



Open House

News
September, 2008

900 West 12th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

(360) 737-0300

www.sheltered.org

New Beginnings...

Hello! Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Pamela Schram. I recently joined the staff at Open House Ministries as the Director of Development and feel very honored to be a part of this vital ministry.

Before I tell you about myself, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the many people who have called and stopped by to introduce themselves to me. Your warm welcomes, kind offers, and prayers are very appreciated!

Many years ago, God placed a burden for the homeless in my heart. Along with this burden came the vision of a shelter that would offer much more than food, clothing, and refuge from the elements. It would also provide solution-oriented programs aimed at enabling the homeless to successfully resolve issues at the root of their homelessness. Needless to say, this vision looked much like the ministry here at Open House.

Two years ago, I owned and operated a small catering business. Although my business was successful and growing, its rewards did not match my desire to make a different kind of contribution to the Lord through my life. Again, my heart

was stirred for the homeless; and I was struck with the idea of using my business as a means to provide vocational training for Vancouver's homeless population. At that time, I had heard of Open House Ministries, but was unfamiliar with the scope of its outreach. It wasn't long after commencing research about Open House that I discovered our shared vision, and my heart beat with anticipation!

Soon thereafter, I contacted Open House Ministries through the volunteer link on OHM's web-site and submitted a proposal to provide hands-on food service training to residents at Open House. Within days, I received a reply and learned that Open House Ministries indeed was interested in the idea. OHM staff quickly went to work seeking support for the culinary program, and I began teaching food safety and nutrition courses.

Much has happened since then. The culinary kitchen is complete, nearly twenty residents have successfully passed testing to receive a food-handler card, and we have extended the program to include hands-on food preparation. Additionally, I am now in the blessed position of being able to

contribute development and planning skills acquired through many years of restaurant management, area management, and business ownership to a cause which has long held my heart's attention.

It is with joy and with dedication to the homeless that I embrace this new position. Each day brings adjustment to new surroundings and an increased awareness of the hurdles our residents must daily overcome on their journey to wholeness.

It is with understanding that no great mission can be completed alone that I look to you for ongoing support of our many programs that make a difference in the lives of so many of people. Without you, countless people will be left homeless, helpless, and hopeless.

Thank you for sharing the vision of Open House Ministries and for remembering us in your prayers.



Pamela

The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live.
Ethel Percy Andrus

...this vision looked much like the ministry here at Open House



September 27, 2008
Dessert Reception & Auction 6:30 pm
at OHM
Tickets on sale now!!

Come join us for this great event. Hand-crafted desserts made by residents in our Culinary Arts program will be served while you have the opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping!

All proceeds benefit the ministries at Open House.
For tickets and information, please contact Pamela at 360.737.0300

November 10, 2008
Open Hearts for Open House
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm @ OHM

This is a great opportunity to tour our building and to meet the staff and volunteers (I'd love to meet you, too). We will be serving hors d'oeuvres and providing information about how you can become involved at Open House during the holidays.

Race for the Homeless...Fundraiser Results

Before we get to the results, let's take a moment to say "Thank you" to New Heights church for their incredible efforts in raising funds for Open House Ministries through their annual "Race for the Homeless". We are so fortunate to be included in New Heights' outreach efforts.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Race for the Homeless, the race is a homeless awareness event that began in 1999. Event participants pay a 15.00 entry to set-out on either a 5k walk or a 10k run in an effort to raise funds for Vancouver's homeless taking refuge here at OHM. Each year, New Heights matches the entries received and makes a generous contribution to Open House Ministries.

This year's event boasted **200 participants** and raised \$4,000.00 to support our Ministry. "Thank you, runners", and "Thank you, New Heights" for caring!

We bid a fond farewell to Open House Ministry's Development Director, Jennifer Tracy. Through Jennifer's development efforts, awareness about OHM's presence and role in our community has increased. As Jennifer opens a new chapter in her life, please join us in wishing her God's greatest blessings for her journey...



Farewell...



Open House Ministries

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*Empowering homeless families
in our community*

- Twin Beds
- Bunk Beds
- Double Beds
- Good Mattresses
- Other Baking Supplies
- Beef & Chicken Broths
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Vegetable Soups
- Hamburger & Tuna Helper
- Ramen noodles
- Canned Chicken
- Tuna
- Hot dogs
- Chili
- ~~Perk & Beans~~
- Pasta Sauces
- Corn
- ~~Green Beans~~

- Pears
- Peaches
- Apple Sauce
- Mixed Fruit
- Jello/Pudding

- Jelly
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Oatmeal & Cereal
- Coffee
- Sugar & Flour

I am thankful for donations

We couldn't do it without you!



Without the help of faithful volunteers like Bill Pfeifer, Open House Ministries would be unable to meet the needs of its residents. Bill began volunteering at Open House Ministries just over a year ago. After retirement, He was looking for a productive way to spend his time.

Now, Bill donates four hours each day to our donation room. In addition to putting donated food items on the shelves, Bill checks each item to ensure that it is not expired. He even takes the time to face the labels forward so the food shelves "look more like a grocery store" for our residents.

Although most of Bill's volunteer time is dedicated to our donation area, he also enjoys assisting in the computer lab where he helps rebuild donated computers. Thanks, Bill, for all you do!

Eye on Volunteers

Did you Know...

Contributions can be made online at www.sheltered.org



Just Give
.org
A Smarter Way to Give