



The Open Door Shelter (formerly Norwalk Emergency Shelter)

Mission: The mission of the Open Door Shelter is effectively address the causes and complexities of the homeless and the working poor by providing shelter, care, food, clothing, case management services, treatment services, transitional planning for short and long term goals, subsidized housing, education, employment, and a path towards independence and success.

Programs: Programs include: emergency shelter, soup kitchen, case management to help residents search for housing, jobs, job training, and appropriate counseling and treatment.

Our involvement: We provide financial support as well as “hands on” opportunities for the congregation. This includes serving a meal on a Sunday twice each quarter. When we serve, our volunteers provide meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, green beans and frosted cakes. Some of the food is prepared ahead of time, the rest is prepared in the shelter kitchen by our congregants. We also conduct an annual coat drive, including collection, sorting, mending, and bagging, and a food drive. We also have our “Gift of Christmas” catalog, where members of the congregation purchase gifts for our mission partners, by selecting from a catalog, filling out a gift form, and making a donation. The donor receives an ornament and a tag identifying the purchased gift.

<http://www.opendoorshelter.org/>