

About Open Door

Open Door is an outreach program of the Coalition for Compassion and Justice, a nonprofit, collaborative effort of local congregations, social service agencies, businesses and individuals to meet emergency needs, empower people toward self-sufficiency, and advocate for systemic change to the root causes of poverty.

Homelessness and poverty are ongoing problems in the Prescott area, especially as the cost of rent, fuel, and utilities increase. In 2002, Open Door had 600 client visits. In 2005, Open Door had 13,807 client visits. About 40 percent of those who benefitted from Open Door services were under the age of 18.

In 2005, Open Door provided more than 18,000 individual services. The majority of folks (about 75 percent) come to Open Door three or fewer times. This means Open Door really serves as an emergency bridge to self-sufficiency, to help friends and neighbors get through those extra tough times.

How you can help

Financial donations are always needed. The money received goes directly where it is needed most. In-kind donations are also appreciated. Open Door needs food, including soups, stews, meat, fish, tuna, and other meats, mayonnaise, large amounts of gravy mix, salad greens, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, cheese, and milk. We need toiletries, razors, toothbrushes, and tampons. Also needed are paper and plastic bowls, cutlery, cups, paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, and office supplies like paper, envelopes, and stamps. For a complete list of Open Door's needs, see www.yavapaiccj.net.

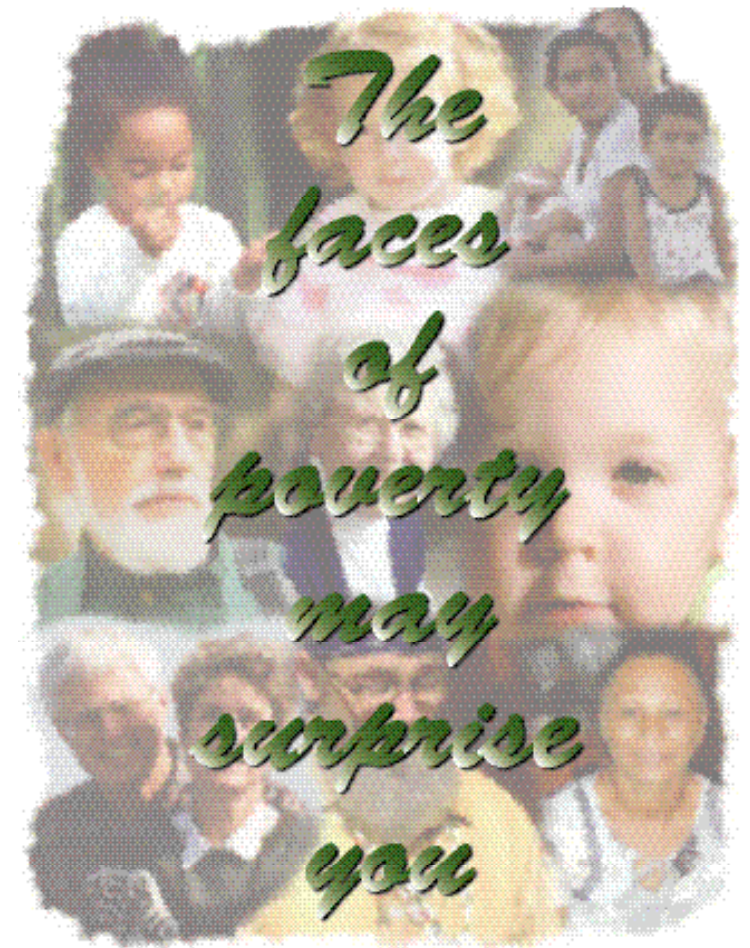
Open Door is open Tuesdays 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from noon to 3 p.m. at 505 West Gurley. Telephone: (928) 776-9294.



505 W. Gurley Street, Prescott, Arizona 86301
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is an outreach program of the Coalition for Compassion and Justice, a community organization committed to meeting immediate needs, empowering people toward self-sufficiency, and advocating for systemic change impacting the health and well-being of people in Yavapai County.



Open Door's Services

Open Door provides low-income and homeless families with hot meals, nonperishable food, toiletries, showers, clothing, and vouchers for gas, laundry, rental, and utilities assistance. Open Door feeds an average of 300 people every week.

Open Door has helped numerous single mothers and their children avoid homelessness with a single rent payment. Many senior citizens, veterans, and disabled people have been helped with heating bills they were unable to pay. Help with winter heating bills is also given to the elderly on social security and people on disability.

Other Programs

Many of the families served by Open Door struggle with low-paying jobs because they lack the skills and education needed to secure a higher income. Open Door works to play a part in breaking that cycle.

Open Door partners with schools to give children in need a **Fair Start**, providing them with backpacks, school supplies, books, personal hygiene items, underwear, and socks. Through **Warm for Winter**, low-income children and adults are given winter clothing, including new and gently used coats, sweaters, hats, mittens, etc. **Glass Slipper** enables high schoolers to attend their proms in style by providing formal attire, shoes and accessories.

Maria's story

Maria was brought in by a member of our community who found her on the Courthouse Plaza in despair. She was 21, and, for being six months' pregnant, very thin. She had been kicked out by her violent partner and had nothing but the clothes she was wearing.

Maria was not eligible for Arizona's low-income health benefit program, and she needed \$150 for prenatal visits to a doctor at the County Health Clinic. Open Door ensured that Maria received medical attention.

Maria was very shy, and merely said, in Spanish, "God bless you."

Jill's story

Jill and her husband were both working low-wage jobs and supporting their 4-month old son when Jill was suddenly diagnosed with advanced cancer. She had other health problems as well.

They moved into a cheaper apartment, and Jill washes all their clothes by hand to save money. Her husband works full-time, but only brings home \$750 a month. He walks five miles each way to and from work.

Open Door regularly helps this family with diapers, pantry food, clothing and hot meals. Jill says, "My son has learned so much from Open Door. He has learned to share, to care about others, and to help out when needed. He has learned that prejudice is not necessary—that

people come in all varieties, no matter what their circumstances. There is a feeling of camaraderie, friendship and family here. Open Door has changed my life in so many ways—and all for the better."

Frank's story

Frank has been diagnosed as mentally ill. He lives in the woods near town. He applied for social security disability more than a year ago, but says he hasn't heard back. He comes to Open Door every week to eat a hot meal and get a shower. He seems to enjoy the social interactions, too.

Jean's story

Jean is disabled, and her husband was the sole support of the family until he had a heart attack and emergency surgery in July.

"At Open Door I met the kindest ladies and gentlemen who were able to help us with rent and with gas vouchers for doctor's visits," Jill said. "You have relieved so much anxiety and are a large part of my husband's healing."

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