

RESIDENT STORY

Restoring Relationships and Rebuilding Family

For Richard, early drug use as a teenager led to many years of struggle. His addiction created a roller coaster lifestyle, spending more time in prison than with his family. Staying clean and sober had become a major challenge, creating broken relationships with his kids and his wife, Monie. When the need to rebuild his family finally took hold, Richard became determined to turn his life around.



Richard and Monie with their three children at a holiday event.

After going through treatment for drug addiction, Richard shared with his wife, Monie, about Open House Ministries and how he had spent time in the shelter with his dad when he was a little boy. They were referred by Sea Mar Outreach, and soon space opened up for them.

Richard spoke about the love they experienced at Open House Ministries from people they had never met. "We got to rebuild our family," said Richard. "Living at Open House Ministries gave us the structure, focus, and the discipline we needed. It's the best thing that has ever happened to me and my family."

Time in the program gave their family an opportunity to rebuild their relationships. For the first time, they experienced God's

presence in their lives. "This is the longest time Richard has stayed clean and sober," said Case Manager Melody Peck. "And the first time in his children's lives that he has been able to build a relationship with them at home."



Now Richard never misses a game his son is playing in, or school functions for his daughters. He is working for an organization that serves people in recovery, giving back to people in the community struggling with the same addiction that kept Richard from his own family for so many years.

And after graduating the program at Open House Ministries, Richard and Monie moved into their own apartment with their three kids. Richard dreams that one day he'll be able to work with at-risk youth, teaching them about the dangers of gangs, drugs, and crime. To be the support he desperately needed as a kid.

We are so grateful for Richard and his family. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to rebuild their relationships with each other and God. ●



GRACIOUS GIVING

Maximize Your Giving

There are many ways to support Open House Ministries and its efforts to help families get back on their feet with lasting solutions for our homeless population. We have many generous donors who support us with cash gifts and donations for our residents and through our stores. Many of you have generously supported Open House Ministries with non-cash gifts.

When you explore other ways to give your assets, you may be able to increase your impact and experience personal tax savings.

Some examples and options include:

- Adding OHM to your will or trust
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Real Estate
- Business interests
- Life insurance
- Appreciated assets like stocks and bonds
- Personal property
- Vehicles

If you would like to discuss any of these options, contact Sarah Nichols at 360-737-0300 or email Sarah at: Sarah.Nichols@sheltered.org

Thank you! ●

TOURS & TALKS

Want to see Open House Ministries up close?

**Join us for a
First Friday Tour!
Noon to 1 pm**

**To sign up, contact us at
events@sheltered.org**

The Source of Love

I've lived in the Pacific Northwest for six years. I've crossed the Columbia River hundreds of times. Yet until this week, I had no idea where it actually began.

I looked it up, and I'm happy to save you the Google. The Columbia River begins over 1,200 miles away in the Canadian Rockies of British Columbia. Strangely enough, it first flows north before bending south into the United States.

That answer led to another question, then another. Within minutes, I was reading about Ice Age floods, glacial lakes, salmon runs, hydroelectric dams, and the geology of the Columbia Gorge. Every answer seemed to uncover an older one.

Reading 1 John this week, I noticed John asks the same kind of question about love. He traces it back to its source. He writes, "God is love."

Those four words reach farther back than creation itself. John refuses to let us define love by starting with ourselves. We naturally begin with what we have experienced, what our parents modeled, what our culture celebrates, or what our own hearts desire. John begins before all of it. Before there was a world, before there was a human being, before there was anything outside of God, God already was. That is where John tells us to begin if we want to under-

stand love.

That claim is stranger than it first appears. Creation reveals power. It reveals wisdom. It reveals order. It does not reveal that ultimate reality is self-giving love. The ancient world knew gods who were powerful, violent, and unpredictable. John announces something entirely different. Love does not begin with us. Every human experience of love is downstream from the God who is its source.

Every ministry is built on a doctrine of God, whether

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it realizes it or not. What we believe about God eventually becomes the way we welcome families, the boundaries we establish, the hope we

offer, the forgiveness we extend, the accountability we expect, and the kind of community we build.

People often ask what makes Open House Ministries different. They notice the housing, the counseling, the parenting classes, the job training, and the practical care we provide. Those things matter, but they are not the source. They are the overflow. We believe God is love. That conviction shapes every conversation, every difficult decision, every class, every prayer, and every act of care because every act of genuine love is meant to point beyond itself to the God from whom it comes.

• *Chaplain Jon Nichols*



2026 Open House Ministries Block Party & Resource Fair

Thursday, August 13th 11 am - 3 pm

Over 55 area organizations will be on campus, sharing vital services and information with our neighbors.

- Preventative Pet Care from The Humane Society
- Free Haircuts from Deltennium / Great Clips
- HEP-C Testing • DSHS Mobile Office



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

Free BBQ Lunch and Treats

Carnival Games and Prizes

OHM Fashion Show

Vancouver Church Yum Truck Ice Cream

Pop Corn • Cotton Candy and More!

For a complete list of participating organizations and block party details, visit our website at sheltered.org

SAVE THE DATE!

**GIVE
MORE
24!**

A GREATER VANCOUVER
CHAMBER PROGRAM

**Mark your calendar for
September 24!**

Open House
Ministries is
teaming up with
Five Guys

Burgers and Fries
for a day of giving!

**FIVE
GUYS**

For more information go to sheltered.org

SHELTER NEEDS

Bottled water • 8.5 x 11 Copy paper

Box fans for shelter units

Household items • Hair conditioner

One-pound packages of hamburger



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**
We're a family shelter

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www.sheltered.org