



OPENDoors

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Investing in People not Prisons





TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Opendoors Mission and Vision 4

Client Spotlight 5

OVERVIEW

Message from The Chairman 6

OUR PROGRAMMING

9 Yards Report Shows Success 7

Al's Story 8

Necessity Fund 9

DEVELOPMENT

Board of Directors 10

Thank You to Our Donors 11

FINANCIALS

Financial Report 12

Our Mission

In 2003, individuals from the Providence faith community came together to address the lack of resources for men and women coming home from prison. Out of that initiative grew OpenDoors.

Over the last 16 years, we have invested in alternatives to incarceration, and the investment has paid off. OpenDoors has proven that wrap around services including housing, employment, and treatment can reduce recidivism by over 40 percent.

Our holistic approach supports individuals as they prepare to leave prison, return home, and stabilize in the community. The agency's programs include our policy and advocacy on criminal justice issues, our one-stop Resource Center, our Employment Program, and our 9 Yards Reentry Program. OpenDoors programs seek to ameliorate the condition of the poor and promote economic self-sufficiency by improving job-readiness, addressing barriers to employment, and teaching job-retention skills.

Our Vision

At OpenDoors, we work towards building a world that invests in solutions to high crime rates, rampant substance use disorder, and chronic homelessness that are tested and proven.

PUBLIC HOUSING BUILDING CONTINUES TO TRANSFORM LIVES

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Andrew Horwitz



I have been on the Board of OpenDoors for the last decade and seen the agency accomplish great things year after year, and this year was no different. After assuming the Board Chairmanship in late 2017 during a time of transition, the agency

was able to create a new leadership and structure that has kept us not just open but serving more and more people.

In 2019, OpenDoors found a new direction, one with tremendous potential. Under the leadership of Patrick Westfall and Nick Horton, who became Co-Executive Directors in 2018 with a combined 25 years of experience at OpenDoors, the agency has diversified its funding sources, expanded its programs, and demonstrated, convincingly, that by investing in communities not just punishment, we can make Rhode Island a better place.

This year saw our first ever direct donor campaign, and I want to thank all of our supporters for helping us raise over \$21,000 for our Necessity Fund. Our new collaboration with the Episcopal Diocese, our partnership with Family Services in our office space at 485 Plainfield Street, and new major private donors, created a sustainable funding base that makes us less reliant on year

to year government grants.

Our wrap-around, intensive services and supportive housing programs keep the public safer, reduce recidivism, and ultimately save the state money. Nowhere else in Rhode Island can someone with a felony be told that there is an agency just for people like them.

Rhode Island is currently facing a housing crisis, and housing insecurity has become the most common challenge facing our clients—74% of people coming to OpenDoors are homeless or living in unstable housing. During these times, our permanent and transitional supportive housing, the only housing in the state entirely dedicated to people with criminal records, is even more critical.

Last but not least, after six years of hard work, we finally have an independent evaluation of our 9 Yards program. According to an analysis by Professor Leo Carroll, the program has reduced recidivism by 34% versus the control group over the last six years. It is extremely difficult to reduce the cycle of crime and incarceration, and we believe we have created a blueprint, one that can be a foundation for work both here and nationally, for how to reduce mass incarceration and create safer communities at the same time.

Best Regards,

9 YARDS REPORT SHOWS PROGRAM REDUCES RECIDIVISM BY 45 PERCENT



9 Yards is a reentry program that provides a range of supportive services to select cohorts of men starting while they are at the RI Department of Corrections. Through a controlled, randomized, experimental design, individuals who are evaluated as high risk receive a range of services pre- and post-incarceration. These services include: academic classes, vocational classes, cognitive

self-change classes, and pre-release preparation, all provided in a group setting to the same selected cohort of individuals. All participants in the program have the opportunity for parole reviews, and if paroled they are released to the second phase of the program. Those that do not receive parole enter the second phase when they complete their sentence. Phase II includes six months of transitional supportive housing, intensive case management, employment coaching and placement, and addiction treatment and drug testing. Those selected for the program were convicted of **45% fewer felonies** and sentenced to spend **47% less time in prison** due to recidivism during the twelve months after release.

RESTORING LIVES THROUGH SECOND CHANCES

When Al was just X years old, he was sentenced to serve X years in prison. Coming home from prison for the first time, Al remembers struggling to get by with little support. Quote... Without work experience and community support, Al quickly returned to his old ways of survival. Four



years ago, Al signed up for the OpenDoors Employment Program. After X years of joblessness, Al started working for OpenDoors as a janitor. With the skills he has learned on the job, Al now runs his own landscaping business. Quote

NECESSITY FUND HELPS PEOPLE OVERCOME FINANCIAL BARRIERS

\$21,000 RAISED AT LAUCH EVENT

At OpenDoors, we understand that a prison sentence begins the day a person comes home. In November, OpenDoors established the Necessity Fund to help people with criminal records cover basic costs associated with reentry to alleviate the financial burden our clients face when coming home. We raised \$21,000 for the fund, 100% of which will go directly to our clients. This fund seeks to address the high cost of returning home from prison without a job, stable housing, and transportation. At the launch event, The Right Reverend, Episcopal Bishop W. Nicholas Knisely spoke to audience members about how even a small financial emergency can throw a family or individual back into homelessness and despair.



The audience also heard from Steven Dambruch from the Attorney General's office and OpenDoors clients about how this fund will help people with criminal records stabilize and rebuild their lives.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROVIDES PATHWAY TO EDUCATION

THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROVIDED SIX INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CRIMINAL RECORDS PAY FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

At OpenDoors, we believe that all people should have access to education, a main determinant of social mobility. We also know that education drastically reduces the likelihood of recidivism. In the summer of 2019, OpenDoors announced its newly formed scholarship fund. This fund was made possible through a generous donation from Gordan Fox. In its first year, OpenDoors awarded six individuals with a history of incarceration \$1,000 to put towards their educational pursuits whether that be a certification or degree program.

Scholarship Awardee Spotlight Dawn Simas

"Certifications are the only thing holding me back from advancing my career. I plan on applying [this scholarship] towards my certifications, and some towards tuition [to go back to school]." - Dawn



2019 IN NUMBERS



408

clients received services in our Resource Center

44

participants completed our housing and job programs

71

people in our job program reported finding employment

139

vouchers for interview clothes

249

RIPTIKS for transportation to work

184

waivers for state ID cards

35

housing certificates awarded

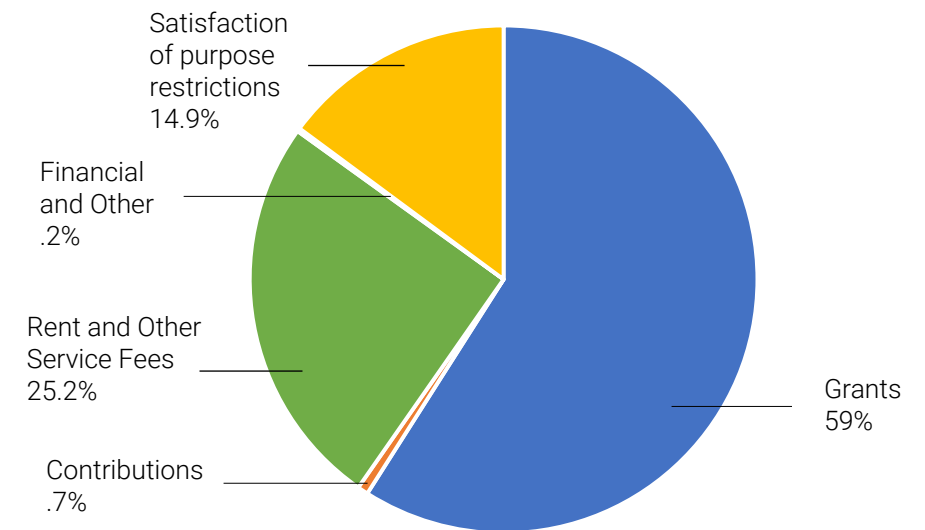
36

employment certificates awarded

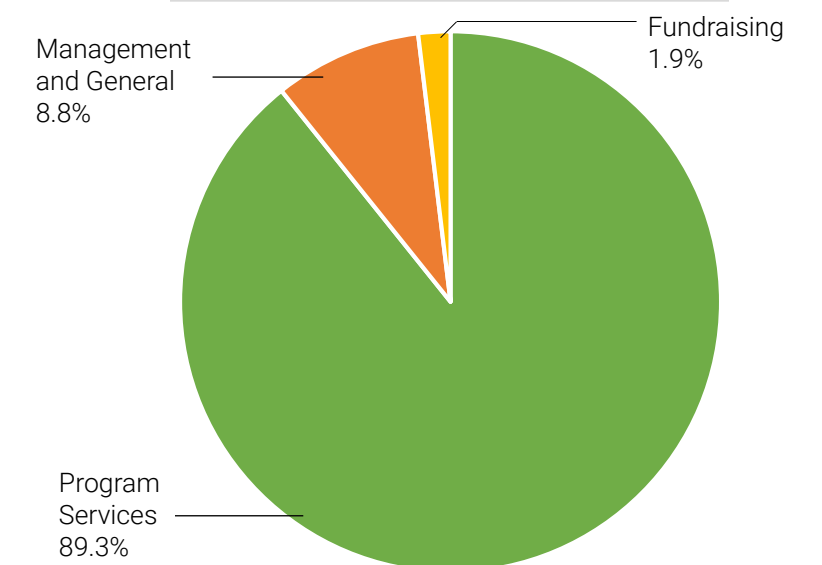
OPENDOORS FINANCIALS

"We've seen many successes over the past year...."

REVENUE



EXPENSES



In 2019, OpenDoors organized and participated in events in the community to raise awareness around mass incarceration and the high rates of recidivism in Rhode Island. Public officials, such as Attorney General Peter Neronha, and other local leaders engaged in these conversations alongside OpenDoors clients.



Patrick Westfall and client talking to URI students about criminal justice reform



Players competing in our first annual OpenDoors chess tournament



Attorney General, Peter Neronha, addressing the audience at our Second Chance Night



Bishop Knisely talking to audience members at our Necessity Fund Launch

IN 2019, OPENDOORS MADE STRIDES TO DIVERSIFY OUR FUNDING SOURCES. WITH THE SUPPORT OF FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS, AND CHARITABLE TRUSTS, WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE AROUND \$200,000 TO EXPAND OUR PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

2019 was made possible with your help.

In our 16th year of operation, OpenDoors continued to make strides forward into new and exciting territory. With your generosity, we were able to help over 400 people with criminal records rebuild their lives, overcome barriers to reentry into society, and stabilize in our community.

THANK YOU!