

**Office of the Warden**

**Indiana County Jail**

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**Samuel R. Buzzinotti**  
Warden

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665 Hood School Road  
Indiana, PA 15701-1795

**Name of Nominee:** The Open Door; Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Center (Director and Staff)  
**Director:** Vince Mercuri

Beginning in approximately 1988, The Open Door began offering services to offenders housed in the Indiana County Jail. At the time, this collaboration was without precedence in Indiana County. The collaboration of agencies brought services TO the offenders, a new and innovative concept at the time.

The multiple components of this service; early identification by jail staff, an assessment provided by treatment specialists, a treatment plan designed specifically for those who are incarcerated and the last and most crucial component, programming within the jail, all provided by The Open Door. This new and dynamic method has proven over time to be successful. The hope of both agencies was that with early detection and by offering such services upon commitment that we may prevent future incarceration. Services would provide healthy alternatives as well as resources for those with addiction issues.

With the growing number of incarcerated individuals it became necessary to build a new facility. With the opening of the "new" Indiana County Jail in February of 2008, the partnership with The Open Door also continued to grow. With an increasing number of inmates identified with alcohol and other drug issues as well as a marked increase in the number of inmates with mental health concerns, it became evident that services for this population needed to increase as well. The Open Door, at no cost to the jail or any county entity, increased their services to include a female offender group, a MISA (Mental Illness/Substance Abuse group) as well as individual counseling for inmates identified as having special needs. In addition, because of an increase in recidivism rates largely due to addiction, The Open Door also modified their existing procedures to include that inmates released from the Indiana County Jail were no longer required to complete an assessment upon release to determine the appropriate level of care. New policy was established that inmates would simply "transition" into the appropriate group offered at The Open Door thus providing continuity of care for those in treatment. The staff at The Open Door are to be commended for the seamless transition and continuity of care offered to inmates returning to the community.

We would like to recognize the long standing and tireless efforts of The Open Door Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment center for their commitment and dedication not only to inmates at the Indiana County Jail but to those in our community to struggle with addiction. They truly embody the spirit of this award with their holistic approach to addiction, recovery and community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Samuel R. Buzzinotti'.

Samuel R. Buzzinotti, Warden  
Indiana County Jail