

2009  
APRIL



Helping homeless families regain their independence ...and their lives

# OHM News

OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER



WSU students participating in the design project

## From our Director



This last six months has certainly been a time of challenge for a great deal of people. The same can be said for OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES. As the nation's economy has shifted, the amount of money that most people have available for donations has decreased.

At OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES, we have experienced a decrease of about 20% in overall donation income. As a result, we continue to "screw down" our expenses. This includes a continuation of across-the-board salary cuts made earlier this year. We have faith that the Lord will help us "ride out" this negative wave. Thank you for your help during this time. We really do appreciate it.

In His Service,

*David Wilde*

## A New Look for OHM!

The new logo that you see in this edition of OHM News comes as a gift from the Digital Technologies Program (DTC) at Washington State University, Vancouver and is a small representation of a much larger gift we received.

Shortly after WSU began its winter semester, I learned about the DTC program and inquired about the possibility of OHM becoming the subject of the program's senior class design project. As the subject of a design project, OHM would finally be able to make long-awaited updates to its website.

After my initial contact with Dr. Dene Grigar, the program's director, I learned that the senior class project had already committed to helping the Boys and Girls Club with its needs. Then, to my surprise, Dr. Grigar generously offered to use our website as a design project that she would personally oversee in her talented beginning design class. She explained that OHM would receive a variety of web site prototypes to choose from—each prepared by a different design team. Our only job: provide the details and choose a winner. As it turned out, this task wasn't so easy!

After several weeks of grueling work by the

## Eye on Volunteers

Volunteers at OHM contribute in a variety of ways. Some donate time helping residents complete their education. Some spend countless hours working with staff and residents in our donation center, some man the front desk, and others find ways in their busy lives to get co-workers involved in the ministry here at Open House.

These "behind the scenes" volunteers are often unaware of the special service they provide to the shelter and its

students, I received an invitation to view prototypes and to choose our new website. The professionalism of each team's design and presentation was second to none, making it immediately clear that these students are being trained to meet the needs of clients in the "real world".

Finally, though, a decision was made. OHM chose a site designed by students Shawn Kepfer, Mikhail Oparin, Sarah Richards, and Linda Wylie and added features from every other prototype (like I said, it was hard to choose!) The result is clean, organized browsing, easy contact links, and a brand-new look! The site, now in the coding process, should be "up and running" in May. An announcement will be made when we go live and a sneak preview will be unveiled at the benefit dinner on May 1! Thanks WSU, for your generous gift!



residents by simply spreading the word.

Ed and Dianna Laramee are perfect examples of this type of volunteer. Both actively seek to involve co-workers in caring for homeless families in our community.

Recently, Ed contacted me at the shelter to share about some fundraising projects that he and Dianna sought to undertake. Dianna is seeking a community grant from her company on our behalf. Ed has been busy with co-workers at PepsiCo-Frito Lay raising funds for the shelter. Just yesterday, I received a letter from Frito Lay informing me that Ed and his co-workers raised funds that were matched, for total a contribution of more than \$1,000.00 dollars!

Perhaps we don't all have time or money, but we each have a sphere of influence whose efforts, when combined, can do a great deal of good.

*Thank you volunteers, for all you do!*

# HOW Can I help?

This month you can help OHM by bringing friends to the benefit dinner (we may have sponsored seats available) or by inviting them to learn more about us by scheduling a tour.

## MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 10TH!!!



nation to Open House Ministries. Donations of any size are a great way to let her know that she has inspired you to follow the example of her love and kindness.

A donation of \$15.00 provides shelter to a child for one night. \$101.00 will provide shelter to a family of four for one night. You may even pledge a monthly gift in her name! All commemorative donations will be recognized with a

special "In Honor of Her Love" card that will be sent once your gift or pledge is received .

If you are attending our benefit dinner on May 1st, we will provide another opportunity to make a commemorative gift during the evening.

For assistance with your gift submission, please call  
360.737.0300  
(ask for Pamela)

A mother's love enables a normal human being to do the impossible

- Unknown

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom

- Henry Ward Beecher

All I am I owe to my mother

- George Washington

A mother understands what a child does not say

- Jewish proverb

Did you know that you can honor the loving life or memory of a mother, grandmother or other family member this Mother's Day with a commemorative do-



**OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES  
FAMILY SHELTER**

### Donation Needs

- Baby Formula
- Diapers
- Cookies
- Kids Snacks
- Cooking Oil
- Mayonnaise
- Fresh Produce
- Dish Soap
- Bleach
- Tampons
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Bowls
- Frozen Meats (1-3 lb portions only, please)
- Men's Clothes - 2XL+ and 44" Pants

## Upcoming Events

There is still time to reserve your seat at our second annual fundraising dinner. The dinner is on Friday, May 1, 2009 at the Heathman Lodge at 6:30pm. Special performance by the Kate White Band will be a real treat to this year's event! Please RSVP by April 24th, 2009 by calling (360)737-0300.



**TRUE!MPROV**

Comedy with Purpose

Comedy performances to inspire you! True Improv will be performing in the annex building located at the north corner behind the shelter building. Performance is May 9th and begins at 7:00pm. Admission is \$3.00 per person or a donated food item for the shelter.

### Luncheon Tours

Inviting friends and co-workers to join us for lunch and a tour is a great way to help spread the word about OHM. Tours are scheduled every 2nd and 4th Friday from 12pm-1pm.

Simply RSVP within 48 hours of the tour  
(360) 737-0300



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FAMILY SHELTER**

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