

I Have Placed Before You An Open Door (Rev. 3:8)

A word from Deborah L. Roeger, Executive Director



"I will restore them because I have compassion on them."
Zechariah 10:6

This has been a month of new beginnings. Victoria was released from Scioto Juvenile and moved into Sarah's House as the first resident we have the privilege of serving. She is working hard and adjusting well after 6 years of incarceration. We facilitated the first Opening Doors in Pickaway Correctional this week. And we partnered with staff at Ohio Reformatory for Women to begin two trauma recovery groups for incarcerated adult women. The word **"restore"** is used 103 times in the Bible. It is the word that comes powerfully to mind with each of these new beginnings - God alone is the Master Restorer; but He invites us to join Him in *His* work!♥

Looking For Purpose – meet our new women's mentor coordinator

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain" John 15:16

In early spring I cried to the Lord, *"What is my purpose?"* Although I was already involved with a life changing ministry my heart had become restless. I have experienced this restlessness before, a stirring – before being poured out afresh. The stirring process is not pleasant, but oh so necessary or none of us would reach out to God and allow ourselves to be propelled still deeper into His divine plan for our lives.

The counsel I received as a result of my searching prayer was that I would know without doubt when the current season was over and the new door would be opened so wide that I would KNOW that the Lord was calling me. Indeed a few months later a door swung wide open. My name is Collyn Wooden. I am the newly hired women's Mentor Coordinator for Opening Doors in the Family. The Lord joined me with whom He saw fit and it is no coincidence that for years my greatest desire has been to help women learn how to 'fail forward.'

As the Coordinator I will have the unique and very blessed opportunity to work with women inside and outside Ohio prisons. I will work to build a trust relationship with each as I learn who they are, what influences have shaped them and discover the dreams, desires and goals that are motivating them to yearn for change. Opening Doors in the Family offers a variety of mentoring options - my job will be to help each woman find the option that best fits her unique needs.

I come to this ministry not as a degreed professional, but as a woman experienced by life. I have battled against the lure of 12 years of drug addiction and struggled with the devastating esteem issues resulting from sexual molestation. I have endured physical and

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The Hope of a Changed Life

Peggy Pence first volunteered for Opening Doors in 2005. When asked why she continues to be involved, her answer is straight forward, “*The hope of a changed life.*” Hope is nearly non-existent among the prison population. Many inmates have never felt the deep, all-encompassing love of a parent. They’ve never felt like they truly belonged anywhere. And they’ve never learned to successfully relate to others, so they live in a world filled with isolation and loneliness.

When Opening Doors tells program participants they can learn to have healthy, successful relationships, most are skeptical. Yet Peggy says she can tell the moment when an inmate grasps the concepts for themselves.

What began as an opportunity to serve others has become a life calling for Peggy Pence.

“It’s so obvious when they ‘get it.’ They sit up straighter in their chairs. They speak with more confidence. And their eyes light up with hope that you know they’ve never felt before. Hope that they can make amends. Hope that they don’t have to fall back into the same destructive patterns.” And it’s the joy of helping Ohio’s incarcerated youth experience this hope that keeps Peggy involved. “My first volunteer experience was as a participant in a men’s program at Marion Correctional Camp. I saw grown men who were known as loaners become a community in just three days. On Day 1 they wouldn’t even talk to each other. By the third day they were friendly and joking freely with each other. There was an amazing transformation that I had never before experienced. I felt my heart connect and I realized I had to get more involved with Opening Doors.”

Peggy has facilitated programs in institutions all over Ohio. She’s always encouraged by the steps the participants take as a result of their experience. “We had one woman in a program who had been incarcerated for 20 years. She had a phobia about being touched and about touching objects. During

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mental abuse from men who said they loved me. I have wrestled with trying to assert myself in positive ways. When I gave my life to Jesus I was set free from the prison of my mind. It was then that I learned how to ‘fail forward.’ With Jesus in my life I can face any consequence of poor choices and be victorious in all life situations. I believe Opening Doors in the Family is an opportunity God has given me so I can give back. I can help other women ravaged by bad choices and the resulting failures that have caused her to become trapped in a prison of the mind. We can all learn to ‘fail forward’ when we are offered choices that can help us succeed in every area of life. ♥

Refrigerator Needed: Sarah’s House is in need of a new or gently used 25 – 26 cubic ft. refrigerator. The refrigerator color should be almond / bisque to match the newly donated dishwasher and range/oven. A self defrosting refrigerator with ice maker would be a great blessing.

Contact: Peggy Pence 614-577-0524
e-mail peggy.pence@OpeningMoreDoors.org

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The cost to incarcerate a man or woman in an Ohio prison for the average prison stay is in excess of \$58,500 (2.31 years average stay @ \$69.41/per day). When Opening Doors can help a formerly incarcerated mom or dad return home successfully, there is obviously less crime and taxpayers spend less money on the criminal justice system. A 2005 Washington State study found that successful prison programs can be expected to result in \$5,171 in benefits per participant from reduced crime alone. The savings multiply significantly when you add other social benefits such as the gain from labor-market productivity and the gain to families and communities. It’s hard to put a price tag on the opportunity Opening Doors gives a child who can grow up and break through the cycle of generational incarceration – walking down a different path to freedom.♥

THE AWESOME P-O-W-E-R OF PRAYER

Have you ever prayed for something you needed?

I remember a \$100 faith pledge I made for a missions project when I was fourteen. However when the babysitting jobs I counted on did not come I began to panic. My loving mother prompted me to pray about the need. I asked the Lord to bring in babysitting jobs. Nothing happened. I prayed harder and still nothing happened. The end of the month was almost here and I had no money for that faith pledge.

Have you ever seen supernatural provision?

One day I heard a strange noise in the back yard and recognized a mynah bird (which looked just like the bird our neighbor owned). I was scared to catch the bird so I took a laundry basket and chased the bird around until I was able to put the basket over it. After securing the basket with a rock, I called our neighbor; but it was not his bird. My dad put an ad in the paper. The man who answered the ad was so relieved to have his bird back he offered a \$100.00 reward – the exact amount of the pledge I had made. The Lord supplied all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

Every single day there are women in Ohio prisons that NEED to see the Hand of the Lord provide something for them in a supernatural way. Many don't know how to pray. Still others have given up praying because answers did not come in the way they expected. Through Prayers for Prisoners™ we handle more than 4,000 prayers each month. Women in Ohio prisons give their prayer requests to a chaplain who mails them to Marla Eland, our volunteer Prayers for Prisoners coordinator. Marla's job is to mail the requests to individuals or small groups who have made a commitment to pray for every request they receive.

More prayer warriors are needed. Will you agree to pray for a woman who needs someone to stand in the gap and connect her to our Heavenly Father? Your touch in prayer may help provide the profound miracle that will turn a hardened heart to Jesus.♥

Peggy Pence continued from page 2

the course of the three days she was able to reach out to others, participate in a blind-folded trust walk and reach into a box full of objects to select a gift for another woman. This seems small, but it was an amazing step for her to take. And we see the inmates taking steps like this in every program we do." Opening Doors' programs help inmates talk about areas of their lives they're not used to discussing. This was very evident to Peggy during one program at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. "I was facilitating a program at Scioto Juvenile which houses juvenile girls. We were discussing the importance of family when one girl said, 'I don't even know what a family is. My friends just stood around on the street corners and talked about drugs, sex and alcohol.' This is not uncommon for these young ladies. Girls at Scioto don't know nurturing. They don't know how to love because it has never been given to them." The more Peggy worked with the girls at Scioto the more her heart ached for them. She felt the Lord calling her to a deeper level of investment, but wasn't sure what that would look like.

"I knew God was leading me to be more involved in their lives, but my husband and I had just built a house in Pike County nearly two hours away. We'd planned on retiring in this house. Now we know the Lord had different plans. After much prayer, we felt called to become the resident directors of Sarah's House, a home where young ladies on parole from Scioto Correctional can live. So we put our new house on the market and moved to Brice, Ohio where Sarah's House is located. Our goal is to create a safe loving environment where these young ladies can learn to relate to each other and function in society in healthy ways. We're excited about this opportunity and look forward to what God has in store for us through it."

What started as an opportunity to serve others has become a total life calling for Peggy Pence. "Every time we facilitate an Opening Doors program we know that lives can – and will – change as a result. The hope of a changed life – that's my purpose and my reason for staying involved with Opening Doors." In addition to being a volunteer program facilitator, Peggy is Program Coordinator for Opening Doors juvenile programs and along with her husband Jon, she is Resident Co-Director at Sarah's House.♥

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- † Favor for the 2nd year of OD in the Family
- † Ability to serve more Christian ex-offenders with SITG™ mentoring
- † Breakthroughs for the women participating in Opening More Doors for Women (trauma recovery)
- † Sufficient volunteers to meet our current needs
- † Corporate partnerships to do more prison staff programs
- † New Funding Sources
- † Church partnerships for Sarah's House

Opening Doors of Ohio, Inc.
~ A Prison Ministry ~
P.O. Box 281
Lewis Center, OH 43035-0281
Deb.Roeger@OpeningMoreDoors.org
614-543-0417 • 614-361-6783

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PRAISE REPORTS

- ✚ James Himsworth joined us in July as Case Manager serving incarcerated adult men and their families.
- ✚ Collyn Wooden joined us in August as the women's Mentor Coordinator
- ✚ Victoria moved into Sarah's House as our first resident on October 16
- ✚ New volunteers have joined Opening Doors to facilitate juvenile programs

CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Prayers for Prisoners™ prayer partners – see pg. 3 (Marla Eland)
- Sarah's House prayer team members (Peggy Pence)
- Stand in the Gap™ spiritual family members for men and women (Collyn Wooden, women; Neil Salyer, men)
- Program facilitators for juvenile programs (Peggy Pence)

TO BECOME INVOLVED, CONTACT:

- M. Eland:** 614-891-7077
- P. Pence:** 614-619-1746 • Peggy.Pence@OpeningMoreDoors.org
- N. Salyer:** 614-361-1126 • Neil.Salyer@OpeningMoreDoors.org
- C. Wooden:** 614-743-3357 • Collyn.Wooden@OpeningMoreDoors.org



**INTRODUCING TWO EASY WAYS TO
CHRISTMAS SHOP
and
BENEFIT SARAH'S HOUSE**

Easy Christmas Shopping Idea Number One:

Cathy Daniels has graciously offered to partner with Sarah's House to assist us with raising money for our operating funds. Here is how it works:

1. You will receive a Tupperware brochure, instructions and a collection envelope.
2. From **November 11th thru November 25th** you talk with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to obtain catalog orders and collect the money for featured products.
3. Turn in your order forms and money by the due date following the instructions on the printed envelope you will receive from Cathy.
4. As soon as all the money and order forms are in, Cathy will calculate **40%** of the total purchase and will immediately write a check to Sarah's House!
5. It's just that easy.

As a participant in this Tupperware Fundraising program for Sarah's House you'll have the opportunity to see quality Tupperware brand products backed by a full lifetime warranty and help Sarah's House in the process. You can encourage your family and friends to do their Christmas shopping because your order will be delivered about 10 days after it is placed -- in time for Christmas.

The program kick-off date is **November 11**. If you decide that you would like to participate with us, you may contact Cathy either by phone or email. She will send you all the information that you need to get started.

Cathy Daniels
You're Tupperware Manager
614-870-7820 or 614-579-5433
Tdani29678@yahoo.com
www.my.2.Tupperware.com

Partnership with a trusted product and name – Tupperware!

See the reverse side for another great way to Christmas shop and benefit Sarah's House.



INTRODUCING TWO EASY WAYS TO
CHRISTMAS SHOP
and
BENEFIT SARAH'S HOUSE

Easy Christmas Shopping Idea Number Two:

My name is Tri Cameron. I am an Advisor for Lia Sophia jewelry and I am excited to partner my ministry with Sarah's House. Here is how you can purchase great Christmas gifts and benefit Sarah's House:

1. Visit my website@ www.liasophia.com/tricameron
2. Make a purchase thru my website between November 17 and November 29
3. With every purchase during this period **100%** of my earnings will be donated to Sarah's House
4. To get the most for your money, we offer the "buy 3 items and get the **most expensive item for 1/2 price.**" For example, if you purchase a pair of earrings and a bracelet at @ \$25.00 each, you may then buy a necklace listed for \$50.00 at half price, now your cost for that necklace is only \$25.00 ...What a Great Deal!
5. Continue to visit my website **after** November 29 and for every purchase I will donate 10% of my earnings to Sarah's House

I hope you will take some time to browse the website and take advantage of the one stop easy shopping for the loved ones in your life. With each purchase, you are not only giving a quality gift to the women in your life, you are also helping to change the lives of other women. Together we can make a difference.

Tri Cameron
Lia Sophia Advisor

All Lia Sophia jewelry has a **LIFETIME** guarantee.

When I was called to step out of my comfort zone to become a Lia Sophia Advisor, God gave me the opportunity to reach out to women in all walks of life and I am pursuing a passion and a dream that has been tugging at my heart for a long time. Let us be the light for others to see the love of Christ in each of us.

"Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established" (Proverbs 16:3 NASB)

See the reverse side for another great way to Christmas shop and benefit Sarah's House.