

Open Arms of Minnesota announces successful capital campaign for new building

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Open Arms of Minnesota has successfully completed an \$8.1 million capital campaign for the construction of its new building located at 2600 Bloomington Avenue South in the Phillips Neighborhood of Minneapolis. The ambitious project commenced in May 2007 in order to expand Open Arms ability to serve nutritious meals to more people who are suffering from illness at no cost to the client. Currently, Open Arms is on track to serve 310,000 meals for 2009. With the new facility, the non-profit will be able to double the annual meals it serves. Tours of the new facility were held last week on World AIDS Day.

“We are so very grateful to have a wonderful new facility to serve the community. I want to thank every donor, volunteer, public official, member of our staff and the building team for helping Open Arms expand our mission to serve nutritious meals to people suffering from illness who have nowhere to turn,” said Kevin Winge, Executive Director, Open Arms of Minnesota. “During these harsh economic times, now more than ever, it is vital to help as many people live independently as they fight chronic and life threatening diseases.”

The grand opening ceremony is scheduled for Spring of 2010.

Brief history of Open Arms

- Bill Rowe founded Open Arms in 1986 to provide meals to people with HIV/AIDS. At the time, five people were served.
- Currently, Open Arms delivers meals in the Greater Twin Cities Area which includes Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Washington and Dakota counties.
- In 2005, the agency expanded its mission to serve people with chronic diseases including Breast Cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's and ALS.
- In 2008, over 259,000 meals to 1100 clients and their dependents were served in the Greater Twin Cities Area by Open Arms – a 29% increase in service from 2007.
- Open Arms has prepared and delivered more than 1.5 million meals.
- More than 1,400 volunteers provide nearly 31,000 hours of volunteer support annually – that's the equivalent of 16 full-time employees.
- 89% of Open Arms' annual budget comes from private donations and 11% comes from public funding. The public support is a mix of state and federal money. The federal portion for

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Open Arms is funded through the Ryan White Care Act.

- The meals are nutritious, incorporate organic vegetables and free-range meats, are planned to match the specific nutrition needs of each client, and are available fresh or frozen. Open Arms is run by a small staff and supported by 1,400 volunteers who cook seven days a week and deliver meals Monday – Friday.

For more information about Open Arms of Minnesota and its new building, www.openarmsmn.org or (612)

872-1152