

2010
October

Helping homeless
families find their
way back to a
normal life

OHM News
OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER



Chaplain's Corner...



Just over a year ago a young couple came through the doors of Open House Ministries to do an intake. Their lives were at a point of desperation, and things were rapidly crumbling around them. A plan was put in place, and this couple engaged in the program. It was their second attempt to regain stability in their lives as residents at our shelter.

A few weeks into classes and counseling, hope was born, and they began to believe in their future. It started with a simple belief that God cared about them. That belief was nurtured daily by a support staff, working with them in every aspect of their recovery.

A few weeks ago I was invited to come and pronounce a prayer of blessing on their new apartment. This special moment was preceded by a sequence of events, all at their initiation. While in the shelter they were married and baptized. The young mother finished school and began working as a caregiver. The father soon followed and became employed. Eventually they were approved for housing and moved to their new home.

In the kitchen of their home, I sat at the table and asked God to make their home a safe and happy place for a long time to come. As I ended my prayer their five year old daughter appeared with a book in her hand. She sat at the table and began to pretend read from her bible...a fitting conclusion to a remarkable journey, and a true symbol of a new beginning.

In my reflections, I often wish that all who come through the doors of our ministry could experience a similar story of success, and many do. For that, I am always grateful. No matter what, we will give our best effort, knowing that the seeds that are sown each day at OHM are in God's hand.

In His Service,
Chaplain Aaron

How Can I Help OHM?

It's that time of year again when our wonderful community pitches in to make the holidays very special for our families. Often, we are in need of busses and vans to help transport residents to and from festivities. Are you or your organization able to provide holiday transportation? If so, please call Dawn at (360)737-0300

Who is OHM?

Our final issue in this series

For the past four months, we have taken you on a newsletter tour of our program. As we wrap up the series with Katie's story, we hope that you have enjoyed learning about the programs we offer and how they impact the lives of those you support when you support OHM.

If you missed an issue, visit our website at www.sheltered.org and click on "Newsroom" to access previous issues in this series or other issues of interest to you. If you would like to follow up our newsletter tour with a personal tour or invite us to speak at your church or group function, give us a call at (360) 737-0300. Dawn, Pamela, or Viki can handle the details!

Transitional Housing...

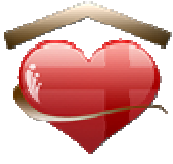
Just prior to moving to Vancouver in 2008, Katie lived in Sacramento, California where she attended school to become a CNA and spent her nights sleeping in her car with her two children in a last-ditch effort to escape an unhealthy, abusive relationship with the children's father. The instability of her situation, though, led her to seek her mother's help in returning to Vancouver. Here she hoped she would find refuge among her family. Unfortunately though, this hope was dashed within months of her return when Katie realized that her mother was drinking heavily and had begun using drugs again.

Katie knew it would be impossible to provide stability for her children in an environment consumed with arguing and controlled by addiction. Again, she feared for the safety of her little family. Again, she found herself without means and at a loss for direction. That's when God provided Katie the means to a way out through the friendship of a loving couple that she met at church. Greg and Louana worked alongside Katie, helping her find a place that would provide her with shelter, safety, encouragement, and access to resources that would help her get back on her feet. That's when they found OHM Family Shelter.

Katie describes her experience at OHM as being much different than what she expected. Having imagined herself sleeping on cots with a bunch of "scary people", she found out that at OHM she "had her own place" and that she wasn't alone, but had people there to look out for her. "Once I realized that, I didn't want to leave. I felt safe there." During her stay at the shelter, Katie participated in several aspects of our program and says that counseling and parenting classes helped her deal with the major challenges of daily life. Katie says that through counseling she learned to identify and deal with issues that plunged her into depression and that parenting classes helped her "get the kids stabilized and under control". She even commented that being required to attend classes and participate in the program prepared her for her return to school.

After several months in the shelter program, Katie was ready to take the next step into the transitional housing program offered in conjunction with the Vancouver Housing Authority. Through this program, Katie receives rent assistance and is required to continue participating in case management at OHM. This partnership program is income based and provides OHM residents an 18 month subsidy following their transition from the shelter. Ongoing program support through the shelter and other community agencies often makes a substantial difference in a family's long-term success. Many families transitioning out of homelessness say this is the most challenging phase. With regard to her own transition, Katie said that without access to transitional housing, she would be unable to afford rent or to continue school. She also says that she likes the ongoing accountability and structure she receives through the shelter. "It feels good just to know that you are being watched over. I've never had a problem with drinking, and I've never ever done drugs, but for me, emotionally, I've never had this kind of healthy, new environment before." Katie's goal is to live locally, become a dental hygienist, and find a way to keep her kids in attendance at King's Way Christian School where they now attend on scholarship.





OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES
FAMILY SHELTER
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 Vancouver, WA 98666

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

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



Thank You!

On September 25th, Frito Lay hosted a puppet show, barbecue, and redecorating event for our families. In addition to furnishing and redecorating our children's book nook, they adopted a room, provided much needed repairs and upgrades to our playground equipment, and left us with a new barbecue for future use. Also, author Debby Anderson provided several copies of her book, "God Knows My Name". She spent the afternoon enjoying the festivities and signing books right here at OHM!

LABEL HERE



OHM Events...

November 5th is the **Mission of Trust art sale**.

This great event includes hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and an opportunity to win an original piece of artwork in the \$1.00 per ticket "Winner's Choice" raffle. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is matching funds raised during the event (up to \$1,200.00). **There is no cost to attend.** Just tell your friends all about it, and be at the **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church at 12513 NE Mill Plain Blvd. at 6:30pm.** **Contact Dawn or Pamela at (360)737-0300** for details, or visit www.sheltered.org and click on 'Events'.

Northwest PERSONAL TRAINING
www.NWPersonalTraining.com
 Is hosting its 4th annual "Workout for Your Soul" on **November 14th, 2010** to benefit OHM.
For details, call Sherri (360)574-7292

BRIDGE CHIROPRACTIC

Annual food drive to benefit OHM!
November 15th-19th

Just bring 15 cans of food, and the cost of your exam and any necessary X-rays is covered!

Please call in advance to schedule your appointment at one of their two Vancouver locations!

13712 NE 20th Ave (360) 574-5944
 605 SE 16th Ave (360) 567-1205

www.bridgechiropractic.com

Open House Ministries Family Shelter



5000 E Fourth Plain Blvd, A-106
Monday, November 8th, 2pm-9pm
 15% donation back to OHM! A great opportunity to take advantage of their Monday \$5.00 discount on giant pizzas!

Present your newsletter when you go, or print the flyer from our website at www.sheltered.org/events.html



11418 NE 72nd Ave, near 119th St.
Saturday, November 20th, 7am-2pm
 25% donation back to OHM.

Let them know you are "Helping the Homeless", or print the flyer from our website at www.sheltered.org/events.html



Don't forget to call Renee to adopt-a-Family for the holidays.

(360) 737-0300

October Needs



Thank you for helping OHM provide these much needed items to the families in our care.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and dedication to helping homeless families regain their independence and their lives!

FOOD

- CANNED MEATS
- CANNED BEANS
- CANNED TOMATOES
- CHILI/SOUP/STEW
- PASTA SAUCES
- PASTA & RAMEN
- SPAGHETTI-O's & RAVIOLIS
- DRY CEREAL & OATMEAL
- JELLY/JAM (No Grape)
- KETCHUP, MAYO, MUSTARD
- CANNED & FRESH FRUIT
- PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP
- COFFEE & TEA
- POWDERED CREAMER
- SUGAR
- DRY BAKING GOODS

- COOKING OIL
- BUTTER
- EGGS

HOUSEHOLD & PERSONAL CARE

- DEODORANT
- RAZORS
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- HAIR BRUSHES
- DISH SOAP
- LAUNDRY SOAP
- TOILET PAPER
- SILVERWARE SETS

We also need unisex holiday gifts for pre-teens and teens

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) (Women's, Men's Boxers, Children's)
- WARM PAJAMAS (Women & Children)