

Please join us for an Open House in Honor of:  
**Rev. Stephen D. Anthony**

In appreciation for service to Toledo Area Ministries  
September 2007—February 2014



**Date: February 28, 2014**  
**Time: 2:00—4:00 pm**  
**Place: 3043 Monroe Street, Toledo**

## "The Season Is Changing" \_

Most people are tired of winter. This winter has been long, cold and snow is everywhere. I've heard people complain as well as long for the next season which brings warmer temps as well as newness of life. I love winter... always have. When we have a mild winter I miss the cold and snow. When we have a winter like the one we are in the midst of I don't want it to end. As with the seasons of our calendar all seasons must come to an end for the next one to begin - the same is true in life. If we want the next chapter to start there must be a conclusion to the chapter we're in.

My season as the Executive Director of Toledo Area Ministries is coming to an end of February 28, 2014. This 6 ½ year season of my life is one I never wanted to end... but new life is calling for both Toledo Area Ministries and for me. Departing is never sweet but what comes after is. I am leaving for an unknown future but I do so with confidence that God has a preferred future for me that will be better than I could ever imagine. I believe the same for Toledo Area Ministries... the new life of spring is just around the corner and it will be glorious as new things begin to bud and bloom. As has been stated many times... any organization, especially Toledo Area Ministries is bigger than any one person so I am confident that the board,

staff and supporters will make an extremely bright future.

Toledo Area Ministries in my estimation is one of the greatest organizations in the nation. It is so unique and complex it is sometimes hard to explain to others who we are. The Toledo Area is blessed to have an organization like Toledo Area Ministries... in all of the places I have traveled I have never observed an organization quite like TAM. I have never been able to find an organization with the 128 years of history like TAM and I certainly haven't met too many organizations with the local impact that TAM has. TAM is worthy of financial support and does much with what is received. People are fed, victims of trafficking are rescued and restored, marriages/relationships are strengthened, seniors are educated about their benefits, the vulnerable are helped in numerous ways and attitudes are being changed around Mental Health/Illness. I couldn't have been associated with a better faith based non-profit organization.

I thank all of you for every prayer prayed, every volunteer hour given and every dollar amount donated – it's been a real privilege – thank you! As my Pastor often says, "The opportunity of a life time must be ceased during the life time of the opportunity." Through God's mercy I was given the opportunity of a life time and was able to cease the opportunity during the life time of the opportunity. So as the season changes; as the life time of the opportunity ends; this is not good-bye but, "until we meet again..."

Pastor Stephen D. Anthony  
[Santhony1957@gmail.com](mailto:Santhony1957@gmail.com)