Freehold Area
OPEN DOOR

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

732-780-1089
www.faopendoor.org

ESTABLISHED 1987

OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO PEOPLE IN NEED IN THE GREATER FREEHOLD AREA

We meet our clients where they are, address their immediate needs and provide support as they develop skills to become self-reliant.

OUR SERVICES

Food Pantry

Advocacy Program

Educational Programs

www.faopendoor.org

Tradition in Action

In 2025, Freehold Area Open Door continued its long tradition of meeting neighbors with dignity, compassion, and practical support. What began as a year of rising need quickly became a testament to what a committed community can accomplish together. Through every challenge, Open Door remained a place of stability — a trusted resource for families seeking food, financial assistance, and a path toward greater security.

Our Partners

Thanks to the regular support of partners Open Door can provide nutritious food to thousands of families throughout the year. Their commitment amplifies our impact and strengthens the entire community.

Executive Director's Message

Reflecting on 2025, we celebrated a pivotal chapter marked by growth, renewed board leadership, and a structure designed to serve more families better, inspiring pride in our collective mission.

I joined Open Door in 2018 with a deep belief in what this organization could become. Over the years, we have strengthened our programs, expanded partnerships, and evolved our service model to meet the needs of all that walk through our doors. Today, Open Door is positioned for its next phase of impact—focused not just on meeting immediate needs, but on how we serve.

I am excited to share that Open Door has found a new home at 80 Throckmorton Street, marking a significant milestone in our history. Our new home will double our space and will enable us to serve more families while providing privacy, confidentiality, and a more dignified experience for everyone.

Alongside this transition, renewed board leadership and an updated organizational structure have strengthened our capacity and clarified our focus. These changes will enable us to deliver more consistent, effective support, helping us reach more people and deepen the impact of our services, hopefully for many more years!

Looking ahead, our goals are clear: to reach more people, serve with greater dignity, and ensure every interaction reflects the respect our neighbors deserve. Whether through client choice food access, emergency funding assistance, educational programs, or coordinating resources with our partners, Open Door remains committed to being a reliable, hopeful resource for our community.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters. You are the beating heart of Open Door, and your commitment has carried us and brought us to where we are today. Together, we are opening more doors—one person, one family, one moment of dignity at a time.

With gratitude,

Geralyn Fraggetta-Drury

President's Message

Greetings!

My name is Brian Allain, and I have been asked to serve as Board President for this wonderful organization! By way of introduction, I have a mixed for-profit / non-profit background: I first worked in high-tech, then started a few small businesses. As a result, I've worked at, and have been on the boards of, both for-profits and non-profits. I am humbled and honored to join this team, and I very much look forward to helping out however I can.

There are so many people to thank for your ongoing support of Open Door. First, the many donors who have supported this organization financially - we could not exist without you! Next are the many dedicated volunteers, including previous Board members - Open Door has an impressive track record of effectively utilizing so many volunteers. Finally, of course the dedicated staff, who have worked hard through thick and thin!

So what's next? We just completed our move to 80 Throckmorton Street - a larger facility that will allow us to expand the number of people we serve, and to consider new programs. Other near-term priorities are to establish and recruit members for our new Membership Council (an advisory body composed of civic, faith-based, and professional organizations from the greater Freehold area) and several Committees that will support Open Door in important areas such as Finance, Human Resources, Fundraising, Marketing, and Facilities.

Longer term, we will focus on increasing the financial stability of Open Door, increasing our effectiveness in fundraising and marketing, and seeking to serve our community's most pressing social needs.

If you would like to get further involved in our exciting work please let us know! And we always appreciate introductions to anyone new who would like to get involved.

Please know that your generosity is not only deeply appreciated but also makes an invaluable difference. Thank you for all you do to support our mission of supporting community members who need that helping hand.

Sincerely and with great appreciation,

Brian Allain

FOOD PANTRY IMPACT

For more than four decades, Freehold Area Open Door has stood on a simple but powerful tradition: neighbors helping neighbors. In 2025, that tradition remained as strong as ever. Throughout the year, Open Door provided 884,064 meals, supported over 52,000 households, and distributed more than 1.8 million pounds of food — a scale of impact made possible only because this community continues to show up for one another.

In a world where many have plenty, there are still far too many who struggle to meet their most basic needs. That reality is what makes Open Door's mission not only relevant, but essential. Every meal shared and every bag of groceries offered reflects our community's commitment to ensuring that no one is overlooked or left behind.

Volunteers carried the tradition forward with steady hands and warm smiles. Donors upheld it with generosity that reached far beyond the pantry shelves. Staff honored it by meeting every visitor with respect and understanding.

These numbers tell a story of need, but they also tell a story of continuity. Year after year, Open Door remains a place where hope is renewed, where families find stability, and where the community's long-held commitment to caring for one another becomes real and tangible.

In 2025, the tradition didn't just continue — it grew stronger, proving once again that when we honor the values that built Open Door, we build a brighter, more compassionate future for everyone.

Finding Her Way Back

When Angela came to Open Door for the first time, she stood just inside the doorway for a long moment, clutching her coat with both hands. She looked exhausted — the kind of tired that comes from weeks of trying to hold everything together. She had recently lost hours at work, and with rent, utilities, and her daughter's needs piling up, groceries were the one thing she could no longer afford. She told us later that she sat in her car for twenty minutes before coming in, trying to convince herself she wasn't failing.

A volunteer greeted her with a warm smile, explained our shopping list, and all the self-serve daily choices. Angela's eyes filled with tears — not because of the food itself but because someone was finally helping without judgment. She kept whispering, "I'm sorry… I didn't think it would ever come to this." And every time, our team reminded her she had nothing to apologize for.

In the days that followed, the weight she had been carrying began to show. Angela shared that she had been skipping meals so her daughter could eat, stretching every dollar until there was nothing left to stretch. She had been choosing between heat and groceries, between paying the rent and keeping the lights on. The pantry wasn't just a place to get food — it was the first place where she felt safe enough to admit how scared she really was.

As she continued to visit, our advocates stepped in to help her navigate the crisis behind the hunger. They worked with her to apply for heating assistance, talked through options to prevent her from falling further behind on rent, and helped her gather the paperwork she needed to stabilize her situation. In addition, through our partnership with Fulfill, our on-site Resource Connections team member connected her with SNAP benefits, medical insurance, and energy assistance — all in one stop. What once felt overwhelming and impossible became manageable with guidance, advocacy, and coordinated support. For the first time in months, she wasn't facing everything alone. Each appointment, each conversation, each small step forward helped her breathe a little easier.

Over the next few weeks, Angela returned as she worked to get back on her feet. Slowly, the panic she had been feeling began to ease. She started to smile more. She began to believe that things could get better. After very visit, she reminded us why our work matters because sometimes a bag of groceries is the first lifeline someone reaches for when everything else feels like it's slipping away.

A few months later, Angela came back — not for food, but to tell us she was steady again. She had secured more hours at work, caught up on her bills, and felt like she could breathe. She said, "You didn't just feed us. You helped me believe we were going to be okay." Her relief, her pride, and her gratitude filled the room.

Stories like Angela's remind us that hunger is often just the first sign of a deeper struggle — and that a single act of kindness can be the beginning of someone's path back to stability. At Open Door, we don't just hand out food. We meet neighbors where they are until they can stand strong again.

ADVOCACY:
Walking With Our Neighbors

At Open Door, advocacy is the steady, behind-the-scenes work that helps families stay safely housed and warm. Every day, our advocates meet with neighbors who are facing mounting rent, overdue utility bills, heating shut-off notices, or the fear of eviction. These are moments when a household's stability can shift in an instant — and when having someone to guide you makes all the difference.

Our team helps clients understand their options, gather the right documents, and navigate the complex processes required for rental assistance, mortgage relief, or utility support. Sometimes that means helping someone apply for emergency heating aid; other times it means coordinating with landlords, utility companies, or partner agencies to prevent a family from losing their home. No matter the situation, our advocates break overwhelming challenges into manageable steps and offer a calm, steady presence throughout the process.

What makes this work powerful is the way it honors dignity. Advocacy at Open Door is not just about transactions or paperwork. It's about listening, encouraging, and helping people regain a sense of control during moments of real vulnerability.

In 2025, our Advocacy Department provided thousands of touchpoints — from one-time consultations to ongoing case support — each one representing a moment when a neighbor didn't have to face crisis alone. These efforts kept families housed, kept the heat on, and kept our community stronger and more stable.

At Open Door, advocacy is more than assistance. It's partnership. It's protection. And it's one of the ways we continue opening doors to hope, stability, and possibility.

Behind the program's success is our dedicated social worker, Erika Woods, MSW. She leads a team of advocates, caseworkers, and selfless donors who worked tirelessly to turn financial aid into meaningful change. Their collective efforts demonstrate that when communities come together with a shared purpose, they can achieve extraordinary results.

From Vision to Reality: The Story of Open Door's Move

In early 2025, the team at Freehold Area Open Door stood inside an empty building at 80 Throckmorton Street, imagining what it could become. After years of serving the community from 39 Throckmorton, the organization had outgrown its space. The new building represented more than square footage — it represented possibility. A vision of a pantry with room to welcome every neighbor with dignity. A vision of programs that could grow without limitation. A vision of a home built for the next generation of service.

The plan was to move by the end of 2025. But as anyone who has ever transformed a building knows, reality doesn't always follow the calendar. Permits took time. Repairs revealed surprises. Each delay nudged the timeline forward.

After over 750 volunteer hours to construct the space and thousands of dollars of donations from our "Move" campaign, the transformation is visible in every corner. Fresh paint brightens the hallways. Shelves are ready to hold food. Rooms that once echoed with emptiness are now full of life and activity. What began as an idea has become reality!

These pictures show the journey from bare walls to bustling preparation. They capture the hands, the effort, the progress. They reveal a truth at the heart of Open Door's mission: when a community believes in something, vision becomes reality. The doors at 80 Throckmorton Street are now open wide welcoming all who need a helping hand or support.

Our Leadership

Geralyn Fraggetta-Drury....Executive Director
Erika Woods, MSW.....Advocacy Director
Alyce Meyers.....Pantry Coordinator

Board of Trustees

Officers

President.....Brian Allain
Vice President.....John Crescenti
Secretary.....Allen Rothman
Treasurer.....Adewale Akinrinde

Members at Large

Eileen Allen
Fred Berenbroick
Annette Jordan
Mary Kate Granozio
John Spangler

Neighbors helping neighbors since 1987.

2025 KEY STATISTICS

People served	52,114
Pounds of food distributed	1,823,988
Total volunteer hours	9,550
People assisted with rent, utilities, and case management	620
Scholarships awarded	10

2025 REVENUE

2025 EXPENSES

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we step into 2026, Freehold Area Open Door is entering a year of growth, renewal, and long-awaited milestones. The work of the past year strengthened our foundation, expanded our reach, and prepared us for the next chapter of service.

At the heart of that chapter is our move to 80 Throckmorton Street. This space will allow us to welcome our neighbors with greater dignity, efficiency, and care — and to meet rising needs with the compassion our community deserves.

For those who feel inspired to support this next chapter, your generosity helps ensure we can continue meeting every neighbor with hope and dignity. Even a little support can go a long way towards helping. We're facing increased need due to rising grocery costs, higher utility bills, and recent cuts to nutrition programs. More families are turning to us for extra support, many for the first time.

Help change that with a gift ***right now***

Support our food assistance program

- $50 provides a week of meals for a family of 4
- $75 ensures fresh produce and staples for two families.
- $150 provides 450 Meals for our neighbors in need

Support our advocacy/housing assistance program

- $50 helps keep the lights on for a family facing hardship
- $75 protects a family from the cold
- $150 keep families where they belong ***at Home***

Whatever you can donate, your donation helps keep our "**doors open**" and allows us to "**Be the One**" who on your behalf reaches out to help our neighbors and our community.

Thank YOU for your generosity and for standing with us as we move forward with purpose and optimism.

If you would like to join us in our mission or learn more about Freehold Area Open Door please visit our website **www.faopendoor.org** for further information.

2026