried to just use will power. Quenton is ready to follow the path God has for him, whatever that may be.



The reason we chose to combine staff and clients on a single page is because graduates of the program make up over 60% of the staff. The “graduate” staff not only feel this is what God is calling them to do, but the staff have also found a family that are on the same path in a life of sobriety and serving their fellow man.



**WILLIAM HUDSON**  
 Program Coordinator

As with many of the staff here at ODM, William is a graduate of the Doorway Program. William will also tell you he graduated twice from the program and the second time through was a completely different experience. William has a relationship with Jesus now and has excelled at his work at ODM. Starting his career as the Education Manager, William is now Program Coordinator, overseeing the intake process, managing the events that the clients attend and after the clients graduate, William mentors and guides them as the Transition Manager. William is living proof that it is never too late to build a life with purpose and follow God’s plan for us. If you are needing help with your addiction and you are ready to make a change, William is the one to contact to enter the Doorway Program. His direct number is 832-962-4256

**DO YOU NEED CATERING FOR YOUR EVENT?**

Consider hiring Mission Kitchen Catering and help support the Mission and the men that come here for transformation.

Visit: [OpenDoorHouston.org/catering](http://OpenDoorHouston.org/catering) for more information or to place an order.



**Events Spotlight**

**Bowling "Fun" Raiser**

ARE YOU READY TO BOWL?!?! Who will take home the 1st Place Trophy???

Open Door Mission's 1st Annual Bowling FUN-Raiser is Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 12-3p.m. at Bowlero (Bowlmor Lanes) Houston, 925 Bunker Hill Rd. Houston, Texas 77024.

Please join us to raise funds that will benefit our men on site. To register your team or for more info contact Kewona Mitchner at [kmitchner@opendoorhouston.org](mailto:kmitchner@opendoorhouston.org) or visit [opendoorhouston.org/2024bowling](http://opendoorhouston.org/2024bowling)



**3RD ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

Come join us on June 22nd as Open Door Mission takes on our friends at Sharpen Recovery at our annual beach volleyball tournament. The fun begins at 1:30pm at Seawall Blvd. and 69th St. on Galveston Beach. Come cheer on ODM as we bring the trophy home to the Mission.



# Programs Spotlight

## Philip Vaughn – C.O.O.

Open Door Mission provides a comprehensive 16-week residential curriculum aimed at addressing the root causes of trauma in adult male clients. Unlike traditional approaches that treat symptoms, this program focuses on Trauma Informed Care (TIC), targeting adverse childhood experiences. TIC recognizes that pain-relieving methods like drugs and alcohol often mask deeper emotional wounds. By delving into the underlying causes of trauma, the curriculum seeks to empower individuals with the tools needed for long term healing and growth.

The program integrates four pillars: Trauma Informed Care education, academic education, life skills education, and spiritual education. Through Trauma Informed Care education, clients gain insights into the psychological impacts of trauma and learn coping mechanisms to navigate their experiences. Academic education offers opportunities for intellectual growth and skill building, fostering a sense of capability and self-worth. Life Skills education equips individuals with practical tools for daily living, empowering them to make positive choices and build stable futures. Finally, spiritual education brings it all together by providing a foundation for inner strength and resilience, offering hope and a sense of purpose beyond immediate challenges.

By addressing the root causes of pain and trauma, Open Door Mission’s holistic approach aims to facilitate lasting transformation and empower our clients to lead fulfilling lives. Transformation, Open Door Mission style.





"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

-ISAIAH 41:10

# In Memoriam

## DAVID G. MICLETTE

Carmen Knapp  
 Todd Loehnert  
 Shaun Castillo  
 Butch Paschal  
 Nancy & Jay Kelley  
 Susan Toomey  
 Clay Rogers  
 Sara Paine  
 Douglas Fountain  
 Allen Knepper  
 Courtney Mitchell

Linda Moore  
 Robert Overbey  
 Gail Faris  
 Sally Giammalva  
 Peter Quinn  
 Samuel F. Brown  
 Ned S. Holmes  
 Jane M. Osborne  
 Mary L. Plumhoff  
 Frank & Debbie Jones  
 Elaine Ellis

Ron H. Drees  
 Kenneth L. Mattox  
 Pamela E. Sterlekar  
 Richard J. Kolencik  
 Robert & Maurine E. Garza  
 Tim M. McCommon  
 Jack S. Blount  
 Linda A. Summers  
 Jim Drew  
 A. Patrick McEvoy Jr.

## COLE MILNE

Darla Milne

## JUDY JOY

Glenn Edgecomb

## SCOTT YAYNER

Elini Brooks

# In Honor

## PASTOR JON ALWORTH

100.7 THE WORD

Aaron Schrenk

## THE CRAIN

FOUNDATION

Susan LeBlanc

## JOHN MARTIN

Susan LeBlanc

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

Yes! I want to support the men of Open Door Mission in their transformation

Enclosed is my gift of: \$50 \$100 \$125 \$200 \$300 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please add my email for news and updates from the Mission \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 849  
 Houston, TX 77001-0849  
 713-921-7520

Thank You!  
 Your gift is tax deductible.  
 Please make checks payable to *Open Door Mission*  
 You can also donate online at  
[OpenDoorHouston.org/donate](http://OpenDoorHouston.org/donate)



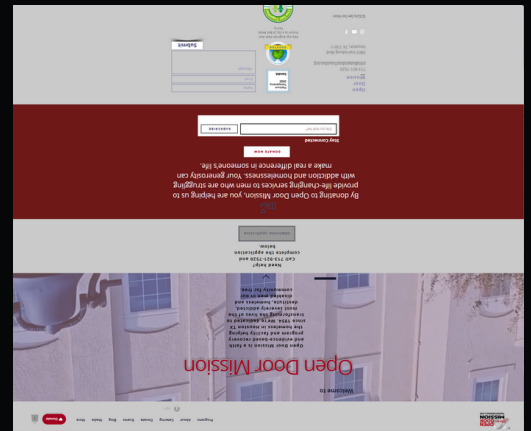
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 HOUSTON, TX 77011

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LIFE WITH THE MISSION

We are here for you. Our Doorway Residential Treatment Program is accepting clients and it's free of charge. No money or insurance needed. Contact our intake manager at 832-962-4256 or visit [OpenDoorHouston.org](http://OpenDoorHouston.org)

DO YOU OR  
 SOMEONE YOU  
 KNOW NEED HELP  
 FOR ADDICTION?



WATCH FOR OUR  
 NEW WEBSITE!  
 We have been working hard on an all new Open Door Mission website, so keep watching for it!