

# ODYC GAZETTE



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## Committed Students encouraged at Open Door!

I am constantly amazed at what is happening here at Open Door! God is doing some awesome things! While they haven't made the step to accepting Christ fully, we have many students asking really great questions about who God is and who they are. Recently, one volunteer shared a story with me about a student's excitement to come to Open Door. A lot of people in his life are telling him that he will not amount to anything; that he will end up like his brother who is in jail. For a while, he explained, he was living up to that prophecy. He was smoking pot, wearing baggy clothes and acting like he was in a gang. I don't know what changed him, but he knew that he shouldn't be doing it, and started coming back to Open Door. He was so excited about movie night that he didn't want to miss it. We showed *The Blind Side*. The volunteer shared that the teen was worried he would have to work. He encouraged the student to ask for the evening off and explain to his manager why he wanted it off. As they were talking, another staff member had come up to

### ODYC NEEDS:

Open Door is always in need of volunteers! Presently, we are looking at opening up Monday nights to elementary and middle school students and we need YOUR help! If you have a heart for this age group, consider volunteering with Open Door! It is so rewarding to be a part of the ministry here!

In addition to Monday nights, we are always in need of help on Thursdays! Starting in September, we are hoping to make Thursday nights for high school students. We could use more male volunteers to help with Thursday nights.

If you are interested, please contact Nicole at the number or email address above!

him and told him she passed by where he worked and prayed for him! God is moving! I recently talked with a counselor of one student who expressed how much Open Door meant to her. Another student was texting everyone hoping that they didn't miss Marty's testimony. He rushed to get to Open Door as soon as he could! Although he missed the group presentation, Marty shared it with him when he got there. We've also had some great discussions during Bible study with the students. This is the excitement these kids have for coming to Open Door!

## Inspiring Stories

In the past few weeks, we have been able to invest in the lives of the students by sharing our lives with them and others' inspiring stories. Several weeks ago, I shared a video I had seen on a friend's Facebook page and then at Breakout Ministries when I was there sharing with the congregation. The video can be found on GodTube, or search for Tamara Lowe- "Amazing Jesus Rap." In the video, Tamara raps about different parts of pop culture and how only Jesus is the way to heaven. It is awesome! Our students wanted to watch it multiple times. It was great to have the students share what they thought about the video.

The next week, we had the opportunity to hear one of the staff member's testimony. Marty Hill faced many of the things that our students face, and came

out strong in his faith. The kids, along with the staff, have a great respect for him! He is such a blessing here at Open Door! (Not to mention he makes some mean barbeque ribs and chicken!)

On June 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrated school being done for the year! We had a pizza party, along with watching *The Blind Side*. This is a great movie because we can see parts of Michael Oher in many of our students. They are hurting, dealing with family issues, gang pressures, and are great athletic stars too, many capable of being professionals! They were so excited to see this movie and it was great to see their reactions to this too!

We hold these moments so dearly as staff here at Open Door and look forward to more of these times to pour our lives into these students!