

Spotlight Interview - Ruth Skaggs, Staff Member

What is your position with Open Door

I have had the blessing of teaching ESL English classes at Open Door for 5 years now.

Reflect on a moment or event with Open Door that is memorable to you

I have found working with the various students through the years to be truly meaningful. To learn their stories and get to know them, to see them feel more confident communicating in a second language has been a delight. I have had students share that as their language skills have increased so have their work opportunities. The impact that this has had on their lives is significant. Many of my students are mothers who feel that they can communicate better with their children's teachers and medical professionals because of their improving English skills. I rejoice with them in their growing confidence.

Why would you recommend someone to be on Open Door staff

Being a teacher at Open Door is fun. I love laughing with my students, sometimes it is because they catch my mistakes and we can all laugh; sometimes, it is because of the mistakes we can make using English words. Either way, I enjoy laughing with my students during class. Teaching at Open Door has given me joy because the

students are amazing people and work so hard to learn. I deeply respect their determination to change their lives.

What three words would you use to describe Open Door

I would describe Open Door as Meaningful, Impactful and Fun.