



# Pathways

## Tonya finds “a good place with good people”

*Thanks for reaching out to a struggling mom!*

For many of us, our morning routine includes a shower, a cup of coffee and a commute to work. Tonya’s day starts as she sees her three oldest children off to school, then she packs up her two toddlers and comes to the Open

Door Mission. “If it weren’t for Open Door,” she says, “my little ones would go hungry in the morning.”

Like many people who come to the Mission, Tonya has a place to

live but she struggles to keep up with expenses, including food. She also struggles with social anxiety and finds relief from that at the Mission as well. “This is the

*Please keep reading more about Tonya on the back page* ➤

Kim Cook, President/CEO

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

# OUR DOOR IS OPEN TO YOU, TOO!

Dear Friend,

Every chance I get, I encourage friends of the Open Door Mission to see firsthand how their gifts help hurting people in the Greater Glens Falls Area. I know it's not possible for everybody to come by, which is why you have our very first newsletter in your hands! In upcoming issues, you'll meet more of our guests and volunteers and catch up on our Pathway Home Campaign.

We could have launched the newsletter at the first of the year, but spring seemed like the ideal time for something new—like packing the heavy sweaters away and slipping a t-shirt on! When I look around and see everything reborn and refreshed, it reminds me that the same kind of renewal starts every day at Open Door.



I see isolated guests like Tonya open up and make lasting friendships at the Mission. Others take the first steps out of poverty, landing jobs and moving into homes of their own.

Families who just need a little help making ends meet start to see their way clear.

What it all comes down to is hope that life can—and will—get better. As we gather with our families to celebrate Easter or Passover, let's remember to share our hope for new life and deliverance with our neighbors in need. And if you'd like to do that personally, our door is always open!

Looking ahead  
with hope,

**ASK** AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU: **SEEK** AND YOU WILL FIND: **KNOCK** AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU.

—MATTHEW 7:7 NIV

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

# JEANNE SAVIETTA

*“There’s a lot of love here.”*

When Jeanne started volunteering at the Open Door Mission two years ago, she was just looking for a way to give back. She never expected that the experience would give so much back to her, including renewed faith and a new perspective on our homeless neighbors.

“They’re regular people,” she discovered. “Some have jobs and just need the support of meals. Some have mental illness or medical issues.” After taking our Bridges Out of Poverty class, Jeanne realized that homelessness can happen to anybody. “That could be me out there.”

Today, Jeanne sees the Mission’s guests as “a community. Families come in with their children and it’s nice to see how everyone interacts. There’s just a lot of love here and you feel it.”

Jeanne comes to the Mission two mornings a week, working primarily on food prep in the kitchen. However, she often finds herself pitching in wherever she’s needed. “We all help each other out and it’s been a wonderful experience.”

If you’ve ever considered sharing your time and talent at the Mission, Jeanne says, “As we grow, we’re going to need more generous people! Give it a try. It really feels like a family.”



THE ONE WHO BLESSES OTHERS IS **ABUNDANTLY BLESSED**: THOSE WHO HELP OTHERS ARE HELPED.  
—PROVERBS 11:25 MSG

## EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Open Door Mission helps approximately 100 families each month with emergency food boxes and other goods. Your donations will go a long way!

- Healthy Snacks
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Pasta Sauce
- Pasta
- Canned Foods
- Tuna
- Mayonnaise
- Soups
- Salad Dressings
- Boxed/Canned Entrees
- Coffee & Creamer
- Lysol Spray
- Floor Cleaner
- Deodorant
- Razors/Shaving Cream



## PATHWAY HOME

Spring is here, but we’re already thinking about next winter. Phase 1 of our Pathway Home Campaign will provide a permanent home for our Code Blue shelter for the 2018–2019 season.

We will soon begin Phase 2, which includes the kitchen, food pantry, chapel and security. We hope to start sheltering people in need starting in April. **Will you help make sure our most vulnerable neighbors are safe and sheltered from the elements?**

For more information call 518-792-5900 and follow our progress at [opendoor-ny.org/pathwayhome](http://opendoor-ny.org/pathwayhome).



## TONYA'S STORY CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

only outside contact I have," Tonya admits. "People here are more accepting than most. I'm not the only one here with social anxiety, so it's just a comfortable place for us to be with each other."

Since coming to Open Door, Tonya has also found comfort in her



faith. "Before every meal, they do a teaching and then you pray. I've learned how to pray here. I didn't realize how important that was,

and to be thankful for the help. I'm always conversing with God and I wouldn't have done that before. I believe and my kids believe."

One thing Tonya shares with all of our guests is a deep appreciation for the talents of our new chef, Neki Dashnaw. Tonya tells us, "I've been coming to Open Door forever and she is the best chef we've had yet. She's nice, she cooks good food and she actually cares."

Tonya has come to know and love many of the Mission's staff members and

volunteers over the years. "They're all very nice, generous, down-to-earth people," she says. "Open Door is a good place with good people."



## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Learn about the impact of poverty on our community and how you can improve the outcome for those living in poverty and for our community. Find more information at [opendoor-ny.org/bridges](http://opendoor-ny.org/bridges).

- Bridges Community Lens  
March 21, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Poverty Simulation  
April 14, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

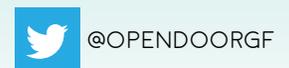


P.O. BOX 3306  
GLENS FALLS, NY 12801  
[WWW.OPENDOOR-NY.ORG](http://WWW.OPENDOOR-NY.ORG)  
518-792-5900



TO VOLUNTEER...

- VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.OPENDOOR-NY.ORG](http://WWW.OPENDOOR-NY.ORG)
- EMAIL  
[VOLUNTEER@OPENDOOR-NY.ORG](mailto:VOLUNTEER@OPENDOOR-NY.ORG)



GRACE SHOWN HERE. HOPE LIVES HERE. LIFE CHANGED HERE.