

2010
November

Helping homeless
families find their way
back to a normal life

OHM News
OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER



Chaplain's Corner...



On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., the shelter's conference room is converted to a chapel for one hour. We sing a few songs, have a quiet time for prayer and reflection, followed by a brief message. It becomes a respite to take a deep breath, refocus, renew our perspective, and reconnect with hope.

It is our hope and prayer that this becomes a critical piece of the healing environment that enables residents to reconstruct their lives with a new heart, a renewed mind-set, and a commitment to a plan that motivates positive action.

Our objectives are simple and clear. It is our desire to integrate the lives of staff and residents so that trust and understanding may become the basis for life change. We know that singing, praying and a motivational message alone will not accomplish this; but coupled with the grace of God and the love of Christ, chapel becomes a place and time where positive change is believable and possible.

Staff members and former residents are among those who share during chapel. In a recent service, a resident was significantly impacted by the message and later shared that he had come to a new understanding of life and hope in God. This is just one of many little lights that come along the journey; they are eye-opening, life changing moments.

During those special moments in chapel the structure, rules, schedule, authority, responsibility, and appointments are all suspended; there is no "them and us". We stand together on equal ground, commonly seeking the meaning and source of life and hope. In that environment LIFE happens.

Maybe the best way to describe our anticipation for these moments is summed up in one of the choruses we sing: "He heals the broken hearted and sets the captive free." Beyond all our best human resources, our training and our collective life experiences is a conviction that the most significant hope for change is, "only a prayer away."

In His Service,
Chaplain Aaron

Meet Mark Roskam...



I am thankful to write to you, the precious kindred spirits with a heart for the families and ministries of Open House. It is just this kind of "kindled heart" that has drawn me here to serve as a case manager. I can see that God has been readying me throughout my life to be here "for such a time as this..." The only good and accurate explanation of how my family and I came here is that God brought us.

Prior to moving to Vancouver, I lived with my wife, Gini, and our three daughters in Colorado, where we served in the ministry. This a second marriage for both of us, with each of us having been widowed in the early 1990's. My two daughters and I lived in Colorado their entire lives, while Gini and Katie hailed from Pennsylvania, and joined us in 1997 to create a blended family. A miracle of God unfolded as Gini and I corresponded with one another and a profound love grew in the fertile soils of death and brokenness - with 1700 miles between us!

By the grace of God, I have a diverse professional background, which fits well in the Open House setting. But, it is primarily my pastor's heart that leads me into deep love for those in my sphere of influence. God has called me to pastor and to shepherd - yet this is a beautiful expression of redemption within my own life. For years, I was a rebel living in a perpetual blur of anger towards God. Truly, He saved me from myself. It is now through brokenness, that He rules in me.

So I come to Open House, a walking testimony of new life in Jesus. The span of broken lives and hard life stories that we encounter each day at OHM are snapshots of God in action - working in the sphere of broken human relationships to bring healing. You see, we are four-way relational beings (in relationship with God, with others, with our world, and with ourselves), and now this becomes the fertile ground for His work in us. As Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news to the captives, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners" (Isaiah 61). This is the hope for Open House.

OHM Family Shelter is a spiritual community on a Journey into New Life: for the single mother of three, trying to find her way on her \$500 welfare check; for the addict who wreaked havoc and now wanders, lost and hopeless in the wreckage; for the unemployed single mother of three who cannot get anyone to consider her, after submitting hundreds of applications; for the couple who lost their kids while in a drugged stupor, who now try to retrace their steps and fix the damage that was done; for the man with a history longer than his life who has never known healthy relationships, and yet is in a labyrinth of people who care; for the children who witnessed the "sins of the father and mother" who must now decide how to live in the midst of every impulse; for the greatly indebted, trying to understand how to cope as they accept responsibility for their past actions; for the young father with a broken body searching for the meaning of life...these are the people and families of Open House. They are the reason we are here, and I am honored to be a part of their lives.

Mark Roskam

How Can I Help OHM?

We still need help transporting residents during the holidays. Your help will brighten the days for so many!



Please call Dawn at (360)737-0300 if you or your organization has a bus or van that can be used to help us meet this need!



**OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES
FAMILY SHELTER**
PO Box 242
Vancouver, WA 98666

Ph: 360.737.0300 Fax: 360.737.3157
Website: www.sheltered.org

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



Holiday Event Idea: Adopt an OHM family for the holidays and make someone else's life brighter for Christmas!

For details, contact Renee at
(360)737-0300



Richard is a previous OHM resident and has been a valued member of our staff for 13 years.

He serves as the house manager and has faithfully overseen our thrift store project since it's opening in August.

When I think back over the last thirteen years here at Open House, I can say that I have seen a lot of miracles. One is that OHM changed my life. I have also seen families get their kids back and people get their lives together. Another miracle I have seen is that when one of our families truly needs something, God sends it to Open House. Most people may not think that's a miracle but, when you hear a family say that they need something, and the next day it "walks through the door", to me, that is a miracle!

I believe that our new thrift store, Second Hand Solutions, is another miracle sent by God. Over the years Open House has provided for thousands of families through donations from our community. But, with the economy like it is, a lot of people are short on money to give, but everyone has plenty of "stuff". We can use that "stuff" at our thrift store to help fill the gap.

Our vision for the thrift store is that it will provide income for the shelter, job training for residents, become a place for small groups to meet, double as a program to keep teens off the streets and out of trouble, or a place to just sit with a friend and have a cup of coffee during store hours. We hope that if you are in need of something, you will come on down and find one of God's miracles in our thrift store! Feel free to drop in anytime to take a look and share your ideas. Thank you - Richard Barton

OHM Events...



This year's annual fundraising dinner will be a celebration of 25 years of serving homeless families in Clark County! Save the date: May 13th, 2011. More details are forthcoming!

Thank You!



For hosting fundraisers on our behalf. Results are still being tallied. We'll post them as soon as they are in!



Our daycare needs volunteers M-F from 9am - 12pm. Please call Dawn if you are available. 360-737-0300

November Needs...

FOOD

CANNED MEATS
CANNED TOMATOES
CHILI/SOUP/STEW
PASTA SAUCES
PASTA & RAMEN
SPAGHETTI-O's & RAVIOLIS
DRY CEREAL & OATMEAL
JELLY/JAM
FRUIT (CANNED & FRESH)
KETCHUP, MAYO, MUSTARD
CANNED & FRESH FRUIT
PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP

COFFEE & TEA
POWDERED CREAMER
SUGAR
DRY BAKING GOODS
COOKING OIL
BUTTER
EGGS

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

DEODORANT
RAZORS
SHAMPOO
CONDITIONER
HAIR BRUSHES

DISH SOAP

LAUNDRY SOAP
TOILET PAPER
SILVERWARE SETS
CLEANING SUPPLIES

CHILDREN

DIAPERS
(Sizes 4-5-6)
BABY FOOD & FORMULA

SCHOOL

HI-LIGHTERS
CALCULATORS

CLOTHING

COATS
(Women's M/L, Men's L)
SWEATS/SWEATSHIRTS
(Women's L/XL, Men's L-XXL)
SOCKS
UNDERWEAR (NEW)
WARM PAJAMAS
(Women & Children)

We also need unisex gifts for pre-teens & teens and grocery store gift cards THANK YOU!

