



Opening Doors®  
of Ohio

# You Are the Missing Piece to This Puzzle

*Ordinary People Can Make an Extra-Ordinary Difference*

If you have a volunteer heart, Opening Doors has a place for you.

A volunteer is someone who has a heart that willingly ...

...gives of itself, seeking the best in those around them.

...loves to serve others and rejoices when they have helped.

...demonstrates the caring attitude that makes a profound difference in the life of another.

We have a simple philosophy at Opening Doors – *People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care.*

**“Can I really make a difference in the life of someone in prison?”**

We hear that question often in our work with Opening Doors. People wonder about volunteering but often believe they have nothing to offer those who are in prison.

The truth is what we need most is people who are just willing to be who they are. You would be surprised how that can make a big impact in the life of a person in prison.

The people we serve are hurt, isolated and often embittered. They've been stripped of the normal choices we take for granted. Adults and youth who are incarcerated live in a highly regimented environment where each day is scheduled for them. To them the outside world has sentenced, rejected and forgotten all about them.

When an Opening Doors volunteer takes the time in a program to sit and talk to an inmate as they would anyone else, they touch the inmate's life in a profound way. The volunteer no longer represents a world that has turned its back. Rather, the volunteer becomes a lifeline of acceptance and compassion that the inmate so desperately seeks. A volunteer provides hope that someone on the outside cares. The result is an inmate who is invited to evaluate the hard work of personal change differently.

How can **you** make a difference in the life of an inmate? Just by being there.

## What our volunteers are saying...

"Once I volunteered with Opening Doors my heart connected and I couldn't get enough of it."

"Participating in an Opening Doors program is rewarding beyond imagination."

*"I have personally grown more through participating in Opening Doors programs than anything else in my life."*

## Find the opportunity that best fits you...

### Spiritual Family Member

Our program for formerly incarcerated individuals, Stand in the Gap™, Ohio (SITG) offers the unique opportunity for a group of mentors, called "spiritual family members", to provide support. These mentors commit to meet with their SITG "neighbor" (the formerly incarcerated individual) every two weeks for the first year after release from prison. They provide encouragement, fellowship and prayer support continually throughout that year.

Because the SITG model is based on Christian prayer and fellowship, spiritual family members must be believers in Jesus Christ and should be active in a local church. An application and background screen will be required. Individuals do not need prior experience working with ex-offenders in order to be a spiritual family member. SITG provides free training before beginning.

### Prayer Partner

Prayers for Prisoners™ offers individuals or church prayer groups the opportunity to receive individual prayer requests from a prison. Additionally, some of the adult and juvenile prisons have prayer teams that regularly meet inside the prison.

### Program Participant

You may be interested in attending a three-day adult or juvenile Opening Doors program as a participant. The support and encouragement you provide during the program will add immeasurable value to the inmate participants. You are welcome to participant as often as you would like.

### Facilitator

You will work with a team of three to four people to facilitate a program inside a prison.

As a part of the team, you will help:

- Plan the agenda for the program
- Set up activities and exercises that teach life skills
- Ask skilled questions and provide encouragement

To become a facilitator, you must be available for three consecutive days (8 am to 4 pm) at least three to four times a year. You should be willing to make a one-year commitment to at least one prison. Free training is provided for anyone approved to become a facilitator.

### Application Process

You will be asked to complete an application form. Certain volunteer opportunities will require a background screen and security training before you may begin.

## Who should I contact to volunteer or for more information?

### Debbie Roeger

Founder & Executive Director  
Opening Doors of Ohio, Inc.  
P.O. Box 281  
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035-0281  
Phone: 614-543-0417 or  
614-361-6783  
Deb.Roeger@OpeningMoreDoors.org

### Our Vision

The vision of Opening Doors® is to help those impacted by incarceration to build healthier relationships resulting in strengthened families, steady post-release employment, reduced recidivism and restored communities. We do this by creating effective partnerships with individuals, the faith community, the prisons, and the corporate community.

### Our Mission

Opening Doors of Ohio is a Christ-centered ministry that believes dramatic life transformation occurs when a healthy, loving community is experienced. Poor skills, social isolation and the absence of caring role models have often prevented those impacted by incarceration from developing healthy supportive relationships. When faith-based volunteers work together with prisons, families and corporate communities, lives are transformed, families are strengthened, and communities are restored.

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.OpeningMoreDoors.org](http://www.OpeningMoreDoors.org)

Opening Doors of Ohio is a 501c3 non-profit organization. © 2007 Opening Doors is a registered trademark of Opening Doors of Ohio, Inc. All other marks are properties of their respective owners.