



OpenArmsChristian.com

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Outreach

TO EXALT THE LORD BY SERVING AND SHARING CHRIST THROUGH MEETING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

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With You This Journey Is Possible

“The only impossible journey is the one you never start.”

Since its founding more than 30 years ago, Open Arms Christian Ministries has been about new journeys.

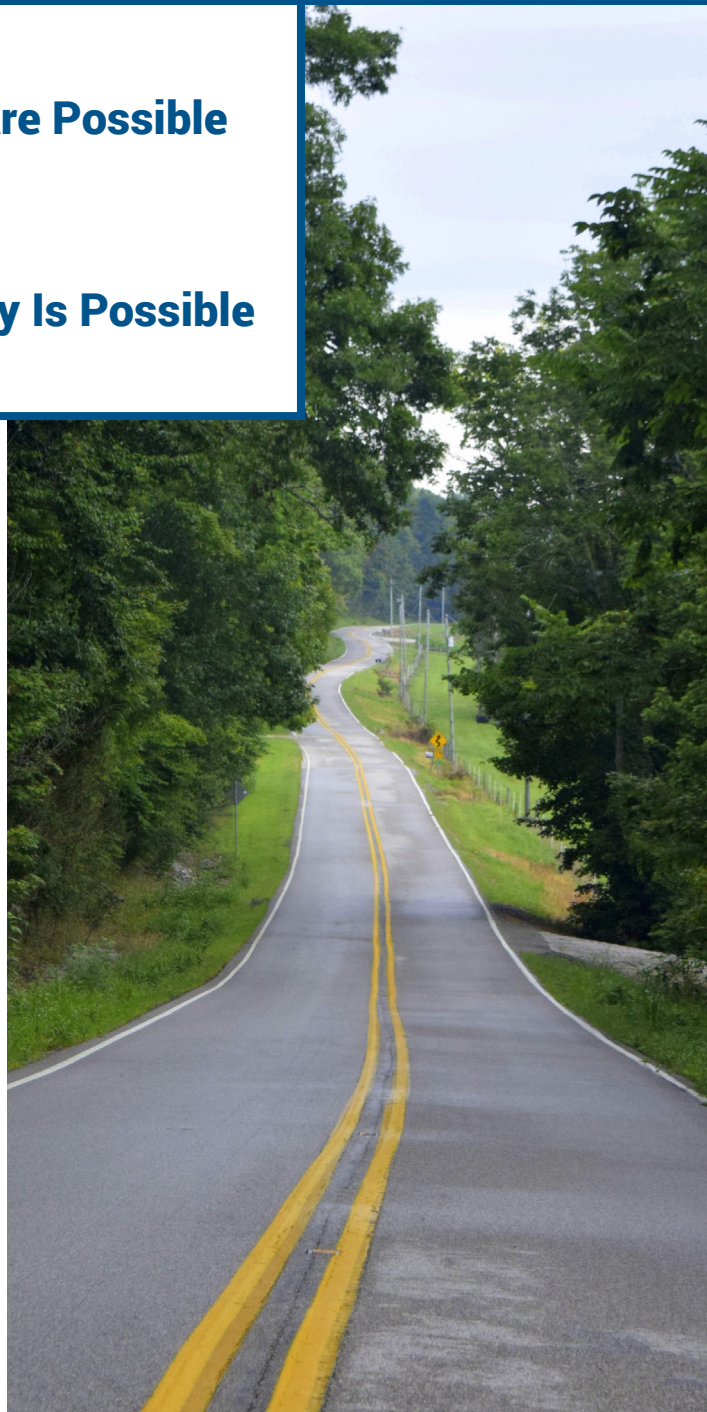
When the girls from the group home come to Open Arms, they start a new journey, a new path toward a successful life,

TPEC is about new journeys toward education, new career paths. Our foster parents embark on a new journey every time a child enters their home. Foster children are on a new journey toward safer homes.

New journeys are what God is all about. As we read in Hebrews 11:8, God asked Abraham to embark on a new journey “even though he did not know where he was going”.

Another new journey has begun. In this newsletter you will discover the amazing opportunity that God has placed before Open Arms.

Embark with us on this new journey...



• With God All Things Are Possible •

God does answer the diligent prayers of His people. In Matthew 7:7 (NLT) we read, “Keep on asking, and you will receive whatever you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

The staff and supporters of Open Arms Christian Ministries have been in prayer for more than a year to find bigger quarters to accommodate the current and future growth for the ministry.

Various buildings were considered for expansion. There were plans drawn up for new construction. But each idea had roadblocks and dead-ends for various reasons. Prayers continued because it says in James 5:16, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” The answer to the multitude of prayers came in November, 2018 when Open Arms Christian Ministries opened a new journey in its ministry with the transfer of ownership of the former Lyons Health and Living Center in Lyons.

Open Arms assumed ownership as a generous gift of the 19,843 square foot facility, located at 2417 South 800 West in Lyons, by donation from CarDon & Associates, Inc. Cardon had operated the one-story 82-bed skilled nursing facility since 1986. It ceased operations in mid-November. A new chapter in the 30-year old ministry is now being written.

The current Open Arms campus, located east of Switz City, is expanding and not relocating, according to OACM Executive Director Marty Corey. Offices for the Development Department and Foster Care have already been transferred to the Lyons facility.



The new building is for the “least of these” and whatever we do for the “least of these” we do for Him. (Matthew 25:40)

“The current Open Arms campus, located east of Switz City, is expanding and not relocating.”

— Marty Corey
Executive Director

Our foster care with its rapid growth ran out of office space for our case managers and support staff. Turning Point Education Center (TPEC) is growing rapidly and needs more space.

“There are some things (now at the main campus) that will be expanding to there (the Lyons facility),” Corey said.

Corey said the generous gift from the CarDon & Associates is greatly appreciated. “I want to express my gratitude to CarDon for their gift and big heart for the community of Lyons and Open Arms,” Corey commented.

OACM Board President Warren Shake agreed and added, “This is a great opportunity for Open Arms to further impact the community for the good.” A task force team, consisting of OACM staff, OACM board members and community representatives was formed

and discussed various options for best uses of the newly-acquired that will impact individuals and benefit Greene County and the surrounding area. OACM representatives have also met with members of the Lyons Town Council and ministers from the Lyons and Switz City area soliciting their ideas.

The task force agreed at its December meeting to make a recommendation to the OACM board that one wing of the new facility be used as a boy’s group home and emergency shelter to house younger-aged boys.

The possibilities for the building in Lyons are endless. Join with our ministry in this new journey that has begun and see what God has in store for Open Arms in the coming, weeks, months and years.

(written by: By NICK SCHNEIDER, Newsletter Editor)



Move in Day for the Foster Care Case Managers

“This is a great opportunity for Open Arms to further impact the community for the good.”

— Warren Shake
Open Arms Board Chair



With You This Journey Is Possible!



The Open Arms Christian Ministries Board of Directors voted Jan. 14 to move forward with the expansion of the ministry by adding a boy's group home and shelter at the new Lyons site.

Greene County Probation Officer Julie Johnson, speaking on behalf of the Lyons Building Task Force, told the board there has been an increasing number of aggressive younger offenders – some as young as 9 years old. She said there is a definite need for an emergency shelter/ residential care shelter to serve young male offenders ages nine to 14. There needs to be a safe place to bridge the gap between what is available to the older juveniles and the younger group, Johnson stressed.

Speaking of the boys group home and emergency shelter pointed out that this represents the best, most logical and most expedient means to start helping the

community.

"It would be most beneficial to us (the court) to have the same service for boys," Johnson said. "We don't have anywhere to put boys. We don't have any place to put younger boys and my cases are getting younger and younger. We run into situations where we need placement for kids who are younger in age...Sometimes those kids because of the nature of their behavior are classified as someone who is a danger of others and they actually are sent to a hospital type setting, which is an acute psychiatric facility, but it may not be absolutely necessary, but that is where we have to put them."

Among the modifications that will need to be done to the building is installation of several additional shower facilities, installation of an electronic security system and the purchase of beds and bedroom furniture as well as purchase of a commercial stove and dishwasher.

Board member Corey Smith added, "This is the easiest, most expeditious way to get to where we need to be funding-wise so that we can continue to keep the lights on and keep the heat on. This is step one. This is the first step. There are tons of possibilities. But this is the one that makes the most sense to start with. This is what we felt like is the best foundation."

OACM staff estimate it may take up to six months for licensing to be approved.

YOU CAN JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY! There are tons of possibilities!
You will be receiving information in the mail or by email soon

CAN'T WAIT TO LEARN MORE? Contact Sheila Corey for more information at:
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