



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

September/October 2021

Direct Support Professionals: Essential Workers

Thank you, thank you, thank you. There are not sufficient words of appreciation to express our gratefulness for the work that is completed by the Direct Support Professionals who work at Open Door Center in Valley City, Lisbon and throughout our state. However, the week of September 12-18, 2021, has been designated as a time to offer a special recognition of those who are employed in the vocation of assisting and supporting people who have a disability.

Direct Support Professionals, the close to three hundred who are employed by Open Door Center, provide a broad range of services to assure opportunities of choice for those who are involved with the Center. These employees, often referred to as DSPs, offer training and advice in the areas of meal preparation, medication administration, bathing, dressing, attendance at work and leisure time activities and most everything that touches one's daily life. They give the essential concern and care to keep people with disabilities connected to the community, their family and friends and enable them to live a healthy, meaningful, and productive life.

The DSP has a multitude of job requirements. These employees are obligated to complete over four days of orientation training and fourteen modules of education in eighteen months to maintain their full time employment. The competency based modules cover areas of health including First Aid, CPR, seizures, positioning, turning, and transferring, and medication administration. Some are required to become a Nurse Assistant and a Medication Technician I. Other areas include the process of assessment, working with families, brain injury, blood borne pathogens, HIPAA, abuse, neglect and exploitation, writing objectives and several more. Other on-going training is also mandated. DSPs must meet the demands of several survey agencies including the Department of Health, CQL accreditation, HCBS, Source America, Environment Scans, and others too numerous to name. The training coupled with the surveys and state licensing standards require the DSP to adhere to the various and numerous rules and regulations while balancing the personal wants, needs and desires of people who are receiving services.

Beyond the requirements mentioned above, a DSP has a myriad of human nature responsibilities that are entwined in assisting individuals traverse the path of their life's journey. DSPs must develop an allegiance and affiliate to the people they support and honor their personality, preferences, and gifts of each one. Simultaneously they must separate their own personal beliefs that could negated or oppose the desires or wishes of the person served. The DSP is an advocate for them encouraging growth yet being attentive to any risk of harm.

.....continued on page 3

**Open Door Center is a
non-profit corporation
serving
people with disabilities.**

Board of Directors

Bill Cook, President

Al Adams

James Buhr

Mark Diede

Grant Goven

Deb Kohler

Steve Myers - Vice President

Carol Nelson, Sec./Treas.

Jackie Owen

Gail Pederson

Leo Schmidt

September

October

REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE



Excellence in serving people with disabilities by:

***Respecting dignity and rights**

***Providing opportunities for growth**

***Fostering independence**

*Open Door Center is an equal opportunity
provider, and employer.*

Mary Simonson, Executive Director

Brett Wilkening, Director of Finance

Sherri Horsager, Human Resource

ICF/MR

Tana Plecity

Erin Halland, Staff Trainer

ISLA

Elaine Almberg

Heather Muscha

Ben Simonson

Program Directors

Matt Jensen, Children's Program

Marshall Hopp, Prairie Inn & MSLA

Cindy Schopper, Work Activity

WE WANT YOUR CANS

Open Door Center is looking for donations of *pop cans* for our individuals to crush. Once crushed they are turned in to be recycled.

Our folks get paid to crush cans and look forward to the paychecks they receive.

Cans can be dropped off at the Day Activity Center (north of Pizza Corner).

OR

If you live in the Fargo area, you can take your cans to the MinnKota Recycling center and tell them you want to donate them to Open Door Center in Valley City. They send us a check quarterly.

Please help us,
won't you?



.....continued from page 1

The DSP is required to safeguard and respect the privacy of the person supported decreasing the ability to discuss concerns with people outside the agency and limiting interactions to only “those who have a need to know.”

Three “r” words are integral throughout the work of the DSP. The DSP must respect the human dignity and uniqueness of the person by honoring their choices and preferences. They are responsible for protecting their rights and providing opportunities that help the individual to be viewed respectfully by others. The DSP must work in partnership with the person, family members and the agency to proactively facilitate relationships.

The Open Door Center’s DSPs have my utmost respect and deepest appreciation for their dedication. Next time you encounter a DSP, or anyone employed in long-term care, please thank them for the care, concern and thoughtfulness they offer to all. Please express your appreciation not only the week that is dedicated to them, but throughout the year as they work morning, noon and night providing services 365 days a year. These employees, the DSPs, provide essential services so that others may fully participate in life’s journey. On behalf of the people served, the Board of Directors, family, friends, and staff of the Open Door Center, we ask that all Open Door Center DSPs and those throughout the State of North Dakota accept our heartfelt appreciation for your commitment and passion to helping others. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Mary Simonson, Executive Director
Open Door Center is an equal opportunity
provider and employer
(Mary’s columns are written monthly for the
VC Times Record)*



MEMORIALS DONATED:

***In Memory of Marlys Hannig
Sue & Roger Bekker
Karen & Joel Erickson
Linus & Margaret Kensok***

***The Open Door Center would
like to sincerely THANK YOU
for your donations.***



WAC Booth at NDACP

WAC decided to take on another project early this summer. They made *Home* and *Bee Kind* t-shirts and then a group went to the NDACP conference in Fargo and sold them. The *Bee Kind* t-shirts were a definite hit and they sold out in no time.

September Birthdays

1 - RoxAnne DeKrey
 2 - Mychal Vaughan
 3 - Felicia Esch
 6 - Sally Hatcher
 8 - Marah Pickell
 9 - Kelly Wind
 9 - Sarah Olson
 10 - Tana Plecity
 10 - Jackie Colville
 12 - Brandon Carlisle
 14 - Collin Jenson
 14 - Becky Torkelson
 14 - Brenda Degenstein
 18 - Christina Beardsley
 19 - Taylor Puno
 20 - Tara Janke
 21 - Melissa Huffstutler
 22 - Michael Cornelious
 23 - Eric Hoffert
 23 - Rylee Cihak
 24 - Shea Gresham
 27 - Tifani Komrosky
 28 - Patty Altringer
 28 - Jazzlyn Statema
 28 - Nokomis Denison
 28 - Nicole Jones
 30 - Deb Borg
 30 - Mason Nicholson



September ANNIVERSARIES

42 Years

Robin Borchert - WAC

36 Years

Laurie Elston - ISLA

34 Years

Leonard Krokum - ISLA

30 Years

Helen Sherlock - ISLA

28 Years

Rachel Kilmon - WAC

27 Years

Gary Prochnow - GH 4

22 Years

Kari Shape - Ranch

20 Years

Becky Torkelson - WAC, Chris Feigert - ISLA

19 Years

Bonnie Schumacher - YAP, Shane Kay - ISLA

16 Years

Jennifer Hatcher - Prairie Inn

15 Years

Annette Reece - WAC

13 Years

Joanne Nguyen - GH 2, Tara Janke - Prairie Inn

9 Years

Nancy Tougas - Admin

7 Years

Nicole Wieser - WAC, Arlene Andrus - GH 3

Helen Olson - ISLA

6 Years

Colleen Hehr - GH 3

5 Years

Victoria Stearns - GH 5/DAC

Sherry Anderson - WAC

4 Years

Jeremy Heinze - Lisbon

3 Years

Kim Bjerke - Lisbon, Tina Mudge - ISLA

Tarryn Justesen - Prairie Inn

Dawn Larson Schock - Lisbon

Lindsey Jacobson - GH 4/DAC

Kassandra Wenzel - GH 4/DAC

2 Years

Haley Olsen - ISLA, Shea Gresham - GH 5

Nicholas Ericksen-Hughes - GH 3

Jade Vaudrin - GH 2

1 Year

Charlotte Collier - Prairie Inn

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Haley Olsen
6 - Barry Devitt
8 - Billie Jo Toso
8 - Kassandra Wenzel
10 - Liam Pierce
10 - Carolyn Zaun
14 - Michael Kirsch
15 - Clifford Peterson
15 - Garrett Hoff
15 - Brittney Stenvik
17 - Aidyn McCombs
21 - Tina Mudge
22 - Sheryl Solberg
22 - Anna Nelson
23 - Randy Eggermont
23 - Kristin Petersen
24 - Pennie Walch
24 - Bekah Cook
24 - Tara Anderson
25 - Madelyn Zahnow
25 - Matt Mills
26 - Chris Feigert
28 - Annette Reece
28 - Kimberly Esch
30 - Megan PerDue
30 - Larissa Musgrave



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

38 Years
Louie Jungling-ISLA

37 Years
Lee Webster-ISLA

34 Years
Dan Pullen-Ranch

31 Years
Terri Stevens-DAC

27 Years
Kathy Volk-ISLA

14 Years
Cassandra McBenge-Lisbon

11 Years
Garrett Hoff-Admin
Cynthia McFadgen-GH 4

9 Years
Jon Breckenridge-Ranch
Theresa Rose-ISLA

6 Years
Adam Liesener-GH 4/WAC

5 Years
Taylor Puno-GH 4/DAC

3 Years
Kelly Wind-GH 1
Becky Wolhart-GH 3
Raymond Nelson-Ranch

1 Year
Brenda Dick-Lisbon
Nokomis Denison-WAC/Thunderbird
Trudi Lanz-Prairie Inn
Matt Mills-YAP



LIMITLESS FASHION SHOW

The Limitless Fashion Show was founded in 2018 by Kyley Lauf and Caitlyn Vogel. It serves and an advocate for inclusion in the community, and is a non-profit organization that allows girls with special needs to model clothes from local boutiques. It showcases their true inner and outer beauty while helping to promote shopping local. Our show was held on July 9, 2021, in Minot, ND, and it was the fourth year. It was a major success and such a fun-filled day. Each model (girl with special needs) was paired with an assistant (girl without special needs) and they spend the day getting ready and doing activities together before they take the runway. I love watching friendships and bonds form throughout the day. It is the most rewarding part of the show. The endless smiles and laughter throughout the day really shows the amount of impact that it is having on many lives, and it reminds you how much more alike we are than different. Our show attracts an audience of over 300 people each year, and it is amazing to see the community come together to show support to all the beautiful women that participate! If you want to learn more about limitless or be a part of next year's show feel free to follow our social media account on Instagram (@limitless.nd), our Facebook Page (Limitless Fashion Show), or reach out directly to me!

Kyley Lauf

In visiting with Kandice, she stated she had A LOT of fun and the best part was meeting Kyley's family and all the people involved in the show!



★ WE WANT YOU!!! ★



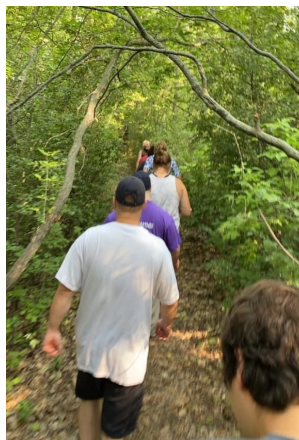
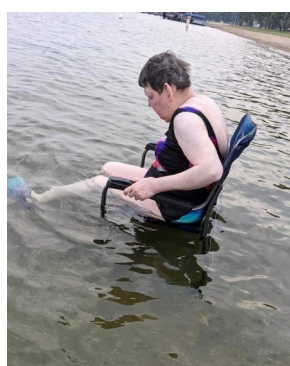
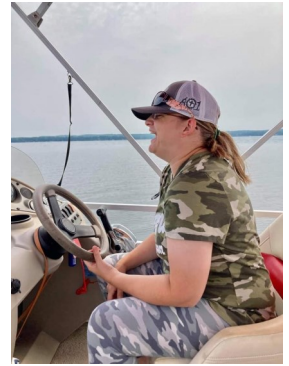
★
Interested in making a difference?
Come join our Area Management Team.
Be a part of making our
Special Olympics athletes dreams come true!!!
Contact Cindy at 701-840-1191
caschopper@gmail.com



★ ***Special Olympics*** ★

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

The ladies from the Grey 4Plex, Lori, Carol, and RoxAnne had a lot of fun on their vacation to Detroit Lakes, MN. Veronica and Renee were happy to go along :) We rented a pontoon boat and everyone got a chance to drive! We took time to just relax and swim in the lake or look for shells on the beach. Lots of good food and a great condo that overlooked the DL Pavilion and beach. We were able to watch the DL water carnival events from the balcony!! A good time was had by all!!



10th Annual Trip To The Lake

A group from WAC has been scheduling a day away from work to spend out at Lake Ashtabula for 10 years. They fit in a hike and grilled their lunch. It was a great sunny day out at the lake!

Library Fun
The Valley City/Barnes
County Library has
started activities again
and some are enjoying
all they have to offer.



Day at the Lake

The WAC upstairs group had an awesome
cookout at the lake. Volleyball, nature hike
and yummy food for all.
Great way to spend the day!



When it's an
absolutely,
perfectly
beautiful
day...You don't go
home after
WAC...you get
some food and go
the park for a
picnic!



Girls Day in Jamestown

Janie, Kandice and Colette headed
out for a girls day in Jamestown
this past July. They spent time
shopping, getting nails done and
eating out.
Everyone had a great time!

WE WANT YOU!!!



Come join us as a **Coach** for our
Special Olympics teams.
Contact Cindy for all the exciting details!!!

701-840-1191

caschopper@gmail.com.

Be a part of a winning team....



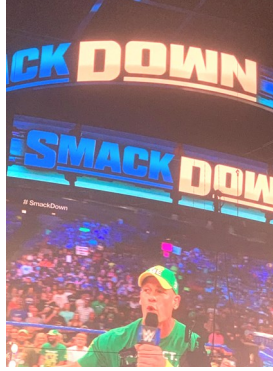
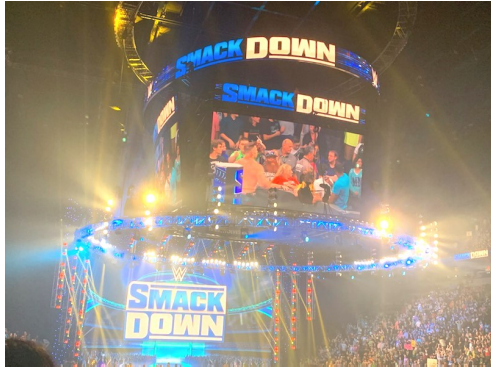
Special Olympics



Trip into Minnesota

Open Door Crews have always passed by Alexandria MN on their way to Minneapolis. This time Matt, Marshall, Lee and Adam stopped by the Alexandria Boat Museum. They have a wall of paddles from a decorating contest similar to the decorated Bison found all over Fargo. They also take boat motors and make them into different pieces of art. This was a very cool stop and we may be stopping again!

Then the guys headed to Minneapolis's Target Center where they were hosting WW Smack Down. John Cena was a familiar face on stage. There were many wrestlers, both male and female on hand to entertain us. Another great trip into Minnesota!!



RANSOM COUNTY FAIR/RODEO

The Ransom County Fair Rodeo may have been Holly, Richard and Kris's destination, but they found a treasure chest of other things to see. Holly loved the squeaky clean white Charolais bull, Richard the chickens with feathers around it's feet, and Kris eyed the cow calf pairs as great prospects for a rancher. The beautiful evening was topped off with the rodeo clown spending most of his time right in front of us as the arena was very muddy in some areas.

It was a BEAUTIFUL DAY down in Ransom County!!



Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

Hello Everyone

It is finally Autumn! That time of year when kids go back to school. Most kids are excited to go back, but others not so much. I know I am glad I do not have to go! I am happy that we are going to Work Activity full time and I can see my friends every day! I hope everyone is enjoying it as much as I am. We have been getting out and going to the Library for activities and to check out books. We are still wearing masks and sanitizing to help us stay safe.

The weather was nice for the Open Door picnic and all enjoyed some good food. I am hoping it does not get too cold or snow during these next few months. We still have Halloween to celebrate!

I hope everyone has a great Fall and you can laugh as much as you breath!

Until next time.KATIE

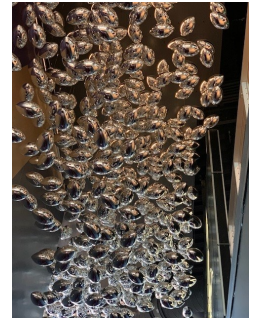
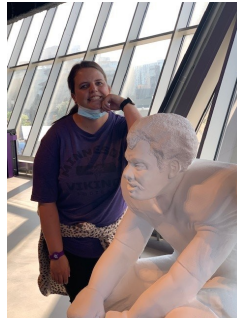
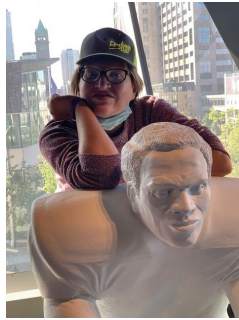
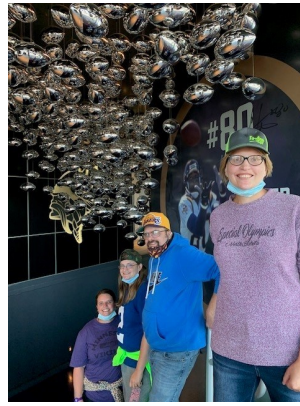


CONGRATULATIONS

Direct Support Professionals for
completing their modules!

Part Time:
Richard Clark, Joseph Ruge
Kyley Lauf





MINNESOTA VIKINGS VS INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Kandice, Mike, RoxAnne and Cheila headed to Minnesota to watch the Vikings and the Colts. Unfortunately, the Vikings lost 12-10. These four were amazed on how big the screen was right behind their seats. They all stood behind statues of previous players and enjoyed seeing all those footballs hanging down from the ceiling! A fun time was had by all!



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

A few people shared their Birthday celebration pictures with us. Janna, Russell and Kelly each had fun celebrating another birthday - and more cake!!





Learn the SOUNDS of Fire Safety October 3 - 9, 2021

What is your alarm telling you?

SMOKE ALARMS

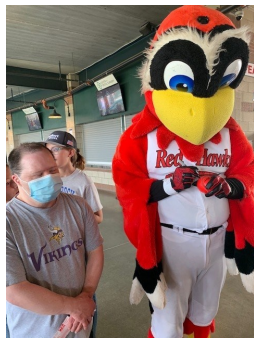
- A continued set of three loud beeps-beep, beep, beep-means smoke or fire. GET OUT, call 9-1-1 and stay out.
- A single “chirp” every 30 to 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- A continuous set of four loud beeps-beep, beep, beep, beep-means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call 9-1-1 and stay out.
- A single chirp every 30 to 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- CO alarms also have “end of life” sounds that vary by manufacturer. This means it’s time to get a new CO alarm.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

Take Me To the Redhawks Game

Redhawks baseball in Fargo was a very popular place that everyone wanted to go this summer. Here was Ladies Day to see the Hawks. Diana, Bekah and Linda enjoyed their day in Fargo cheering on the Redhawks.



REDHAWKS = BASEBALL

This trip to see the FM Redhawks brought Cassie, Jeremy and Richard. They were all very excited to get their picture taken with Hawkeye. The SuperFan was also very involved in the game getting everyone cheering for their favorite baseball team - The Redhawks!



RED RIVER ZOO

What better way to spend a sunny day than going to the Red River Zoo. Betty, Stephanie, Cory and James headed out to visit the reptiles, birds, butterfly exhibits, monkeys, tigers and of course the carousel - their favorite.



SUMMER BASEBALL

What is your favorite summer pastime? For Adam and Alex we think Redhawks Baseball is one of their favorites. They enjoyed getting over to Fargo and watching the game!



BISMARCK ZOO

The Bismarck Zoo was the choice for this group of young adults to visit one day. Another beautiful day to visit another beautiful zoo!!



Favorite Project of the Year

The yearly making of homemade Apple Pies!! Janna rolled out the beautiful crusts and Colleen and Cliff worked especially hard getting those apples just right! YUMMY!!



NOODLE PROJECT
WAC gave out noodles one afternoon and told people to get creative. Here is the Depot's project. Way to get into the July Olympic theme!
I think after seeing this, no one else wanted to send their pics as this is the only pic we have!
GREAT JOB!

5K Competitor

Faith Hanson competed in a 5K this summer. She was very happy she competed and finished. A lot of people were very proud of her and knew she could do it all along!!
GREAT JOB FAITH!!



Kandice and Roxy got to make some deliveries for Thunderbird Foods in Bismarck and while there they visited the Heritage Museum. They had a lot of fun working and learning.





KEEPING VALLEY CITY BEAUTIFUL DAILY (FROM NEWSDAKOTA)

ODC Student, Nick LeMier has volunteered to water flowers in downtown Valley City this summer.

Nick and many other ODC students and adults water these flowers downtown daily. The flowers are part of the Beautification Committee project in downtown Valley City.

GOOD JOB NICK!



VOLUNTEERS

Shane, Cullen, Michael, Megan, Lee, RoxAnne along with staff took a few hours out of their busy day to volunteer at The Great Plains Food Distribution site in July. Thanks everyone!!



Lynn got to go visit her old roommate - Sue Ellen on Sue's Birthday and she brought her some flowers. They were happy to visit with each other.



New Find

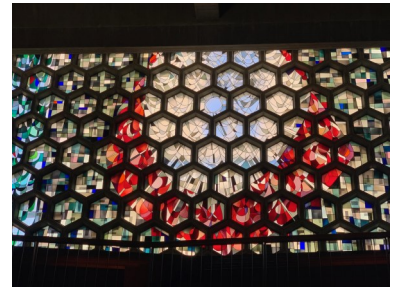
These ladies were taking a drive one afternoon and headed out to Maryvale. They found this new structure out there that they have never seen before. They all had to get out to check it out.

TWINS & VIKINGS ADVENTURE TO MINNEAPOLIS

Matt, Marshall, Jeremy and Adam headed out east for a weekend getaway. This trip was highlighted by a stop at St. John's University to see a church with a wall constructed like a honeycomb. Jeremy is by a baptismal font. A sculpture on display in front of the Basilica of St. Mary that "depicts 140 refugees calling attention to the lives of migrants and refugees and all their many contributions to society".

Everyone stretched their legs at the Minneapolis Sculpture Gardens. Marshall is by a sculpture first completed in wood then disassembled and reconstructed in bronze. Adam is showing his strength lifting an entire sculpture. Matthew had one of his deep chuckles when he saw a statue of a Blue Chicken!! The guys also attended 2 sporting events this weekend. MN Vikings vs Denver Broncos in pre-season game. This was not a fun game for Vikings fans to witness. They also went to a MN Twins game. They played against the Tampa Bay Rays and won 2 out of 3 in that weekend series with the Rays.

To say it was a busy weekend is an understatement! We all had a blast!



COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

6 - Labor Day - **CENTER CLOSED**

22 - Autumn Begins

OCTOBER

11 - Columbus Day

16 - National Boss's Day

31 - Halloween

NOVEMBER

7 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

11 - Veteran's Day

25 - Thanksgiving Day - **CENTER CLOSED**

26 - **CENTER CLOSED**

Have news???
Let Nancy know.
Your news is our
news!

All Staff
Door Prize Winners:

JULY:
Missy Leroux
Jessa Hafele

CONGRATULATIONS!!



A BIG



TO NEW STAFF WHO HAVE JOINED:

Hailee Altringer, Chloe Anderson, Mitchell Bessette, Kaelan Dick
Melissa Dobitz, Fontayne Fuga, Tina Kmecik, Melonie Lee
Christina Lende, Anna Nelson, Laura Peterson
Brett Wilkening

OPEN DOOR CENTER
129 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-1124

Address Label Here

Celebrating 61 Years

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
ODCVC.COM

Charitable Donation

Please consider us when making your charitable donation. Open Door Center is a non-profit organization which receives support from the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Although it is our main funding source, it is not enough to cover all the costs of our corporation. The money received will help provide continued support and assistance to those supported by Open Door Center. We are very appreciative for the support we do already receive. If you would please consider a financial contribution to help meet the extra needs of our children and adults with disabilities, please fill out this form and return it to Open Door Center, 129 3rd Ave. NE, Valley City, ND 58072.

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:

I would like my contribution:

☐ \$ 50 ☐ \$250
☐ \$100 ☐ \$500
☐ \$150 ☐ \$Other

In memory of: _____
In honor of: _____
Other: _____

May we publish your name? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Your thoughtful gift will be acknowledged to the family indicated:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DONATE

You may also donate on our
webpage: www.odcvc.com
Hit the red **DONATE** button
on the home page and choose
the amount you wish to
donate, hit the **NEXT** button
and follow instructions. The
Open Door Center would
really appreciate this donation.