



# OpenHouse

"AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE SHALL SERVE THE LORD."  
(Joshua 24:15)



## CLARK COLLEGE COMES TO Open House

A SEASON OF CHANGE...

### "IT'S PRETTY AWESOME!"

I'm really happy to finally be doing this. I've thought about it every day since I dropped out of high school," says Richard. He is one of 12 students who registered for the new GED preparation classes at Open House offered through the Adult Basic Education Department at Clark College.

"Over the years, we've had Open House residents come to the campus and experience real success in this program," says Anita Lundy, full-time faculty member and instructor with the Basic Education Division for more than 20 years. "Only a few could take advantage of the program, though, because of the scheduling and transportation obstacles. We knew there were a lot more here that we could be serving. We do a lot of satellite classes, so this seemed like a natural move. Mark McLean, our director, is really supportive of this pilot program."

To help her launch the program, Anita recruited her daughter, RaChelle Hendricks. RaChelle is a fifth-year high school teacher at Hudson's Bay. "I've always been interested in teaching basic skills in adult education," says RaChelle. "I also have a real interest in helping women gain job skills."



"It all started for her back in the fourth grade," explains her mom. "That was when she came with me to Clark College on 'Take Your Daughter to Work Day.' She helped me give a spelling test to the class."

Then, when she was in college, RaChelle spent a summer in Washington D.C. with a missions group. Since that time, her heart has been drawn toward inner-city missions. So when Clark College decided to launch this new program at the shelter, she believed it was the perfect opportunity to combine her passion and skills.

The mother-daughter duo has spent time instructing and working closely with students over the last several weeks. They've covered a variety of subjects and given practice tests. As the students have gained knowledge, they've also gained the confidence and courage needed to do what they've wanted to do for years. They are now ready to head to the testing center at the main campus. And when they finally set out to take—and pass!—that final exam, they will experience a new sense of accomplishment and freedom.

Ruben knows. He was one who successfully completed the Clark College program last year—before it was offered at the shelter. He was living at Open House with his two grandsons. Getting his GED was something he set out to do. He had discovered that not having it was a hindrance in his job search. He was also interested in pursuing higher education. Even though it was a challenge to work around his schedule and find day care for the boys, he was determined to graduate. And he did! Ruben and the boys are currently

living in transitional housing. He is part of the maintenance staff at Open House and has plans to one day become a chemical dependency counselor.

"Now, it's all offered right here at the shelter," says Ruben. "It's so much easier to focus on the program when you're not worried about getting back in time for class or to take care of the kids!" As a participant in this pilot program at Open House, Richard, staff and former resident, is glad that it's now mandatory for anyone who hasn't completed a formal high school education—which describes the majority of our residents. It's a program that is beneficial for those re-entering the job market, furthering their education, or trying to help their own children with homework.

It's open to the community, providing an opportunity to serve many adults who may not otherwise be served. Clark College is currently in the process of determining the future of the program in partnership with Open House. And it's now being integrated into our work program for residents at the shelter.

For many participants, the five-week period they spend in these GED preparation classes becomes a truly pivotal point in their journey. The launching of this program provides the opportunity for them to take the next step...launching a new season in their lives.



**More than 95 percent of employers nationwide employ GED graduates on the same basis as high school graduates in terms of hiring, salary, and opportunity for advancement.**

### PLEDGE UPDATE:

We need 100 pledges of \$2,007 (or \$200.70 monthly at this point) to help meet budget!

100

WE'VE CLOSED THE GAP!!!

we need

WE CAN DO THIS!!

your help

HALF WAY THERE!

to reach

JUST GETTING STARTED...

our goal!

← 8 pledges

HERE WE GO...

2007 in 2007

## THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON



Open House is one of the organizations being awarded grant funds from the CFSWW this year! David Wilde, OHM director, gratefully accepts \$13,000 to help staff our computer lab at the shelter.

Thank you...



CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH for the special shower given for babies & children at Open House!

MARCH

# Wish List

pancake mix/syrup  
hot/cold cereal  
peanut butter & jelly  
fruit & veggies  
fruit juice  
cheese  
dairy products  
pasta/salad mix  
chili/soup w/ meat  
tuna  
frozen chicken  
frozen hamburger  
crackers & cookies

catsup & mayo  
coffee & cocoa  
5 lb sugar  
jars of baby food  
diapers  
baby wipes  
toilet paper  
feminine products  
shampoo/conditioner  
deodorant  
paper cups/plates  
laundry soap  
dish cloths/towels

bath towels  
pots & pans  
shower curtains  
pillows & bedding (twin)  
brooms & dust pans  
plungers  
cleaning supplies  
toy batteries (AA, AAA, C)  
book shelves & dressers  
kitchen tables w/ chairs  
computers (w/o monitors)  
C-Tran bus passes  
\*\*"Revival" Tents\*\*

## SPECIAL NEEDS for the children's programs:

1. VOLUNTEERS for daycare & after-school
2. healthy SNACKS
3. CRAFT STUFF
4. QUARTERS (so mom can wash our dirty SOCKS)

## I think I like green eggs and ham!

Open House children celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday this month in the daycare center.

INSIDE STORY: CLARK COLLEGE COMES TO Open House

### CELEBRATING A NEW SEASON...

# movin'on...

IT'S TOUGH TO MAKE IT as a single mother raising four daughters on a minimum-wage job," says Holly. Last fall, when the home she had been renting was torn down, she and her daughters (ranging from ages one to nine) moved into Open House.

"My only other option at the time was moving in with family, but I wanted to be able to live independently and provide a stable home for my kids," she says. So after a psychiatrist friend referred her to Open House, her sister came and checked it out and encouraged Holly to try and get into the program here. Holly decided to do so, believing that it would be the shortest, most direct course of action to getting back on her feet and into affordable housing.

"The hardest part was the change...going from living in a larger home to all of us living in one room. But it brought us together. It was good having a schedule and getting into a routine. After we were here a couple of weeks, we started having a lot of fun—

just laughing and getting to know people."

Holly and her daughters immediately got involved in the program. "The kids liked the counseling here. And I really enjoyed 'Giving Back' (part of the work program)—the routine involved and working together as a team. The parenting and decision-making classes were both good, too. I had never set goals before. The classes on decision making taught me to set goals for myself...ones I know I can accomplish!"

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Last month, Holly enrolled in the CNA program at Clark College, and she will be graduating in April. As a nursing assistant, she will no longer have to try and support her family on a minimum-wage job. She and the girls also found an affordable three-bedroom apartment through a transitional housing



program and have recently settled into their new place. She experiences a new level of confidence as she uses the goal-setting skills she's learned—and begins accomplishing those goals!

"This was a good experience for me...one I grew a lot from!" says Holly. "If we hadn't come to Open House, we might have had to stay with relatives indefinitely, and it would have taken a lot longer to get to the place where we are now!"



## Open House Ministries

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*"Helping the homeless regain their independence and their lives"*

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