



# Open House

*News*  
February 2009

900 West 12th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

(360) 737-0300

Donate Online at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

*In January's newsletter, we recognized businesses who support our community by contributing to the work at Open House Ministries. In the process of connecting with business owners and company representatives in order to display their logos, I met some incredible people. I even had the opportunity to learn first-hand why companies remain dedicated in their giving in spite of the uncertain economic future. Since it is impossible to share the stories behind each organizations dedication to our community and to Open House Ministries, I'd like to share with you the stories of three companies whose reasons for giving share a common thread with many of our supporters.*



I'll never forget the day that I walked in the front door to Companion Pet Clinic in the Cascade Park area of Vancouver. Snow was falling, roads were nearly vacant of traffic, and I was on a mission to personally visit as many of our supporters as possible before the snow got the best of me.

Upon entering the clinic, I was immediately impressed by its inviting warmth. I was also very surprised to see that those at the clinic had coordinated a food drive on behalf of the families at Open House Ministries! The food drive raised my curiosity about the clinic and its support of OHM.

I recently met Dr. Joseph Giffoni and learned that he owns and operates the Cascade Park clinic and that he has practiced veterinary medicine for 23 years. Dr. Giffoni says that he and his wife Linda, a licensed veterinary technician, were introduced by a friend to Open House Ministries.

Dr. and Mrs. Giffoni share their dedication to sow into the lives of others. The Giffoni's strong commitment to the community began when they felt led of Christ to share from the blessings they received. When asked about what fuels their ongoing dedication, he answered, "It's a human thing. It's about the souls". Then, he thoughtfully added, "But for the grace of God go I".

Sometimes a company's commitment to the community can best be understood by understanding its foundation, or its roots. Such is the case with Realvest Corporation, an asset development and property management company located here in Vancouver. During a recent visit with Robin Bradford, assistant to founder, Paul Christensen, and head of the company's committee for community giving, I learned that Realvest was founded in 1969 by Mr. Christensen.

Mr. Christensen's continued support of our community is nothing short of commendable. When asked what motivates the company's strong support, Mrs. Bradford explained that the company's commitment and passion for the community started with Mr. Christensen and has been a major component of the fabric and structure of the company since its inception. She further noted, "...it has to do with quality of life...at some point enough is enough, and we need to think about others."

Mrs. Bradford says that Realvest supports the work at Open House Ministries because the shelter's programs focus on the whole person by teaching individuals to become "viable, productive contributors to society".

Among its many contributions to the community, Realvest supports the community through the Hough Foundation and focuses on causes that emphasize education for the poor and disadvantaged.



Dennis McVicker, President of Tidewater Barge Lines, tells a compelling story about doing the right thing. Mr. McVicker's approach to community embraces the idea of being a "good neighbor."

Shortly before the holidays, Tidewater had some areas of the facility re-painted. Once the job was complete, the painting company gave the bill to Tidewater and said that instead of directly paying the bill, an amount equal to its total could be donated to charity. This is just the beginning...

In recent years, Tidewater made a decision to substantially increase its budget for charitable giving, so giving back to the community wasn't a new venture, but the idea of donating the amount of the bill for painting services did spark some charitable creativity. Mr. McVicker decided to use funds that Tidewater normally dedicated for customer gifts as a means to increase the donation. Next, with the help of the company's giving committee, it was decided that three organizations would receive a personal visit along with a check to support their programs. Open House Ministries was among the organizations that received a visit from Mr. McVicker and two of his staff.

In a recent interview, Mr. McVicker explained that one of the reasons Tidewater chose to contribute to Open House Ministries is because our programs focus on "getting people re-engaged." He also commented that during a tour of the shelter he noticed OHM staff interactions with residents were very respectful. When asked why Tidewater contributes to organizations serving the community he said, "It's the right thing to do...I want [Tidewater] to be viewed as contributors. We are not here to take from the community."

Other organizations supported by Tidewater Barge Lines include the Red Cross, Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, and Clark County Skills Center.

## Surf the Net?

You can help OHM for free by setting your home page to [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) and selecting Open House Ministries as the organization that you "Goodsearch" for!

**Check it out!**



## Open House Ministries

P.O. Box 242, Vancouver, WA 98666  
David Wilde, Executive Director

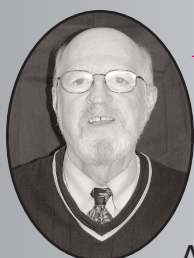
Ph: 360.737.0300 Fax: 360.737.3157

Email: [sheltered@juno.com](mailto:sheltered@juno.com)

Website: [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

*Empowering homeless families  
in our community*

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Vancouver, WA  
Permit 443



### In Recognition...

Pastor Aaron Knapp, Chaplain for Open House Ministries was singled out by the Chaplaincy Services for the Church of the Nazarene from approximately 900 registered chaplains and named Chaplain of the year for 2009.

According to Dwight Jennings, Director of Nazarene Chaplaincy International in Kansas City, MO, Pastor Aaron's work at OHM is "exemplary".

Pastor Aaron's service to Open House residents extends to include members of the community and an approximately 100 individuals living in our nearby transitional housing unit. This means that he provides spiritual and practical care to more than 200 individuals. Not only does Pastor Aaron visit those who are sick and in prison, but he also teaches classes at the shelter, advocates for the homeless, and works with Child Protective Services for family reunification. He is also a respected source of counsel and constant encouragement for OHM staff.

Pastor Aaron joined OHM staff eight years ago with 35 years of pastoral experience, for a combined total of 43 years experience. His faithfulness in serving humanity with the compassion and humility of Christ have awarded him the honor of this recognition, which he will accept at the organization's district assembly in early April.

*Congratulations Aaron!*

### Eye on Volunteers...

A few months ago Chef Lee Nichols joined our family of incredible volunteers. Lee spends time each week working with residents in the Culinary Arts portion of our Giving Back program so that 800 cookies and other sweets can be donated to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for intermission snacks. Chef Lee's oversight of this massive cookie production makes it possible for residents to apply food handling skills learned in the Food Handler Certification course taught in Culinary Arts 1.



Thank You Chef Lee!

### Table Sponsors !!!



*We Need You!*

**Second Annual Benefit Dinner: May 1, 2009 6:30pm**  
**The Heathman Lodge 50.00/person or 400.00/table.** Tickets may be reserved now by filling out the form below & returning it to us here at OHM or by calling **Pamela** at (360)737-0300.

**Yes! I want to support OHM by sponsoring** \_\_\_\_\_ tickets / tables .  
**I would / would not like to purchase** \_\_\_\_\_ additional tickets for myself, a total of \_\_\_\_\_ tickets. Payment is included / will be sent at a later date.

**My Name :**

**Address:**

**Telephone (       )**

**\*\* Please be sure to include your telephone number so we can confirm attendance of you and your guests prior to the dinner\*\***

Baby Formula  
Diaper  
Baby Food  
Canned Meats  
Tuna/Hamburger Helper  
Canned Veggies (No Green Beans Please)  
Canned Fruits  
Apple Sauce  
Jello/Pudding  
Condiments  
Cereal  
Pancake Mix  
Syrup  
Coffee & Sugar  
Pastas & Sauces  
Dishwashing Liquid  
Personal Hygiene Products: Tampons, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, etc.

### Donation Needs

#### We Can Also Accept:

Eggs

Frozen meats in smaller pack sizes such as 1-3 lb packs.

Fresh Produce