

2010
June



Helping homeless families find their way back to a normal life

OHM News

OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER

From Our Director...



Spring rain...it is refreshing to the spirit and the soil. This latter rain that was so crucial to the agricultural harvest in the Old Testament represents a blessing before the harvest. For Open House Ministries, the latter rain is the financial blessing needed for the maturity and harvest of healthy, restored families.

Every day, OHM sows seeds through its programs that are vital for teaching our community's homeless families to become self-sufficient. Through our programs, residents learn to develop character that will help them form healthy relationships, set goals for the future, manage finances, parent effectively, and pursue employment opportunities. Without these programs, OHM residents would never reach a level of maturity that would enable them to provide for themselves.

Today, OHM is being reviewed as a model of success by the State of Washington even though we are operating in a very lean status. With no where left for us to "trim the fat", we have to consider changing our programs due to a drop in donations. In the last two years, we have reduced our operating costs to one quarter of the national average, while increasing our exposure in the community. Our May 7th benefit event was also a success! We met many new friends and raised some much needed funds.

Yet more people than ever have need of our services, and our residents are staying longer in our programs. As a result, OHM bears the cost. This has put us in a tough place; we need to raise an additional \$50,000.00 in order to keep our programs running in a minimized status.

Please continue praying for Open House Ministries. We are reaching out to you, our friends and supporters, to ask if you would consider being a part of the latter rain that is necessary for us to bring this precious crop to harvest.

We thank the good Lord for His provision in these lean times. We are ever grateful for your faithfulness and thank you for commitment to these families. We know that your family may be facing tough times as well, if we can be of help to you during this time, please let us know. Together we can share our blessings, one with another.

David Wilde

Your servant.



Who is OHM?

It has often been said that OHM Family Shelter is Vancouver's best kept secret. Through the years, we have realized that even our most faithful supporters are not

fully aware of OHM's identity and service to the community. As a result, we are inspired to again share our vision and the components of our program. For the next several months, we will be explaining the specifics of our program in our newsletter.

At the heart of everything we do is the belief that restoration does not happen over night; it takes time and dedication to help families get back on their feet. That's where our Case Management Program comes in.

Case management is the core of OHM's programs. It is the "nuts and bolts" of helping homeless families find their way to a normal life. When a homeless family arrives at OHM, they meet with a case manager who takes the time to understand the reasons behind each family's homelessness, the measures the family has taken to overcome their situation, and the obstacles preventing them from securing a home and living a productive life.

This allows the case manager to help the family set priorities, define goals, determine a daily program schedule, and to access community resources and advocacy services. During their stay, each family meets weekly with a case manager to evaluate progress toward their goals and to establish accountability. When a family transitions from the shelter, OHM's case managers continue to provide ongoing support and accountability, typically for the next 18-24 months.

Case management is the foundational piece of our program. It is the functional element that drives every other shelter program that our families access.



The Volunteer Gift...

A helping hand, a willing heart,
Sometimes that's all it takes.
A simple gesture on someone's part,
But what a difference it makes.

That's just the kind of gift you gave,
Over and over each day.
So many will always be glad that you've
Chosen to live in such an unselfish way.
(Author Unknown)

In memory of Dan Shetler, Mary Hyke, and Doris Firestone. The sadness of your recent passing is felt by all at OHM. You were more than volunteers; you were friends. You did not give to an organization; you gave to families. You did not donate time; you gave your hearts. Thank you for your gift.

How Can I Help?

Please continue to pray for a full and speedy recovery for our staff member, Pat. She is still hospitalized after having been hit by a vehicle last month.



OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER

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

Thank You!

to all who attended and contributed to our May 7th benefit at the Heathman Lodge. The event was a success, and will help OHM move closer to meeting its budget!

Shelter Donation Needs...

DAYCARE & CHILDREN'S ITEMS

BABY FORMULA
DRY BABY CEREAL
2 SMALL PLASTIC POOLS
2 LG UNDER BED RUBBERMAID TUBS WITH LIDS
MONEY TO GO TOWARDS A NEW RUG
WOODEN BLOCKS

RESIDENT ROOM SUPPLIES

TOILET PLUNGERS
MOPS/BROOMS
DUST PANS
CLEANING SUPPLIES
LAUNDRY SOAP
DISH SOAP
SHOWER CURTAINS
DRESSERS (UPRIGHT)
KITCHEN-SIZED GARBAGE CANS
DISH CLOTHS
TOWELS
DECORATIVE PICTURES
FANS

FOOD NEEDS

CANNED CHICKEN & TUNA
CANNED SOUP & STEW
TOP RAMEN
CANNED CHILI
CANNED FRUIT
SPAGHETTI SAUCE
KETCHUP
COOKING OIL
"HELPER" MEALS
CEREAL
JUICES
CRACKERS
PANCAKE MIX
SYRUP
SUGAR
COFFEE
FROZEN MEATS
(1-3 LB PACKAGES)
GROUND BEEF (1LB CHUBS)

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

MEN'S DEODORANT
WOMEN'S DEODORANT
SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER (LG)
TAMPONS (NO PADS)
TOILET PAPER

CLOTHING

MEN'S PANTS 32, 33,
34, 36, 42, 48 52, 54, 56
MEN'S SHIRTS XL,
XXL, XXXL, XXXXL

OFFICE NEEDS

FLASH DRIVES
FANS



Thank you for remembering that health department regulations prohibit us from distributing out-of-date items to shelter residents.



Washington Insurance Network



Charity Golf Tournament, July 9, 2010
Camas Meadows Golf Club

8:00 A.M. Shotgun Start
Barbecue following Tournament

Fees Per Player:

\$100.00 W.I.N. Members
\$125.00 Non-Members
\$ 20.00 Dinner Only

To participate, contact
Anna Klostermann
503.312.3143
Wayne Lightburne
503.807.7475

Registration due by
June 18th

EVENT PROCEEDS
BENEFIT OHM!

Thank you for your
Support!



New Heights Church is again hosting the Race for the Homeless. For the past eleven years, OHM Family Shelter has been the recipient of the race's proceeds. Last year, the event raised \$6,000 for the shelter. Join us on August 7th at Marine Park in Vancouver to take part in a 5k or 10k walk/run. As you know, we have a substantial budget gap to fill. Your support at this event is appreciated and will make a difference! Visit www.newheights.org/race or call (360)759-9335 to participate. Pre-registrations are due by July 26! Thank you for your support!

Trade in and Tool Up! About'U Salon

located at 915 Ester Street in Downtown Vancouver invites you to support OHM by Bringing in your curling irons, blow dryers, flat irons, and men's clippers. **IN EXCHANGE, YOU WILL RECEIVE 40% OFF BRAND NEW TOOLS!** Your donated styling tools will be given OHM residents. JUNE 18th & 19th, and JUNE 25th & 26th 4:00 to 8:00 pm



Food for Thought...

"If I were ever prosecuted for my religion, I truly hope there could be enough evidence to convict me. - John Wooden