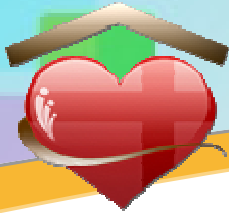


2010  
September

Helping homeless families find their way back to a normal life

# OHM News

OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER



## Chaplain's Corner...

A few days ago, I was paged to respond to a phone call. When I answered, the lady on the other end told me that her grand daughter, Natalie, was going to be eight years old and had a special request for her birthday. She said that Natalie wanted to take her birthday money and go shopping for the children at Open House. After giving her some ideas for practical items that would benefit the children at OHM, I thanked her for the call.



About a week later, I was passing through the lobby of our shelter when Natalie, her mother, and her grand mother came in with an arm full of carefully selected items that Natalie had purchased with her birthday money. There were large jars of peanut butter and jelly, loaves of bread, and a special gift for our nursery.

When I asked Natalie's mom what it was that prompted Natalie to give away her birthday to other children, she explained that Natalie has always been a thoughtful, giving child, and that the idea of giving her birthday away was her own.

Natalie's gift calls to mind a passage in scripture that illustrates the beauty of her gift. In the passage, Jesus is observing lots of folk tossing coins into the collection plate out of their abundance. In contrast to this, Jesus points out an elderly lady who places a couple of coins into the offering. He observes that in spite of the heftier gifts of those contributing from their bounty, this lady, in truth, gave the most because she gave all that she had to live on. One person's small offering, considering the circumstances, reflects a spirit of generosity that is inspiring and encouraging. Such was the case with Natalie's gift.

It is moments like these that remind me of the spirit that gave birth to this ministry and sustains it to this day: A lot of people with a lot of love, doing a lot of little things that give courage and hope to a lot of hurting people. I thank the Lord for the compassion and sacrifice that is present in the gifts and services of a host of people in our community. Our thanks to all who support OHM in its mission to help

homeless families regain their independence and their lives.

In Christ,  
Chaplain Aron



Natalie and her birthday gift for OHM

Did you miss an issue?  
Read it online!

Did you know that previous issues of our newsletter are available on our website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)?

Just click on "newroom" to find the newsletter link

Need help?

Call Pamela at (360) 737-0300



## What is OHM? Classes: Equipping for Life Part IV in a series.

Throughout our city we see signs making it evident that Fall is on its way and school is once again in full swing. Shelves of every store overflow with notebook paper, pencils, pens, and binders. The chilly morning commute again necessitates the addition of a fifteen minute cushion in order to make it to work on time - five for the crossing guard and ten in case you end up trailing one of many school buses on the road. Children and teenagers crowd the sidewalks cloaked in the latest fashions, eagerly carting skate boards and back packs. These youngsters set out on one more year of learning that promises to supply foundational knowledge that will equip them with skills to navigate life as an adult and to provide them with a dose of confidence for the future pursuit of dreams.

At OHM, school is always in session. Each day, as much of the adult population fights its way through rush hour traffic, the parents who reside in our shelter are settling in to a day of learning similar to that of our city's youth...only the fundamentals they learn are different. The majority of families who seek help in our shelter come from backgrounds whose foundations force them to operate in "survival mode" and whose path is marked with inconsistency, broken relationships, and instability. Learning that most developing youth acquire through the example, instruction, and support of families and healthy relationships tends to be filled with gaps or altogether non-existent for many of our residents.

As a key component of our programs, OHM case managers work with residents to establish an individualized class schedule targeted at filling these educational and life-skill gaps. Through required class participation, residents receive instruction that empowers them to recognize, confront, and change destructive patterns of thinking and decision making. OHM's class schedule includes: Managing Finances, Decision Making, Parenting, Kingdom Values, Getting Relationships into Perspective (G.R.I.P), Culinary Arts (nutrition, food safety, and preparation), Continuing Adult Education (GED program sponsored by Clark College Foundation), Computer and Resume Skills, and men's and women's spiritual support classes (Overcomers and Promise Keepers).

Each class instructor shares the common goal of making contributions toward repairing the broken foundations of these shattered lives. By immersing homeless families in a daily environment of learning, support, compassion, and accountability, OHM aims to build strong, balanced foundations that will allow our residents, at long last, to make the transition toward a normal, healthy, self-sustaining life.

## CAN YOU HELP?

OHM needs volunteers to help with food preparation and service for our upcoming art sale on November 5th. Please call Dawn Barton if you are available! (360) 737-0300



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

Ph: 360.737.0300 Fax: 360.737.3157  
Website: [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

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

*It's not too early...*



For Adopt-a-Family  
details, call  
Renee Holmes at  
360.737.0300

*Adopt a Family for the Holidays!*

OHM needs transportation assistance  
during the holidays to ensure that our  
families are able to participate in  
off-site celebrations. Can you help?  
Call Dawn at  
360.737-0300

## September

### FOOD NEEDS

- CANNED TOMATOES
- PASTA SAUCES
- CHILI, SOUPS & STEW
- CANNED CHICKEN & TUNA
- CANNED BEANS
- 1LB PACKAGES FROZEN MEAT
- CANNED & FRESH FRUIT
- KETCHUP & MUSTARD
- JAM/JELLY
- "HELPER" MEALS
- RAMEN/CUP O' NOODLES
- PASTA
- CEREAL & OATMEAL
- PANCAKE MIX
- SYRUP
- COFFEE & TEA
- POWDERED CREAMER
- COOKING OIL
- BUTTER
- EGGS
- SUGAR
- DRY BAKING GOODS
- PEANUT BUTTER

### ON-GOING NEEDS

- DIAPERS (SIZE 4, 5, & 6)
- BABY FOOD
- FORMULA
- TOILET PAPER
- BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR  
GIRLS & BOYS (AGES 8-16)
- C-TRAN DAY PASSES  
(Contact Renee @ 360-737-0300)
- VOLUNTEERS  
(Contact Dawn @ 360-737-0300)

### CLOTHING - ALL SIZES

- COATS
- SWEATS/SWEAT SHIRTS
- SCARVES
- KNIT HATS
- GLOVES
- SOCKS\*
- WARM PAJAMAS



### HOUSEHOLD / PERSONAL CARE

- BLANKETS\*
- TOWELS
- SILVERWARE SETS\*
- POTS/PANS\*
- TAMPONS
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- HAIR BRUSHES
- RAZORS
- DEODORANT
- BATH SOAP
- DISH SOAP
- LAUNDRY SOAP
- BROOMS/MOPS/DUST PANS
- HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS
- SHOWER CURTAIN LINERS
- DISH CLOTHS & TOWELS
- KITCHEN SIZE GARBAGE CANS



*Needs*

### Don't Forget!

Email Pamela at [ohm.pamelaschram@comcast.net](mailto:ohm.pamelaschram@comcast.net)  
if you would like to receive our newsletter via  
email. We will be starting our distribution soon!

## HAPPENING AT OHM!

Our August yard sale was such a success that we have opened a second-hand furniture and home decor store in our annex building in order to raise funds to support OHM's vital programs. Store hours are Tuesday-Friday and every other Saturday from 9am-5pm.

Please contact Richard Barton at (360) 487-9390 to donate furniture or home decor items, or to schedule an after-hours purchase.

To volunteer, contact Dawn at (360) 737-0300. We currently need volunteers who are available to assist on Wednesday and Thursday. Volunteers will be asked to help transport and move furniture items, so you must be able to lift 50 lbs. Thank you for your support!



Join us on **Friday, November 5th at 6:30pm** at **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church** for a very special **art sale**. Local artist and previous OHM resident, Heidi Hansen, has donated 12 impressionist originals from her Mission of Trust series. All proceeds benefit OHM. A "Choose Your Favorite" raffle will be drawn during the event. **\$1.00 Tickets** are on sale now. **For details**, go to [www.sheltered.org/events.html](http://www.sheltered.org/events.html) or call Pamela at (360)737-0300. Email: [ohm.pamelaschram@comcast.net](mailto:ohm.pamelaschram@comcast.net)

### Mission of Trust

Stop by the **Andi Ryan Studio Salon** at **1104 Main Street, #110 on October 1st between 8am and 4pm** with a bag of non-perishable items for OHM, and receive a **\$5.00 haircut!** The boutique will also be donating a portion of sale proceeds from hair products and jewelry to OHM. Don't forget to stop back in (or hang around) for the **after-party** where you will enjoy music, art, food, and drinks. Donations made during the after party will be given to OHM!  
Call Dawn for **details (360) 737-0300**



Is hosting its 4th annual Workout for Your Soul on **November 14th, 2010** to benefit OHM. **For details**, call Sherri: (360)574-7292