

The Open Door Witness

May 2014

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From the Director

As part of the preschool and childcare licensing through Burleigh County Social Services staff are required to complete annual training hours. I was thrilled when the book *The 5 Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell was the reading material. The authors have sold more than one million copies of this #1 New York Times bestseller. It was a pleasant surprise to see that Bible references were included in the book though I was disappointed that a disclaimer was added to the syllabus to make everyone aware of that fact.

The four goals of the class were to help:

- Discover your child's love language
- Understand the link between successful learning and the love languages
- See how the love languages can help you discipline more effectively

- Build a foundation of unconditional love for your child.

The book focuses primarily on our children's need for love and how to provide it. The five love languages of children are: physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, and acts of service. We who are lucky enough to be surrounded by children need to be introduced to the love languages and determine the primary language in which our children hear our love.

Physical touch references the Hebrews living in Palestine bringing their children to Jesus "to have Him touch them." "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it. And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." (First John 3:18).

Words of affirmation language states that children think we deeply believe what we say. "The tongue has the power of life and death." (Mark 10:13-16). Children need guidance from primarily their parents

but other influences come from school, other adults, and peers. We need to be careful not to dilute the words “I love you” by saying “I love you, but I’ll tell you right now” The words “I love you” should always stand alone.

Quality time relates a story: “Consider Susanna Wesley, who raised ten children in eighteenth-century England. She scheduled an hour a week with each one alone. Her three sons, Sam, John and Charles Wesley, became poets, writers, and preachers; Charles penned thousands of hymns, many of which remain classics in the Christian church. In addition to helping her children learn the alphabet, writing, and math, she taught them politeness and good manners, moral values and frugal living.”

The giving and receiving of gifts can be a powerful expression of love. The most meaningful are those that become symbols of love. The child must feel that the gift giver genuinely cares. “If we do not present gifts as expressions of love, children may learn to receive them as ‘what is to be expected’.”

The ultimate purpose of acts of service is to help children grow into mature adults who are able to give love to others. “While dining in the home of a prominent religious leader, Jesus told his host:

When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.... (Luke 14:12-14).

I was inspired by several significant and meaningful comments made in the book that I would like to share with you:

- Children need to reach appropriate emotional levels of maturity before they are able to learn effectively at their age level (page 25).
- When we as parents (grandparents, caregivers, special people in their lives) learn to speak our children’s love language, even though it differs from our own, we are showing them the way of unselfishness (page 110).
- Your children can become more resilient, productive, and creative if the circumstances are right (page 187).

The readings, class participation, chat rooms, papers written, observations, and application of concepts learned continue as the need to more fully

understand that each child needs to know he is loved in order to grow into a giving, loving, responsible adult. Here at the Open Door that includes 22 individuals with differing, changing and evolving love languages. I pray and hope each day I am up to the task of this precious responsibility. The Lord is my shepherd. Psalm 23:1

Thankful for God’s blessings,
Jolene Stading Puhalla, Director

Recalling Days at Open Door



Greetings! I’d like to introduce myself to all of you. Some of you may know me, but others do not. My name is Orla Smith and I had the privilege of being the Assistant Director of Open Door Community Center from 1998 to 2005. It was an amazing time for me, spiritually and personally. I hope I made a difference in the lives of children and families I worked with; they made a big difference in mine.

My title of Assistant Director included several fun duties. I was in charge of the after school program that served 50+ children from K-6 every school year. We read and did science and craft projects, sang, played games, cooked, played cards, and much more. I also assisted Jolene with the Pre-school program which enrolled approximately 20 children from ages 3-5 who always brightened our day. Jolene and I received lots of hugs, loving words, and also so many laughs.

The English as Second Language program at Open Door served refugee families from several countries including Bosnia, Croatia, Ukraine, Russia, Africa, Haiti, and others. The families came to Open Door to learn English, bringing their children with them. Having so many different nationalities and cultures under one roof was a wonderful learning experience for me, and I made lifelong friends through that program. It was remarkable to see how all of them became such great friends.

I became certified through Iowa State University as the Family Specialist for single parents and their children while I worked at Open Door. Through the Even Start program the Open Door helped single parents finish their education, either by getting their GED or a college education. We would also assist them in learning parenting skills and finding appro-

ropriate day care. Jolene and I were a great support system for them. Once a week we met with the whole group and also went into their homes to provide help with needs that arose. We would work on learning skills, behavior issues that they were having with their children, or maybe just personal issues. They were so appreciative for that extra support they had from us. I grew such a bond with my parents and their children and still am in contact with several of my families yet today. Spending time in their homes made it so personal. Nothing made us prouder than to see them graduate. Not only did they feel successful, but we did also.

I am very proud of establishing the Open Door library. When I came to Open Door, several boxes of books greeted me in the storage room. We would search through the books, putting several new ones out every week and identifying some to read daily. Being the librarian I was (having been in that role in Dickinson for 14 years), I wanted so much to have a library for our Open Door kids. With help from several wonderful people we turned the storage room into a library. I computerized, cataloged, and categorized many books over the years. It was a dream come true to me when it was finished. The children came to our library regularly to check out books and take them home to read with their families. I know the library is still being used today and many more books have been donated.

Another program I am very proud of introducing to Open Door was the Great Plains Food Bank where we would get commodity food at a very inexpensive monthly rate. It is a wonderful program and our children were able to have wonderful snacks and meals because of it. The program is still in place at Open Door today.

I felt I was the luckiest person alive to be touched by so many wonderful children and families. I love running into them from time to time. Most of the children are now grown or in high school. Several have told me what a great influence I was on their children or on them and I feel blessed and honored.

I am now the Director of the Recovery Center at Dacotah Foundation which serves adults who have a mental illness. I am starting my 14th year there. I was working full time at Open Door and part-time at Dacotah Foundation for about 4 years, while going to college full time and earning my degree in Human Services. In 2005 I started working full time with Dacotah Foundation.

I would like to thank Jolene and the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to be Assistant Director of Open Door. I have such wonderful memories.

Van Dyke Joins Board



Steve Van Dyke joined the Open Door board of directors in January 2014. He is a member of the Mandan United Methodist Church where he serves as a worship leader and president of the Men's Club. He formerly served five years as president of the Mandan UMC Adminis-

trative Board, during which time the church built an addition.

He and his wife Belinda are the parents of two grown sons: Derek, who lives in Minot and works at Minot State University; and Scott, who lives in Bismarck and attends the University of Mary.

Steve joined the Open Door board because he wanted to spread the word about this Bismarck-based mission to his church members and others in the community.

"Open Door provides vital services to families with young children and my hope is to increase the support and awareness of the church-based, day-care facility," Van Dyke said.

The Mandan UMC Men's Club ate pizza and toured the facility this past spring. Van Dyke said that it was the first time many of the men had stepped foot into the facility and knew what services it provided. "They were full of questions, not only about the facility but about how young people benefited from it. Jolene was very patient and answered all the questions," he added.

Van Dyke is the vice president of communications for the Lignite Energy Council. A native of Roundup, Montana, he graduated from the University of Montana in 1980 with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. He has worked for newspapers in Beach, ND; Baker, MT and Bismarck, ND. He also formerly worked for MDU Resources as its communication manager. He joined the Lignite Energy Council in 2002. He and his wife have lived in Mandan for the past 28 years.

Van Donated to Open Door

Jim Unkenholz, an Open Door Board member representing McCabe UMC, secured a donation of a van that will be used for field trips. The 15 passenger 1989 Ford passenger van will be used starting this summer to transport the children to the numerous field trips scheduled for the summer program. Jim has also agreed to work on regular maintenance and upkeep. This donation will result in a great savings to the Open Door budget as previously we used Taxi 9000 vans for transporting the children.

We are sincerely thankful to Jim for his efforts to obtain and maintain this van.



Graduation Held May 22

On Thursday, May 22, 20 children graduated from the Open Door Community Center preschool program. Graduation was held at McCabe UMC with proud parents and families present to celebrate the event.



The theme was “Healthy Little Ones – Fitness Fun.” An especially fun highlight was a demonstration of fitness exercises the children learned under the guidance of Jordan Puhalla who has generously visited the Open Door throughout the year. The children sang songs they had learned about healthy habits, eating good food, and parts of their bodies. They proudly accepted their diplomas, then enjoyed a delicious lunch with their families. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Marvia Boettcher, chair of the Open Door Board and regular classroom volunteer; Grandpa Jim Karn, story reader and author; and Jordan Puhalla, volunteer fitness instructor. Children received *The Children’s Bible* and a DVD that chronicled their school year as graduation gifts.

What Are They Doing Now?

During this time of year when we observe graduates and their families celebrate milestones in their lives, we think about young people who are well along in their education and careers. Jolene reports on some of her former preschoolers, where they are, and what they are doing.

Jared Berg (Summer Camp 1998, several years of after school programs), a senior psychology major, was on the Dean’s list 2013 fall semester at St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Kayla Wahl (Summer Camp 1996, 1997 and 1998) is a graduate of Century High School and University of Mary and employed by Bismarck Public Schools. Her wedding with Davy Barnes is scheduled for June 27, 2014.

Olivia LaMontagne (Preschool class 1999-2001) is an active Century High School SADD member. SADD partnered with the local chapter of Find-Rescue-Embrace-Empower International to present a multimedia presentation on human trafficking in December 2013. Olivia is quoted in the article: “Human trafficking is a rising problem that I don’t think people know is rising.” Olivia was also a representative of Century’s SADD celebration of National SADD Shines Day which focused on the power of teens to “light the way” to a healthier, safer community for high school students and the wider community.

Jaden Brandner (Summer Camp 2002, 2003 and several years of after school program) is a senior at Bismarck High School where he was part of a group of four that attended the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C. in April 2014. The group

had previously won the regional competition besting more than 20 other teams.

Tryston Simek (Summer Camp 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008 and several years of after school) won Superior Actor Award at the Class A Play Festival in Devils Lake, ND. He also attended in March 2014 the High School All-State Festival participating in the Mixed Choir. Tryston is a junior at Bismarck High School.

Imagination Library Ends

Sadly, the Open Door has been informed that we will no longer be receiving free books from the Imagination Library. The children and their families have enjoyed the books a great deal and appreciate the opportunities that the Library has offered them.

The last three books received are "The Perfect Present," "Snowy Day," and "Look Out Kindergarten, Here I come."

Learning Activities Are Fun



On May 12th the Open Door children visited the Dakota Zoo, an annual field trip. We bundled up to keep warm on the cold windy day, and the weather didn't dampen our spirit of fun.



Cinco de Mayo was celebrated with Mexican games and activities such as breaking the piñata and learning the Mexican hat dance.

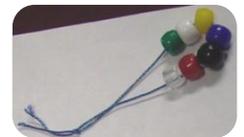


Mrs. Music, Gloria Knoll, regularly stops by to teach songs, rhythm, and interesting information about music. Here she shows the inside of our piano to our children and explains how different sounds are made.



Christian education is an integral part of daily Open Door activities. Lessons are reinforced through art and music, physical education, and pre-academic skills. The children used their handprints to make crosses.

Open Door children worked with Grandpa Jim Karn to make faith bracelets. These were taken with him on his mission trip to Thailand and given to children he worked with there.



Fall Registration Open

Registration is open for the Open Door Fall Preschool for children who are 3, 4, and 5 years old. The program is on a full day basis, 8:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., including after school care. Before school care from 7:30 - 8:15 a.m. is available for an additional fee. The Preschool begins September 2 and follows the Bismarck Public School schedule (See <http://www.bismarck.k12.nd.us/district/calendars/>.)

To register or to obtain further information, please contact Jolene at 222-3004 or opendoor@btinet.net

Volunteer Hours

During the fourth quarter of 2013, 214.5 hours of time were volunteered in activities that support the Open Door. For the first quarter of 2014, 107.5 hours were contributed. Thank you to all.

Summer Day Camp Begins

June 2 brought the first day of 2013 Summer Day Camp at the Open Door. Three four-week sessions operate from 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for children ages 3-10 years of age. For a small additional fee, before school care can be arranged. No Day Camp meets on July 3 and 4.

Martin Ketterling Keeps Us Looking Good



Martin Ketterling, board member representing Calvary UMC is a valuable volunteer here at the Open Door. Whether it's mowing the lawn, trimming tree branches, cleaning out flower beds, maintaining playground equipment, refinishing and painting picnic tables, changing indoor and outdoor lights, or adjusting the timers for sprinklers and outside lights, he does it all!

The children all know Marty and enjoy saying "hello" or sharing "high fives" on his almost daily visits during the summer. The staff, board members, and children enjoy all Marty does to make our lives safer and our surroundings more attractive and pleasant. Thanks for all you do, Marty! We really appreciate you!!!!

Gifts

The Open Door is blessed by many thoughtful people who support our mission with their prayers, presence, gifts, and services. The variety of contributions enrich our program and services and help us to maintain our day to day operation and physical facility. Thank you for supporting us so generously.

The following identifies contributors between November 1, 2013 and April 1, 2014. Monetary gifts were given for unspecified purposes in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a donation for general use.

Howard and Melvena Bier, Bismarck, ND
Carol Desper, Bismarck, ND
Darlene Farrell, Bismarck, ND - In memory of Joe Farrell on his birthday
Vicki and Roger Griffin, Mandan, ND - In honor of our grandchildren Jadelynn, Lexie, Lily, Max, Sara, Joseph and Victoria
MaryAnn Hanson, Mandan, ND
Ed and Faye Hasche, Bismarck, ND
Sherry and Lewis Heaton, McKenzie, ND - In honor of Sterling UMC Women Luella Rath and Sharon Long, and Pastor Cori Weisner
Kenneth and Carol Hogue, Bismarck, ND
Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND - In memory of Rev. Culver's mother, Kermit Lidstrom, and Richard Wolfert
Barbara and Daniel Kingsley, Hill City, MN - In honor and memory of my incredible mother Anita Neumann
David and Jane Knecht, Fargo, ND
LeAnn Lindteigen, Medina, ND
Franklin and Marjorie Mick, Bismarck, ND
Kris and Mike Mikkelsen, Argusville, ND - In honor of my parents Jerry and Linda Suko
Tom and Paula Redmann, Bismarck, ND - In celebration of Jerry and Linda Suko
Dean and Rhonda Reese, Bismarck, ND
Mike and Shelley Rowe, Bismarck, ND
Clarence and Bernice Salzer, Bismarck, ND
Carol Saville, Bismarck, ND
Marilyn G. Smith, Bismarck, ND
Daniel and Bonnie Taylor, Bismarck, ND
Joan Tracy, Bismarck, ND
Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ - In memory of Keith Johnson
Pastor Peg Zerface, Fargo, ND
Dakotas United Methodist Foundation, Maurice H. and Lenore E. Gordon Endowment, Mitchell, SD
Dakotas United Methodist Foundation, Ministries of the Dakotas Annual Conference, Mitchell, SD
UMW, Ashley, ND
Calvary UMW, Bismarck, ND
McCabe UMC Tuesday Workshop, Bismarck, ND
McCabe UMC Blessing Tree, Bismarck, ND
McCabe UMW, Bismarck, ND (2)
Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND
Bowbells UMW, Bowbells, ND
Rolla UMC, Cando, ND

UMW, Dickinson, ND
 First UMC, Fargo, ND (3)
 Salem UMC, Hazen, ND
 First UMW, Jamestown, ND
 Women of the UMC, Langdon, ND
 UMW, Lisbon, ND
 UMW-Mandan, ND
 Chaseley UMC, McClusky, ND
 Faith UMW, Minot, ND
 UMW, Vincent UMC, Minot, ND
 Page UMC, Page, ND
 UMW, Rolla, ND
 Steele UMC, Steele, ND (2)
 Sterling UMW, Sterling, ND
 UMW, Streeter, ND
 UMW, Washburn, ND
 Wyndmere UMW, Wyndmere, ND

Jimmy and Benny Herrington, Bismarck, ND - Pirate ship toy, complete kitchen set parts with plastic food, books
 Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND - Thanksgiving groceries for all of our families and Christmas gifts for all the children of the Open Door
 Circle at McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND - Paper plates, napkins, paper towels, crayons, toilet paper, Christmas items
 Gen Pfliger, Bismarck, ND - Lots of Christmas and seasonal decorations, large variety of craft items, jewelry, supplies
 Bev Solberg, Bismarck, ND - Fruit cups
 Sarah and Lisa Vadnais, Bismarck, ND - Zhu Zhu pets, Zoobles, Littlest Pet Shop toys, Dora play set

Jan and Kyle Joersz from McCabe UMC generously volunteered their time and talents to recondition the computers in our computer lab. We thank them for ensuring the efficient operation of these machines used for our classroom and recreation activities.

Soup Savers Contribute

The Open Door benefits greatly from the efforts of our Souper Savers who faithfully clip and submit Campbell's soup labels. Redemption of these labels has yielded equipment, supplies, and materials worth thousands of dollars over the years – a real benefit to our budget.

We thank the following for submitting Campbell's soup labels over the last six months: Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND; Fargo First UMW, Fargo; and Lois Baker, Williston, ND



Open Door Wish List

The preschool classroom uses lots of equipment and supplies. Here is a list of some items that we would be grateful to receive. If you have questions about specific items, please contact Jolene at 222-3004. Thank you.

DVD player
 Littlest Pet Shop toys
 Trinity Toyz Construction Block Set - Nativity set #38000
 Etch-a-sketch
 Kindermats (for rest time)
 Gallon jug Elmer's school glue
 Watercolors
 Color pencils
 Scotch and masking tape
 Finger paints & finger paint paper
 Band-aids
 33-gallon garbage bags





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Open Door Community Center Mission

Through the Open Door Community Center, children and families receive Christian-based education and support services, enriching them to become responsible members of their families and community.

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