

**Employee: Amy Cox, Chairman for ODCH**

**Could you explain what the Open Door Children's Home is and what it does?**

The ODCH around for around 90 years, and used to house young children, but now it has evolved to house mostly teens. Now have a home for boys and one for girls. The teens come to the Home from referrals from DFAX, those whose parents are in jail, have experienced abuse, neglect, or cannot find a foster placement. The teens may also have experienced trauma, where they many need a higher level of care and therapy. Other places of care may have a harder time dealing with them, so they take the children to ODCH. The Home also takes in siblings to keep together and not have them split up into different homes.

The ODCH functions as a home with House Parents who take the kids to school, drive them to practices or anywhere they may need to go, cook meals, and try to be parent figures for the kids. The kids live in a dorm room style with about 2 kids to a room. The ODCH houses are set up to house 20 girls and 20 boys, but currently they house an average of 10. With current staffing changes they hope to eventually bring in more kids. The Home also has therapists on call to deal with any special issues they may experience. The Home even tries to pair up with other places and people within the community, such as Berry College and the STEM program and even church groups. They try to involve the community when it is appropriate.

**What are your goals for the organization?**

A few goals are to keep housing kids and to eventually get them into foster care where they can be adopted. They try to make adjustments for the kids when necessary and serve a homey and welcoming environment for the kids. They would also like to raise awareness and make the Home's mission known in order to get more donations. She wants the community to know that financial donations only cover very basic needs, like resources and goods. Some other organizations or people even fund Happy Days, which are trips to places like Six Flags or other day trips to help the kids feel like kids. She mainly just wants the community to be aware of the Home and the help needed in order to give the kids a normal environment.

**Who is your target audience?**

The main audience is key members of the community and individuals who want to get involved. The audience is also for DFAX case workers or any other foster care system, as the case workers look at the website to see if that place would be a good fit for a particular child.

**What is the current website doing to benefit the goals you mentioned before?**

It is not doing much, as there is mainly basic information like the mission statement and the history of the Home, as well as a place to make donations.

**What do you want this website to function like?**

They actually talked about revamping it a few years ago but it never happened. The website is outdated and the donate option is hard to find. The website should be redesigned to look more visually appealing and tell the story of the ODCH. The site should have a visual way of showing the Home's mission and what they do and be done in such a way the pulls you in

whether it be through pictures or quotes. It should also be a place for people to go if they want to give or get involved and be user friendly.

**Is social media a main focus for your platform? Or should the website be the main place people go to?**

The Home reaches much more people through social media, specifically Facebook. She explained an example of a few years ago when the Home had a issues with bed bugs that forced them to throw away their beds. The cost for new beds was around \$30,000 and they were able to raise the money through Facebook within a few days. She claimed that if they posted the need on the Home's website then they would have not been as successful.

**What are some volunteer opportunities for the Open Door Children's Home?**

Some opportunities include becoming a mentor, as someone from the Home will coordinate you with a child who has similar interests, and you can even drive kids around. You can provide meals, donate specific needs from the Home's Amazon wish list, donate gifts for their Christmas drive to let the kids have a normal holiday, groups can come in and do improvements to the building or even create a garden, fund activities to take the kids to, and even donate items or money to the Home.