

Opening Doors Community Council

PURPOSE: To support the work of Opening Doors in empowering refugees and immigrants (including foreign-born survivors of trafficking) and other underserved Sacramento area residents in realizing their dreams of better lives.

HOW: It does this by serving as ambassadors for Opening Doors in the community, helping community members to understand Opening Doors' work and the people it serves and helping community members understand how they can help in Opening Doors' work. Specifically it does this by:

- Promoting Opening Doors events and activities in their circles or networks
- Helping share information about our volunteer opportunities, staff openings, need for donated items, etc.
- Connecting us to opportunities; introducing us to others who'd like to be involved
- Promoting us in the community
- Creative brainstorming with us
- Assisting with tabling at events
- Assisting with public speaking events

We've found that the Council has also served as a conduit for the Council Members themselves to become connected to volunteer opportunities at Opening Doors, and sometimes to employment.

WHO: The council is comprised of individuals who have a strong interest in Opening Doors, and primarily those who also have connections to groups within our community that support Opening Doors' work.

OPENING DOORS AGREES TO:

- Facilitate regular meetings of the Community Council, with phone-in option.
- Train council members about the work of the various programs at Opening Doors
- Train council members so that they feel comfortable speaking with others about one or more program at Opening Doors and about the organization as a whole.
- Keep council members informed of Opening Doors' organizational and program developments, projects, successes and challenges.
- Provide information to council members on specific program or organizational goals towards which council members may contribute.
- Accept council inputs regarding community members' preferences for involvement with and support of Opening Doors. While Opening Doors may not always be able to incorporate these inputs, it will make every effort to put in place those that it can.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AGREE TO:

- Attend meetings regularly
- Participate in training opportunities in order to learn about Opening Doors' programs and the agency such that they are able to speak about Opening Doors competently and comfortably

- In formal and informal ways, speak with others about Opening Doors' work in order to gain their enthusiasm and support. Do this with a specific focus on the faith or secular community that the member is part of.
- Facilitate connections between Opening Doors and volunteers, donors and supporters.
- Assist Opening Doors in achieving agency and program goals through Council activities.
- Provide inputs to Opening Doors regarding community members' preferences for involvement and support of Opening Doors, but understand that Opening Doors may not always be able to incorporate these inputs.