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Foot-washing Offers Reflective Beginning to Easter Weekend

Join Open Door Mission for a Maundy Thursday foot-washing ceremony & service

WHAT: Open Door Mission, a Christian faith- and evidence-based recovery and rehabilitation facility located in Houston's East End, will celebrate Holy Week with a special Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd, including a traditional washing of the feet ceremony.

The ritual of washing of the feet recalls Jesus' actions in John 13:1-17 just before the Last Supper. In Jesus' time foot-washing was known as the lowest form of servant work and today is a reminder of humility and service to others.

The ceremony will feature Greater Macedonia Baptist Church pastor, the Rev. Walter Pope, who will also serve as celebrant. The public is welcome to experience the event as well as meet the Open Door Mission staff and residents.

WHEN: **Thursday, April 2, 2015**

10:30 am Maundy Thursday Service & Foot-washing

WHERE: Open Door Mission

5803 Harrisburg Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011-4323

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:

- Open Door Mission Board of Directors, staff, and residents of the Mission and the public participating in the foot washing ceremony

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Tommy Thompson, President & CEO of Open Door Mission
- Open Door Mission Board of Directors
- Open Door Mission residents and alumni

About Open Door Mission

Founded in 1954 as a downtown Houston homeless shelter and soup kitchen, Open Door Mission is a faith- and evidence-based recovery and rehabilitation facility dedicated to transforming the lives of the most severely addicted, destitute, homeless and disabled men in our community. We received non-profit status in 1985 and employ a multifaceted mind, body and spiritual approach with programs of recovery, learning and healing.

Established in 1991, the Russell M. Scott, Jr. M.D. **Convalescent Care Center** provides homeless, destitute and veteran men a safe, short-term environment in which to convalesce from surgery, injury or illness. While recovering on our campus, we work with men to address the issues that led to homelessness and assemble an array of social services to help get them back on their feet and end the cycle of homelessness.

Our Alan and Ann Craft **DoorWay** Drug/Alcohol Recovery program, established in 1993, focuses on overcoming insobriety, understanding one's self, and developing a Christian understanding and faith by which to continue in a sober service to others.

Recognizing that a lack of education is a key factor when addressing poverty, the **Education Center** continues the care and support by providing educational opportunities to those in need of GED certification, literacy classes, tutoring and training in basic computer skills. The Education Center is also open to men and women from the community.

The men who come to the Mission are desperate for help and willing to receive it. Whether alcohol and drugs came before or after an event that led to loss of home, job and dignity, the addictions must be addressed before an individual can begin working toward self-sufficiency. Residents come from all walks of life but share one reality: the ways of the past no longer work and they need help in creating a new, independent and sober future.

For more information about Open Door Mission, visit www.opendoorhouston.org.

The alcohol and drug treatment and recovery services offered at Open Door Mission are exclusively religious in nature and are not subject to licensure or regulation by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. This program offers only nonmedical treatment and recovery methods such as prayer, moral guidance, spiritual counseling and scriptural study.