



## MORAVIAN MINISTRIES



### **One-One connections help Moravian Open Door residents regain independence**

*Moravian Open Door (MOD) is committed to providing transitional housing and supportive services to the homeless, distressed and underserved population of New York City. Its ministry serves those individuals who are fifty and older with the goal of helping them regain their independence and security, and assisting them in moving to appropriate, permanent facilities. In this issue of The Moravian, Doris Schattschneider, president of MOD's board of directors, shares updates on this important ministry.*

**M**oravian Open Door's One-One program, an effort that makes a one-to-one connection between an individual resident at MOD and a church group or individual, was revitalized this past year with every Moravian church in the Northern Province invited to participate.

One-One sponsors receive the name and birthday of a resident and agree to send cards or notes to the resident on special occasions. Some sponsors have sent small gifts for birthdays, or sent notes on a regular ba-

sis. In addition, sponsors agree to make an annual financial commitment of at least \$250 to MOD's Good Samaritan Fund. This Fund

*(continued on next page)*

---

*Doris Schattschneider is President of the Board of Directors of Moravian Open Door. In photo above: Caseworker Desiree Barrett works with a resident at Moravian Open Door in New York City*



Above and below: Volunteers work with MOD residents to learn computer skills

*(continued from previous page)*

is maintained for the Director to have readily available support for residents who face emergency needs due to loss of job or other unexpected crisis.

The One-One relationship means a great deal to those who are sponsored. Residents at MOD are homeless men and women; many have no relatives and no friends outside of the MOD community.



---

“The biggest fear that most men have is being old and alone,” wrote one sponsored resident recently. “You can handle the pain of old age but not the loneliness. The fact that there are people who care about you means a lot. So the cards and letters from the Moravian church members on birthdays, Christmas, etc. mean a lot to me. God bless all of you.”

Another shared, “The cards and the gifts from [my sponsor] have brought joy to my heart. Thank you for your support, generosity, and compassion. They are all greatly appreciated.”

The goal of the One-One program is to have every resident sponsored. Currently only half of MOD’s residents have sponsors.

Sponsors include men’s fellowships from Sister Bay, St. Paul’s, Lake Mills and Advent; women’s fellowships from Veedum, West Side, Lancaster, Palmer, Lake Mills and Watertown; Sunday School classes from Egg Harbor; the youth group at Central; the Busy Bees group at United; the Board of Elders from Advent; the congregations at Downey and Morongo; and five individuals. To meet their financial commitment to the program, some sponsors hold special fundraisers, while others make it part of their budget.

When a One-One sponsored resident leaves MOD for independent living, the sponsoring group is assigned another MOD resident to begin a new One-One connection. Sometimes the connection between the sponsor and former resident is continued at the request of the former resident.

### **Expanding life skills**

The emphasis on expanding the life skills of residents has continued during the past year, with volunteers helping to teach residents how to use computers for email, internet searches,

---

and to complete resumes and job applications. The Life Skills Center has four computers available for residents' use on a daily basis. A structured class on Microsoft Word with an instructor who specializes in teaching Seniors began in August. Classes in financial literacy have been offered on site by a team from Wells Fargo bank. Plans for teaching about health and wellness are under way.

During the past year, every member of Moravian Churches in the Northern Province received an informational brochure about MOD's mission to the homeless in New York City, and was invited to give financial support to this mission. These donations are a large part of MOD's operating budget supporting three full-time staff (Executive Director Darryl Williams, Caseworker Desiree Barrett, and Assistant to the Director Michael Ralling); maintaining a large 80-year old building with



Michael Ralling, assistant to the Director, during a MOD cookout

single and double rooms for 41 adult men and women; and MOD's program of life-skills education. MOD receives no government funds, and so these donations are essential to keep its mission alive.

### Helping residents “move on”

The goal for every MOD resident is to “move on” to independent living in affordable housing. Support from staff, volunteers, and the many generous donors make that mission goal possible.

One of the residents in a lengthy note of appreciation wrote, “I have no family members close to me here in New York, but the members of Moravian Open Door always made me feel like I have family around all the time. I really have to say thanks to the staff, Desiree for working so hard trying to find work for me, Mike for keeping everything in order, and also Mr. Williams. Ever since I've been here you have been like family to me. I'm very grateful to be here and for you giving me the chance to move on in life, being clean and out of trouble.”

More information about MOD, volunteer opportunities, and visiting can be found on the web site [www.moravianhouse.org](http://www.moravianhouse.org). ■



Executive Director  
Darryl Williams

