STAFF SPOTLIGHT • • •

GEORGE KOH



How long have you been with Open Door and what's your position?

I started teaching at Open Door in the Fall of 2023; it's been 2 great years. I teach the Math curriculum for the HSE (High-School Equivalency) Program.

Give three words that describe Open Door:

Empowerment, Enrichment, Community

We set out to help students, who missed completing the path of traditional high-school education for various reasons, obtain a high-scho equivalent diploma that may provide them advancement prospects in their careers or in their pursuit of higher education. When we elevate the skill sets of individuals, we are serving the community. In return, students' productivity in the workforce translates into the betterment of the community.

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

It's got to be the Graduation Ceremony! When you look at what these students have accomplished, in spite of many of them having full-time jobs, making the sacrifices to attend evening classes, and walking across the stage to receive their diplomas, there is a sense of achievement within each graduate that empowers them to strive further toward excellence, responsibility and accountability in life. Personally, it is a very fulfilling role for a teacher to see the students' eyes brightened when they understand how to solve the Math problems. You see, Math is not just about solving the problems on paper; it is about learning the process of breaking down a complex problem into smaller pieces to find the solution. This process, as I often teach my students, is applicable to solving real-life work problems.

Why would you recommend someone to be on Open Door staff?:

Personally, I believe everyone needs to give back to the community. We all have experienced help along life's journey...be it spiritual, emotional, physical, social, intellectual. Open Door provides an opportunity for individuals, who understand "community"; we invest what was invested into us back to the community. If you believe in "community" and see your purpose within the community, Open Door may just be a great fit.