



# HERE'S TO TEN



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF  
BEHIND EVERY DOOR



Since 2009, Behind Every Door has been transforming lives in underserved neighborhoods by being present daily, believing the best about those who live there, and partnering with other organizations to build up the community.



## Dear Family,

I am so grateful for your partnership and vote of confidence over the last TEN years!

Due in part to your generous contributions, thousands of kids and adults experience healthier relationships, refuges within their communities and a path to defy the odds of poverty. In the process, we have grown from a seedling idea to a flourishing team of over twenty-five staff members, one hundred and ten volunteers, and sixty-five on-site partners.

There have been times of great joy, celebration and victory! And, if I am honest, there have been times when I wasn't sure if we would make the next payroll or if we were making an impact. As I reflect, a deep sense of strength, joy, and peace fills my heart. I wish I could tell you story after story! From miraculous financial provision to the beauty and unity in diversity to the countless transformed lives.

Over the years, I feel I have received much more than I have given. Cicero Jones comes to mind: a man in his late sixties whom I met about eight years ago. He had an infectious smile that screamed "Isn't life wonderful?!" – despite the fact he had missing teeth from a crack addiction that led to homelessness and a broken family. I saw my dad in him – the crack addiction and the broken family – but we didn't share the emotional baggage. As Cicero and I became friends, he taught me how to forgive. How to love others like God loves us: as we are and not as we should be. And, I'll never be the same thanks to Cicero.

If I could summarize what I have learned into three thoughts, here they are: God is a good father who can do what he says he can do. Each of us has something to offer, and we all want an opportunity to reveal the brilliance God put inside us. And, we are loved so, so much.

These last ten years have taught us a lot and allowed us to develop a model that works. Now, we are ready to share that with others. Over the next three years, we will be entering new communities across Dallas. I want to encourage you to join us; let's continue the momentum to transform Dallas together.

Gratefully,  


Will Dowell

*Founding Member & Executive Director*



**2009**

Behind Every Door is founded by a group of friends who see the need for consistent resources in Dallas' most impoverished and vulnerable communities.



**2011**

We start our first sports programming and basketball tournaments, giving kids a safe and encouraging place to spend their after-school hours. This is also the first year that we send kids to Kids Across America's camps.

Will Dowell becomes the Executive Director. This brings tremendous clarity to our vision, culture, and values, and provides a cohesive path forward.

**2014**

We open our first two community center locations in Dallas: Willow Pond off of Northwest Highway & Village Oaks in South Oak Cliff.

**2010**



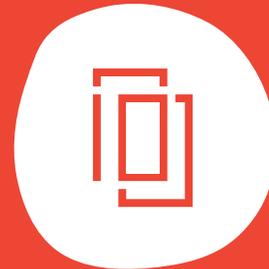
## 2015-2016

Over 200 kids are enrolled in our on-site programming! We are awarded ten years of free office space from the Meadows Foundation in August 2015, which is still our current organization home! This is also the year that we start using Lexia for our literacy program!



## 2018

Our staff takes a group of kids on a field trip to Washington, D.C. For many of our kids, this is a milestone, and their first time on an airplane or outside of the state of Texas.



We begin working in Buckeye Community Center in the Bonton area. Our staff takes kids on a field trip to Atlanta, where they learn about the culture, history and rich diversity of the city.

## 2019

Roseland Community Center opens its doors in October, marking a restorative step in the historic Freedman's Town. We also start a formal enrichment program in June of this year.

## 2017



“

Before Behind Every Door, I was going through things all alone with no support system. When Behind Every Door came to Roseland, they became my family and support system, especially when my daughter wanted to commit suicide. I always look forward to what they have to offer; not only for my family, but for the community.

”

**-Gege**

*Mother of three, resident of Roseland*

“ I would describe Gege’s growth as substantial, yet still evolving. Her growth as a mother, as a team member, and mainly as a believer has been transformative. From fear to assertiveness, she has taken back control of her life where hurt and pain attempted to suppress. Behind Every Door provided a safe space where judgement is prohibited. God is good. We love because he first loved us. ”

**Darrion Lewis**  
*Director of Operations*







“

Since my baby has been involved with Behind Every Door, she has been more open to expressing how she feels, is more active, and has a lot of goals and things she wants to achieve when she gets older. I personally like the fact that Ms. Cierra lets the children know they can do and be whatever their hearts desire, as long as they stay focused and work for it — Thanks BED and Ms. Cierra!

”

**-Margarita**

*Mother of Jashira (pictured), resident of Roseland*

“Jashira is a young lady with big dreams and hopes for the future that are being realized by being a part of our family at The Rose Community Center. While attending a Perot Museum workshop, she discovered that she aspires to be a plastic surgeon. If she ever gets discouraged, I’m able to remind her of her dreams and help her persevere. She has been able to attend summer camp with us and has shown spiritual growth. She is also a member of the Rosettes Dance team, co-founded by our elementary students. Since meeting Jashira, I have witnessed her grow into a confident young lady who is becoming a leader in her own right. I can’t wait to see what the future has in store for her!”

**Cierra Cotton**  
*Community Director*



“

Behind Every Door came at one of the lowest points of my life. I couldn't wrap my mind around the fact that this team loved my babies and expected nothing in return from me. I was able to experience God's love, and I finally understood the power that lives inside of me through Christ. I was able to leave my abusive environment for myself and my children and start our new lives in Christ. Behind Every Door is more than just an organization — they're family.”

**-Emily**

*Mother of five, resident of Buckeye*

“I first met Emily when I pulled into a parking spot outside the community center at Village Oaks, and I heard God say, “Go knock on that door behind you and offer the stuff in your car.” So, I knocked on the door, and Emily opened it. Again I heard God, “Tell her she is an amazing mom.” I didn't even know if she was a mom. But I obeyed, and offered her what was in my car. We became friends and Emily began to walk out what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus in her community. It wasn't until 6 years into our friendship that she told me my knock on her door was a turning point for her. God really is a good Father.”

**Will Dowell**

*Founding Member & Executive Director*





# Three Year \$10,000,000 Campaign

2018



2,800 Residents / 400 Children



3 Communities



\$1,800,000 Annual Budget



100% Fundraising

THE NEXT THREE YEARS



6,300 Residents / 1,200 Children



7 Communities



\$3,700,000 Annual Budget



70% Fundraising / 30% Owner Contribution



We have big dreams for Behind Every Door's future - starting with a clear plan for the next three years! After much prayer and counsel, we launched a \$10,000,000 replication initiative this year to reach a total of seven Community Centers over the next three years. Through these seven Community Centers, we will triple our reach to impact over 1,200 kids and 6,300 residents. With your help, our audacious goal will become a reality!

Over the next three years, we will be replicating primarily through partnerships with select apartment complex owners who understand and support our vision. Through these partnerships, we will receive funding for up to thirty percent of operational costs and the apartment owners will substantially improve the quality of life of their residents through operating the on-site Community Center.

You can join these investors to raise the \$10,000,000 to replicate our services across Dallas over the next three years. Together, we can break the cycle of generational poverty. Over the next three years we are challenging ourselves to grow, and we are asking you to do the same!



“

We're compelled to support Behind Every Door because of the dignity they instill in residents of apartment communities in underserved neighborhoods. This dignity comes first from a relationship with a loving Heavenly Father. They represent the very present hands and feet of Christ as they strengthen, stretch and comfort in a myriad of ways. We implore others to join us in supporting BED so this important work of the Lord can continue!

”

**- Lori Turpin**

*Donor & Board Member*

## THREE WAYS YOU CAN **JOIN US** TO **HELP MAKE OUR THREE YEAR VISION A REALITY!**



### **GIVE**

We are asking you to prayerfully consider being a part of what God is doing with a three year giving commitment, empowering us to impact the current and future communities we are serving.



### **SERVE**

Serving with Behind Every Door looks a lot like simply loving kids. We play games, create art, compete in sports and spend time building friendships. You are invited to partner with us in prayer for the safety and health of the families we serve and the staff who loves them day after day.



### **LEARN**

You are invited to join us at the Roseland Community Center for a family-style lunch with the staff who serve our kids. We'll give you a tour of our center, introduce you to our team and provide insight into what poverty looks like for a child in our community.

# HERE'S TO THE NEXT TEN!

## Behind Every Door

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