



WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Twenty years ago, when Patti and Brenda took on the job of preparing meals for all of our residential consumers, they decided to bring their family birthday traditions to Open Door. Each year, every one of our residential consumers gets a phone call from either Patti or Brenda asking what they would like to eat for their birthday dinner and these wishes are granted. According to Patti, "Most people ask for simple things like hamburgers, pizza, or Chinese take-out. We have another guy who asks for steak every year." Brenda remarks, "One person asks for homemade lasagna with a 7-layer salad each year. I think we are lucky that no one has asked for lobster!"

While most people tend to keep the orders simple, there have been some unusual requests. Lauren B. recently



Brenda Hartman, Lauren B., and Patti Webber. Lauren couldn't believe her luck that she got to eat liver and onions for her birthday!

celebrated her second birthday with Open Door and she asked for liver and onions, even though she had never had it before. "I saw it on TV one time that liver is good for your heart and bones. I want to be stronger." Interestingly enough, no one else in the house opted for liver and onions that night but Lauren loved it and is planning her meal for next year.

"I am thinking of shake and bake chicken and mashed potatoes because I have not had that for a while."

Of course, birthday meals don't end with the main course. Everyone gets their choice of cake options as well. The cakes come from Art's Food Market which is located in Sandwich. In the past, they have decorated beautiful cakes with flags, records, Elvis, dolls, Barbie dolls, 50's theme, butterflies... well, you get the picture.

OPEN DOOR
REHABILITATION CENTER

The Voice is the bi-monthly newsletter of Open Door Rehabilitation Center, a not-for-profit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities.

Headquarters are located at 405 South Wells Street, Sandwich, Illinois 60548
Phone: (815) 786-8468
Fax: (815) 786-6241
Web: www.odrc.org

The Voice welcomes your questions and contributions of news of interest to our friends and supporters.

Contributors:

Rita Potter Tami Carper
Terra Stetz Becky Clemons
Laurie Wisdom Gene Stephens
Candi Baker

Founders of ODRC

William & Virginia Squier, Sr.
David & Juanita Graf

President Emeritus

Robert J. Coleman, D.C.

Executive Director

David Baker

Board of Directors

Volunteer Leadership

President

Lane Kapela

Vice President

Dick Banning

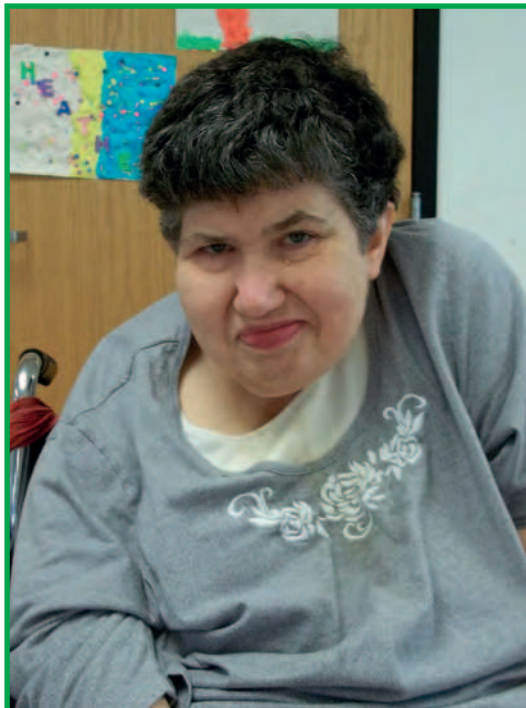
Secretary

Denise Mestemaker

Treasurer

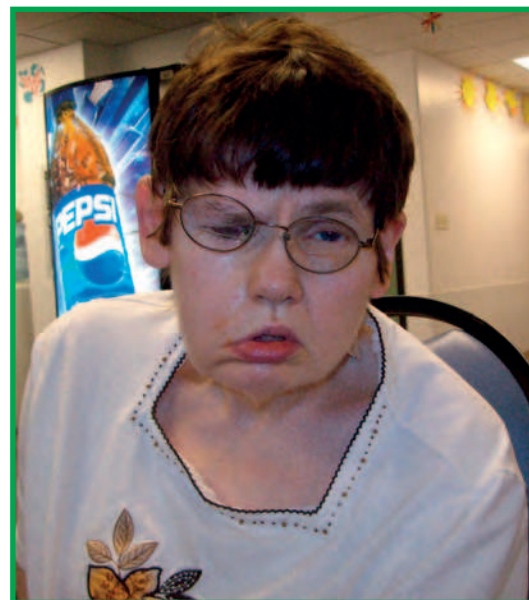
Mike Bennett

Quendred Carpenter Joe Klinger
Eric Danielson Becky Lueken
Jim Dirst Claudette McCaslin
Jim Dockendorf Jeff Metzger, Sr.
Robin Goldsmith Phyllis Niles
Bryan Harbin Michael O' Flynn



Cindy C. keeps it simple and asks for her favorite of ham, mashed potatoes, and green beans for her birthday meal!

February and June are busy with 7 birthdays in each month. While you would think that maybe during these months some of the birthdays would be combined to make things easier, Patti quips, "I don't care if they have 80 cakes in their house. Everyone deserves their day."



Linda G. says that this year she is ordering her usual again of sausage and gravy on biscuits along with a side of baked beans!

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

Noah's Ark Came to Open Door?

That's right! Along with boxes full of Furry Friends!

Eighteen individuals were interested in having a Noah's Ark Workshop. Getting a workshop set up was much easier than we thought! We located the website and requested a Workshop Leader in our area. Within 24 hours, we heard from Toni McIntyre. She sent us a huge selection of furry friends. The clients looked at all of the choices and were finally able to submit their request of 5 Furry Friends to Toni so she could make us our own personalized order form. Soon, the personalized order forms came and the clients were able to place their orders easily! Sometimes, completing forms can be very challenging but most were able to complete them with little or no assistance. What a sense of accomplishment!

The day finally came and Toni arrived with boxes of Furry Friends to be made. She was greeted with our typical enthusiastic, friendly welcome and soon three of Open Door's staff eagerly followed her lead; the workshop was underway! The room was full of laughter and smiles as they got to work creating, stuffing and tucking.

Most of the animals were named before they were even completed. Each animal was carefully crafted to perfection, most with no help! Many were amazed they were able to build their furry friend all by themselves!



James A. admiring his work! Pretty cool!



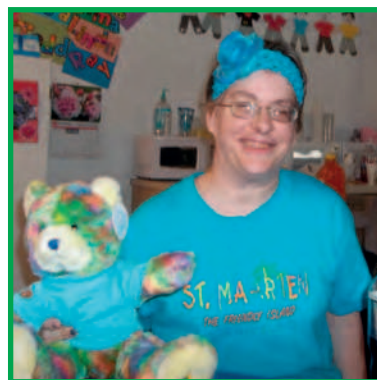
Steven S. paying attention to every detail!



Evelyn S. bonding with her new Furry Friend...Friends for Life!



Karen L. stuffing away at Paka Puppy...she couldn't wait for this day!



Brooke S., "Look everyone! I built this on my own!"

The independence and pride beamed on their faces as they hugged and cuddled their new friends! Winding up the workshop, everyone showed each other their animals, while having some cookies and punch with their Noah's Ark Workshop Leader and new found friend, Toni McIntyre! Thank you so much Toni for making this day so special for us! We will definitely request you back and pass along the story of how our Furry Friends were made!

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS



Marcus and Bill (1984)

What do you think of when you hear “foster parent?” Short term? Long Term? Temporary? What comes to my mind is selflessness, respect, gutsy... the list goes on. Judy Bark can relate to this, I do believe. Over the past 44 years, she has fostered over 75 children, some with special needs and some without, but two of these “children” are extra special to Open Door: Marcus R. and Bill R.



Baby Bill R.

Bill is wheelchair bound and non-verbal, but has one heck of a great smile and giggle! He loves to have people talk to him, read to him and he loves to listen to the TV. Judy remarks, “He is quite attentive and when you think he is not paying attention, he will react to something said on TV or in the room. I know there is a very intelligent man in there!” Bill also loves being around children. Judy has fostered a lot of smaller children and toddlers and they all love to climb up and sit with Bill and talk to him. “That’s when you see the big smiles,” she said, “Kids love him.” Although Bill is physically limited as far as communication, Judy is convinced if they could truly IQ test him, we would all be shocked at the results. “I don’t like the word ‘retarded’... these kids - all of them - are amazing in their own way. I don’t like the labels,” she said.



Baby Marcus

Judy then began fostering Marcus in 1983 when he was 10 months old. Unlike Bill, Marcus’s issues were quite clear from the start. Judy did not hesitate to take him, as his story was heartbreaking, to say the least.

“Marcus has an amazing personality. He loves music, the physical contact of holding hands and hugging - feeling someone close to him. He is very

touchy-feely,” Judy said. After taking Marcus in, Judy slowed down on the kids she took in. Marcus had different, more difficult needs than Bill, but she was willing to put in the time and effort. “He would wake up each night (morning) at 3am. I had to hold him tight and just stay and talk with him until he stopped crying and screaming.” Eventually, he would stop waking up at 3am. However, Marcus is quite routine-driven. “I got him in the routine to wake up at 5am to get ready for school...but he wanted to get up every day at 5am!” It took a while, but Judy was able to teach Marcus that on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, he didn’t have to get up at 5am. “Finally got that done,” she laughed.

“Marcus is able to wheel himself in his wheelchair, feed himself with some things, but for the most part is non-verbal as well...as far as forming words. But Marcus is very able to express his feelings, whether happy, sad, in pain, or upset. Music and physical touch seem to sooth him the most...that and “sticking to his routine!” Judy said.

At one point, Judy looked into respite through DHS (Department of Human Services) so she could have a break some days or evenings, just to do things she needed. She laughs about it now, “But they were more than willing to take Bill,” but jokingly said, “Marcus flunked respite.” His needs were just too great and being out of his routine was inconsolable. So that was that and Judy just kept on keeping on with the boys. They became just like her own, having Bill for 38 years and Marcus for 30. When it was time to transition Bill from school to day programming or treatment, DHS wanted to move him to an institution. At that time, he would have been 21. Judy basically said, ‘over my dead body!’ She was able to get Bill transferred to a state guardian through the Office of State Guardian, and Jane Browning became guardian...and would follow with Marcus 8 years later. Through this transition, Judy found Open Door and liked this placement better than an institution, and the boys could stay living with her. And so it went... until 2013.

In 2013, both Marcus and Bill were selected from the PUNS list (state waiting list for persons receiving services) for CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) or residential services. This was a difficult decision for Judy. She had raised the boys their entire lives, with her taking care of them day to day. She knew she had to take this placement now, because Open Door had openings for BOTH Bill and Marcus, and would keep them together. Another placement with another provider may have separated these “brothers”, and Judy didn’t want that. Even though she wasn’t quite ready for them to move out, she knew it was time to make it happen. So in May 2013, both Bill and Marcus moved into the Ash home. This was a bittersweet time for everyone. Open Door was thrilled to have the boys move in as we had a long time relationship with Marcus, Bill and Judy. Judy said it was hard, but she had two young ones at home that kept her busy, but when the house is empty, it will hit her. Even though Judy is not a biological parent or even the boys’ guardian, she is Mom. Period. The only mother Bill and Marcus have ever known. And Open Door treats her as such...the mother. They go home for the weekends sometimes, go with her on outings and she can come and visit them whenever she wants to. The only difference is where they live.



Bill R. now

“It was one of the hardest decisions and one of the most difficult transitions I have ever made,” Judy said, “but it’s ok now.” Marcus and Bill had their own transition issues. Marcus and his routine, getting used to the group home for both of them, starting new routines, making new friends, meeting new staff...and of course, not living with Mom.



Marcus Summer 2013

The old saying “Home is where the heart is” is quite honestly true. It may not matter where you live or who you live with, but where your heart lies is home. Marcus and Bill’s hearts lie with Judy and Judy’s heart lies with Bill and Marcus. So in truth, they are all always HOME.

WORDS OF WISDOM

We posed a question to several of the individuals served: "What would you want to say to people thinking about coming to Open Door?" The dates reflect how long these consumers have been with Open Door.



Beth M. (January 1991) "It's a good place to live. They are good people. Be happy where you live."

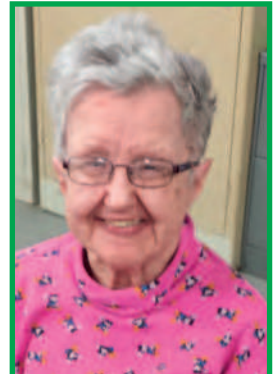


Danielle B. (August 2013) "Good luck. I like it here. You are welcome here."

Roderick I. (October 2013) "Good place. I would like new people to live at Pine (his group home). I like my aides. I like to call them turkey buzzards....I am joking with them."



Evelyn S. (October 2013) "It's a nice place. The clients are nice at our house, and staff too."



Melissa J. (May 2003) "It's a good move. They help a lot of people."



LOOKING AHEAD:
ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
Wednesday, July 30, 2014

AND THE QUILT WINNER IS.....

Congratulations to **Christine Rosengren** from Serena. She is the lucky winner of the handmade quilt raffle. I predict many nights of comfy snuggling on the couch wrapped in that beautiful quilt in her future. Enjoy!



WRIGHT INSURANCE



Dave Baker expressed his appreciation to Bob Wright for his contribution to Open Door. “We are grateful to you for your continued support. This gift will be channeled to day programs to benefit adults with such developmental disabilities as autism, cerebral palsy, Down’s syndrome, and other intellectual disabilities. Your contribution will be put to very good use.”

L to R: Dave Baker, executive director of Open Door Rehabilitation Center, and Bob Wright, State Farm Agent of Wright Insurance Agency, LLC



We are offering you the opportunity to participate in
Open Door Rehabilitation Center's



MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

In honor of Memorial Day,
we are dedicating space in our May/June newsletter issue for a
MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE PAGE.

This tribute will be exclusively dedicated to those
who have passed away before us.
Please return the bottom portion of this page along with a monetary gift
by April 28th to meet the printing cut-off date.



(Please cut on dotted line and return this portion to Open Door.)

**MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE
IN BELOVED MEMORY OF**

(Please check box if deceased was a U.S. Veteran.)

(Name of deceased): _____

(Name of deceased): _____

Donor's Name: _____

(As you wish it to appear in newsletter.)

Address: _____ City: _____

State. _____ Zip: _____ Ph: _____

Who should receive notification of your memorial gift?

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State. _____ Zip: _____

Contributions & Memorials

Listed below are contributions & memorials received between 1/1/14 & 2/28/14.

We deeply appreciate all of the honorariums, memorials, & donations give to Open Door. For your convenience, we provide a donation envelope in each newsletter. We hope you find this to be helpful.

Thank you very much! We are **deeply grateful** to you for all of your support!

BRICK COMMEMORATION

Your personal brick will be engraved with up to 13 characters (including spaces and punctuation) per line, and up to 3 lines per brick with a cost of \$100 per brick.

**BILLY BANNING
LOVED FOREVER!
UNCLE JEFF**

Jeff Bitterling

**IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT BRUMMEL
YORKVILLE**

Pat Brummel

**RUDOLPH BUDACH
FAMILY**

Janet Budach

**IN HONOR OF
ROBIN
GOLDSMITH**

Steven & Chandra Gray

**DAVE GRAF
TEACHER OF
THE YEAR**

Clarion & Jean Swenson

**IN MEMORY OF
CINDY GRAF
AND JUANITA**

Phil & Judy Boyd

**JUDITH E MARK
DANIEL P VARGO**

Judith E. Mark & Daniel P. Vargo

**IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM
SQUIER SR**

**IN MEMORY OF
VIRGINIA
SQUIER**

**IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM
SQUIER JR**

Steven & Chandra Gray

**IN MEMORY OF
FRED & FRANCES
WEIR**

Rich & Jeanne Baker

Contributions

Thomas & Patricia Andresen
Anonymous (4)
Lawrence & Donna Asselborn
Wayne & Madeline Bagwill
Thomas Bahde
Janet Baker
Bel-Mar Wire Products, Inc
Bill Oswald Insurance Ins.Agcy.
Don & Pat Brummel
Mary Buhs
CCJ Recycling LLC
Centrue Bank
Glenna Crocker
Carla Cummings
Ken Cummins
Gerald & Denise Curran
Kip & Janet Davis
Marlene Diehl
Walter & Margaret Droppa
Federated Church of Sandwich
John & Sara Ann Feken
Dee Flint
Gary & Barb French
Becky Gavin
Mike & Michelle Gould
Dennis & Virginia Gregory
Jo Gregory
Margaret M. Grist
Donna Guehler
Dan & Linda Halbesma

Rosemary Hanley
Wanda S. Hanson
Judy Hanson
Jesse G. Hanson
Newell & Jean Harmon
H.D. Backhoe Service, LLC
Patrick & Denise Helmers
Betty Henning
Richard & Barbara Holland
Christine J. Johnson, DeKalb County
Treasurer
Ron & Barb Johnson
Just In Time Heating & A/C
Harry & Doris Land
Leland United Methodist Church
Jerry & Donna Leonard
Gary & Mary Leonard
John F. Marzolo
Frank & Constance Matias
Jerry McGrail
Fred & Wilma Metz
Donald & Doris Miller
Millbrook United Methodist Church
Millington United Methodist Church
Leon Natonek
Joe & Oweta Neuhauser
Jacklyn Niles
Raymond & Sherida Parks
Paul Masla Supply Company
Roger & Shirlene Peterson

Scott & Amy Porter
Richard & Myrla Randall
Betty Reicher
Patricia Rice
Phyllis Riveland
Susie Scott
Sandwich Floral Shop
Sandwich Lions Club
Sandwich Veterinary Hospital PC
Dale & Jeannie Shatters
Bob & Peg Shumway
Donald & Janeyce Smith
Somonauk Township
Leo & Lois Sondgeroth
Al & Cindy Stramel
Paul & Debbie Szydlo
The Office Works, Inc.
Rich & Diane Thomas
Katie Thompson
Clarence Toftoy
Larry & Jean Trahan
John & Janene Tuttle
United Methodist Women
Joyce Vacca
Roger & Mary Walz
Len & Kathy Wass
Nicole Winter
Wright Insurance Agcy., LLC
Frank & Betty Zingre

Memorials

In Memory of Don & Evelyn Anderson

Floyd & Sherry Anderson

In Memory of Sharon Baker

Plano United Methodist Church Chums

In Memory of Anges (Zobott) Barnash

Raymond & Joan Zobott

In Memory of Thomas Boyd

Anonymous

In Memory of Richard M. "Dick" Bravick

Delores Devine
Jerry & Carol Hinterlong
Wiley & Nancy Updike
Joan Dobnick
Janet Fanning
Brian & Donna Freeman
Denise & Ken Mestemaker
Ed & Ann Stahl
The Woody Family

In Memory of Robert Bretthauer

Vivian Feldott

In Memory of Joan Breunig

Glen & Carol Hamm

In Memory of Paul Bruggeman

Gary & Vickie Lemke

In Memory of Ralph Bunch

Delores Devine

In Memory of Louise Burgholzer

Mr. & Mrs. John H. Duffy
Darlene Hosey
Bunnie Nelson

In Memory of Roger Clark

Richard & Kay Konow

In Memory of Verda Maxine Coffman

Virgil & Jane HYTE

In Memory of James Conlin

Jan Meier

In Memory of LeRoy Cowan

Fran Adams
Family & Friends
Rose Cowan
Madelyn Crouch
Brian & Donna Freeman
Florence Gudmunson
Chuck, Linda, & Julie Hickey

Tom & Kathy Hinterlong Family

Curt & Judith Larson

Barbara Meyer

Jack & Evelyn Smith

In Memory of Harry Crawford

Floyd & Sherry Anderson

In Memory of Carol Czmowski

Marion Rompf

In Memory of Anna Danielson

Nathan & Kim Gudmunson

In Memory of Mervin Eastwold

Dave Tuntland

In Memory of Edward D. "Duke" Fanning

William & Sharon Haack

James & Carol Wilhelm

In Memory of John & Dorothy Farley

Patricia Farley

In Memory of Hank Feldott

Dorothy Dearden

Memorials (Cont.)

In Memory of David Graf

Charles & Alice Smith

In Memory of George Hacke

Dennis & Virginia Gregory

In Memory of Bernice Hanson

Hazel Hilliard
Phyllis J. Johnson
Fred Nelson
Rosalie Nelson

In Memory of Mary Hay

Denise & Ken Mestemaker

In Memory of Agnes Hutchinson

Pat Jensen Weisenburger

In Memory of Cleda Arlene Johnson

Plano United Methodist Church Chums

In Memory of Phyllis J. Johnson

Virgil & Jane Hyte

In Memory of Ray Ingle

Dorothy Dearden

In Memory of Paul Leifheit, Jr.

Betty Papanek

In Memory of Joe

Delores Devine

In Memory of Lemul "Sonny" Miller

Lane & Mary Lou Sheldon
Bill & Jamie Wetzel

In Memory of Charles Montgomery

Charlene Strode Montgomery

In Memory of Larry Mullis

Mark & Cindy Weismiller

In Memory of Peggy Neal

Marie Miles

Clarion & Jean Swenson

In Memory of Terry Olson

Denise & Ken Mestemaker
Delores Devine

In Memory of Beth Peterson

Sandwich High School Class of 1964

In Memory of F.L. Siegel

Anonymous

In Memory of Maye & Marguerite Seby

Richard Tuntland

In Memory of Sylvia Seymour

Wiley & Nancy Updike

In Memory of Harrison Shambaugh

Margaret Bastian
Ron & Kim Henrich
Jerry & Carol Hinterlong

In Memory of Dorothea L. "Dottie" Smith

Family of Dottie Smith

In Memory of Jim & Dottie Smith

Phyllis Sheetz

In Memory of Robert (Bob) Terry

Dorothy Whiteaker

In Memory of Ann Underwood

Dick Underwood

In Memory of Vivian Vermeland

Fran Adams
Jim & Marilyn Elliot
Jon & Judy Erikson
Glen & Carol Hamm
Linda Hann
Greg & Connie Hanson
Jerry Johnson
Clarion & Jean Swenson
Dave & Barbara Voss

In Memory of Eibel Lucille Walker

Tom & Betty Thomas

In Memory of Gertrude Wallis

Florence Gudmunson
Norma Hough
Ed & Karen Lessor
David & Marie Paxton
Mary Jane Turney
Steve & Angela Turney
Rita Wiesbrook

In Memory of Virginia Wells

Dennis & Virginia Gregory

In Memory of Eunice "Kelley" Windett

Doc & Edie Coleman

In Memory of Rita Yvonne Woody

Bruce & Karol Augustine
Gary Augustine
Steve & Jeanne Augustine
Dave & Candi Baker
Ron Eisenberg
Janet Fanning
Arthur & Wanda Fedro
Glen & Carol Hamm
Jonie Knox
James & Jerri Kuhn
Jack & Kathy Kuppler
Frank & DeAnn Moran
Gary & JoAnne Parris
Joe & Judy Rud
Karl & Pat Rud
Russ & Barb Voga
Patti Webber
Family of Rita Woody

In Memory of Leone Zabner

Becky Gavin
Carol Meyer
Mary Meyer

Honorariums

In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Robert Coleman

Patricia Coleman

In Honor of Charlotte Grace Delp's Birthday

Bob & Nancy Delp

In Honor of Virginia Hann's 90th Birthday on February 24th

Virginia Hann Family

In Honor of Louis & Beverly Mayer

Greg & Judy Mayer

In Honor of Kurt Neupert & Family

Anonymous

In Honor of Tom & Ellen Neupert

Anonymous

In Honor of Tim & Barb Olin

Anonymous

In Honor of Dave Oram's Birthday

Beryl McKanna

In Honor of Dennis & Beth Risk

Anonymous

In Honor of Marion Rompf's 90th Birthday

Carol Meyer

In Honor of Louise Smith's 100th Birthday

Bill, Karen, & Tim Horoszko

In Honor of The Sandwich Park District Staff

Don & Starr Frederick



Open Door Rehabilitation Center
405 South Wells Street
Sandwich, Illinois, 60548
www.odrc.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Springfield, IL
Permit No. 364

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HAGE'S GIFT TO THE FOUNDERS' FUND



Dave Baker, Sue Hage, Kyle Hage

Upon the tragic and sad loss of Lee Hage, a bequest was given to Open Door as a result of a life insurance policy the Hages had purchased naming Open Door as the beneficiary.

Sue inquired as to how these funds could best be used. Dave asked her if she was familiar with the Open Door Founders' Fund.

The Open Door Founders' Fund was established with the DeKalb County Community Foundation in 1997. The Foundation represents a collection of individual funds and resources contributed for endowment purposes. The DeKalb County Community Foundation was established in 1993 through the creative generosity of a local DeKalb family. The purpose of the endowment fund is to preserve the assets while allowing for an annual distribution of the earnings and perpetuity. Sue believed their gift would best serve its purpose as a gift to the Founders' Fund, a gift that continues to give.

Lee and Sue's son, Kyle, is a consumer at Open Door, participating in day and residential services. Baker states, "We are happy to have Kyle as a member of the Open Door family and are grateful and humbled by this generous gift. We thank the Hages for all of their support."