

547,226,060 SECONDS.



On a chilly day in December, that is how long Branden had been sober, according to a sobriety tracking app on his phone. That's one year, eight months, 22 days, eight hours, 44 minutes. He uses the app because, "it reminds me to stay sober and how far I've come."

After losing his mother in a car accident at the age of 16, Branden dropped out of school and began doing drugs. The aunt and uncle who had taken him in kicked him out of their house. "After that I was couch-hopping from friend's house to friend's house and that's how I've basically been ever since. I've had my own place a few times but it's never turned out right because I was so into drugs and stuff I'd not pay rent and get high instead."

Branden's life changed again when he got into trouble for his drug use and was given a choice by a judge: six years in prison or KPEP's Drug Court program. He chose Drug Court. "Being here (at the Open Door Shelter for Men) and being in Drug Court has helped me out a lot and taught me a better way of life. I enjoy being sober now. A lot of things have happened to me for the good ever since."

Now 30 years old, Branden has held a steady job for a year and a half and recently moved from the Open Door to his own apartment in our Residence Community for Working People.

"I'm seeing the light at the end of the tunnel for Drug Court. It's coming soon and I think life will be more normal to me once that's done. What's keeping me sober is realizing that life is better without the drugs because I didn't get this far using. Never even close to it. I've had a job and I've had my own place, but I always lost that job, or I've lost my own place. Now that I'm sober, I'm in the right mindset to pay my bills. I don't have drugs sucking away my money."

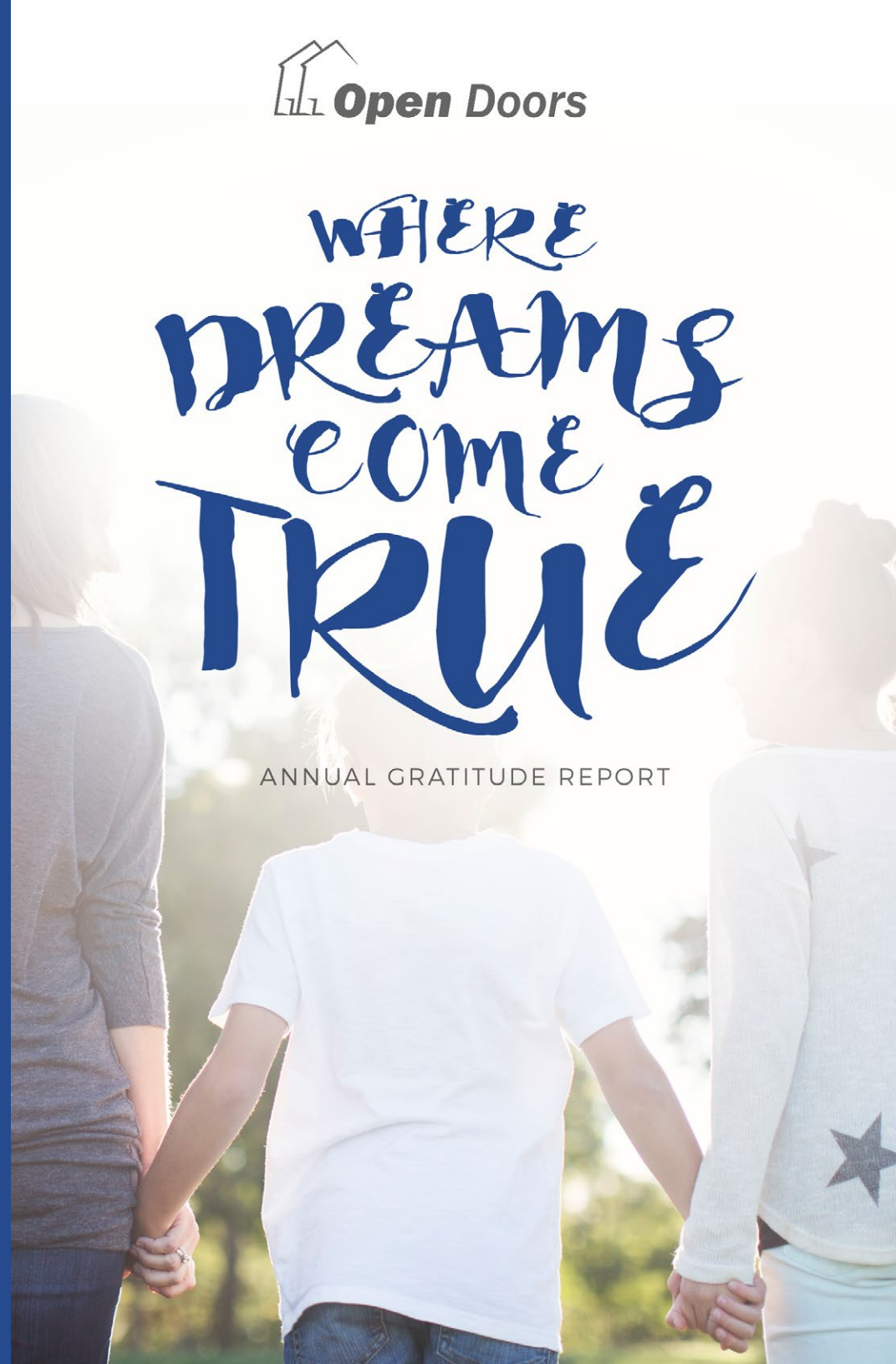
Branden has a good support system now of friends and co-workers who help him stay on track, along with the support he receives from Open Doors staff. He describes his own time at the shelter as "a blessing after a blessing after a blessing" and now he is passing the blessings along by supporting and helping others.

Congratulations, Branden, on your new home!



WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE

ANNUAL GRATITUDE REPORT



MORE HOMES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

THANKS TO THE WILLIAM & JULIA VAN DOMELEN FOUNDATION



We purchased this 6-unit apartment building in 2016 with funds provided by the William & Julia Van Domelen Foundation. In addition, the foundation is providing funds to replace the building's roof and boiler, improve insulation to reduce heating costs, and create a play area on the property for children.

The William & Julia Van Domelen Foundation made it possible for Open Doors to purchase Cooper Apartments on W Lovell Street in 2011 and Duke Street Apartments in 2013.

The foundation has now helped Open Doors acquire 48 apartments for local families who need homes.

YOU GAVE \$382,397! BECAUSE OF YOU:

60

CHILDREN HAD HOMES

11

IMPROVED JOBS

98

FAMILIES HOUSED



Together we provided **199** people in **98** households with safe, affordable housing in our Residence Community for Working People (\$475 / person). **74** homeless men and women stayed as shelter guests while finding a job, stable housing, and turning their lives around (\$1,351 / person)

273

Received assistance with transportation, child care and employment. (\$123 / person)

13

GRADUATED to market rate housing

41

Residents moved into our Residence Community

