



OPEN DOORS

April 11, 2025

Re: Food Services Update

Community,

Beginning April 21, 2025, Open Doors will modify the internal food service and kitchen program. This modification will result in the reduction in the number of meals provided each week to guests of the shelter program. Effective April 21st, we will provide meals only on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. While we understand this may be disappointing, we want to provide the rationale for the decision. This change comes as we have experienced less than anticipated community response in supporting the existing model, and our inability to increase staffing to supplement the volunteer shortfall. We also recognize the potential for negative external factors in the upcoming fiscal year '25-26 related to funding; thus, we must minimize additional expenditures and risks.

Today, Open Doors is fully sustainable, this decision supports our long-term ability to serve.

I also want to clearly express our continued appreciation for volunteers, and our generous community. Those who have and will continue to serve alongside us in and out of the kitchen as we carry out our mission each day. We are also abundantly grateful to our donors who have invested in our cause and the people we serve. We see this as a proactive step to protect your generosity and ensure it is stewarded in a way that secures our core mission, which is shelter and support through resource coordination and navigation. Those that have made a prior gift to the kitchen program can rest assured that we will continue to observe and respect the designation. The program remains active.

Finally, we recognize that this program shift creates a new challenge for our guests. To help mitigate this, we have chosen Thursday, Friday and Sunday, after confirming that a free meal is available elsewhere in the community on the other four nights. Looking ahead, Open Doors also welcomes collaboration and partnership through an open Request for Proposals (RFP). We encourage faith groups, nonprofits and businesses to carefully consider the opportunity to provide formalized food service at the Navigation Center for the remaining four nights. This RFP can be found on our website by clicking below.

As we work to continue meeting the needs of our guests through the core mission of shelter and support, I ask that you remain steadfast with us. Now, more than ever, we need you by our side. One way is the [Great Community Give](#) on April 16th. Together, we will ensure that safe shelter is available to the unhoused and that compassionate support is available to all experiencing other hardships in our community.

With Care,

Dr. Nate Riddle
Executive Director

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