

RESIDENT STORY

Growing in Hope and Grace

Jenn first learned about Open House Ministries through a contact at Emergency Support Shelter in Longview, Washington. Jenn was receiving help for addiction at the time when she met Laurie Russo, who was working with the treatment program. When Laurie shared the Open House Ministries shelter information with her, Jenn contacted the shelter right away and added her name to the waitlist.

After completing and graduating treatment, Jenn transferred to an Oxford House in Kelso, Washington, and waited for a space to open up at the shelter. Jenn shared how grateful she was when space became available at Open House Ministries. "I remember moving in and seeing my apartment for the first time," she said. "It had such a big impact on me after being homeless and on my own."

Jenn quickly settled in. She shared how much she appreciated the program and talked about how much she learned from the classes. She was encouraged when she received an OHM Value Award and excelled while helping Lori Richardson in the donations department and in the thrift store.

One of the highlights of Jenn's time in the program was attending the Radiant Hope Women's Retreat at Skamania Lodge. She joined a small group of residents, her case manager, and other staff from Open House Ministries who gathered for a weekend to learn about living in the fullness of joy as Christians.



Jenn with her case manager, Audrey Holmes

Jenn expressed how her whole experience at Open House Ministries has been supportive. How she's grown closer to God and built a strong relationship with Him. And in March



able to maintain my sobriety while getting to know myself, building a strong and solid foundation."



Jenn is especially grateful for her case manager, Audrey Holmes. "She's always been there for me," said Jenn. "I thank God for making OHM my residence where people truly care about me." Her gratitude was also expressed by Audrey, who said how inspirational Jenn has been as she gives back to Open House Ministries for all she's been blessed with.

"Open House Ministries is a one-of-a-kind place," said Jenn. "It's changed my life and my son's life, even though he doesn't live here with me. It has been an amazing opportunity because other people believed in me, even when I struggled to believe in myself."

Jenn's life has changed so much since she lived in Longview and her time in treatment. Now Jenn is working at Open House Ministries, recently hired for a position at the shelter front desk. We are so excited for Jenn. Her passion for living a life in Christ is a blessing to us all. Please pray for her and her son as she continues to grow in hope and grace. ●

GRACIOUS GIVING

A Lasting Legacy

Making a planned gift to Open House Ministries isn't just for the wealthy or for those trying to minimize taxes. It's a wonderful way to leave a legacy and continue a lifetime of support for an organization you believe in.

There are many ways to help using non-cash assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, and real estate. These can enable you to both avoid income and capital gains taxes and even provide a lifetime income.

After providing for family, friends, many people choose to remember charitable organizations that are important to them by including them in their will or trust. If you believe in the mission of Open House Ministries, this can be a significant and lasting way for you to help ensure we have a strong financial future and continue to provide families with life-changing assistance.

If you would like to learn more about what options might be best for you, please contact our office to make an appointment. We are happy to share information that will help you decide if this might be a way for you to make a lasting gift and impact families for generations to come. Please contact Sarah Nichols at 360-737-0300 or email Sarah.Nichols@sheltered.org for more information.

Thank you for considering Open House Ministries in your estate or tax plans. ●

Housing Is Not The Finish Line

One of the most important lessons I've learned as a chaplain is that people rarely need just one thing. When someone arrives at Open House Ministries, they often need belonging. Many have experienced isolation, instability, broken trust, or the feeling that they have been forgotten. Being welcomed, known, and treated with dignity matters. Human beings are not meant to carry life's burdens alone. But belonging is rarely the whole story.

Over the years, I've sat with hundreds of individuals and families. What I've discovered is that beneath the practical needs for housing, employment, and stability are often deeper questions. Some

people are asking questions of purpose. They want to know what their life is for. They are not simply looking for a place to stay. They are looking for a direction to walk. They want to contribute. They want to rebuild. They want to become the kind of person they were created to be. A warm welcome matters, but eventually they need a path forward.

Others are carrying the weight of fractured relationships. They may be wrestling with regret, resentment, addiction, estrangement, or years of painful choices. Their deepest need is not simply acceptance. They need reconciliation. They need opportunities to make things right, repair trust, seek forgiveness, and begin again.

This is one reason why housing alone is rarely enough. A person can have a roof over their

head and still feel lost. They can be surrounded by people and still carry unresolved wounds. They can be welcomed into a community and still wonder what comes next.

Real change rarely comes from meeting a single need. People need a place to belong, but they also need meaningful work, healthy relationships, responsibility, and opportunities to grow. They need a reason to get up in the morning and a vision for

the future that is larger than simply surviving another day.

Interestingly, belonging itself often grows out of these things. The strongest communities are not formed

merely because people occupy the same space. They are formed when people share a common purpose, work toward common goals, and support one another through challenges. Belonging deepens when people begin building a life together.

This is why our work extends beyond providing shelter. Housing is essential, but it is not the finish line. Our goal is to help families move toward stability, purpose, and restoration. We want parents to rediscover confidence, children to experience security, and families to develop the tools they need to thrive long after they leave our campus.

Everyone needs a place to belong. But people flourish when they also have a purpose to pursue, relationships to restore, and hope for the future.

• *Chaplain Jon Nichols*

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The Children's Summer Program Needs You!



**Full Day and Three-hour Shifts Available
Monday – Friday
Through August 21st**



**Revival House Thrift Store Needs Pricing Volunteers
Four-hour Shifts • Monday – Friday**

Go to Sheltered.org for Volunteer Information

MINISTRY EVENT

Christmas in July FOOD DRIVE

Open House Ministries is teaming up with Positive Life Radio and local churches for a food drive throughout July.

You can help! For fundraiser details and drop-off locations go to www.plr.org

Together we can raise awareness and strengthen families in our community.



SHELTER NEEDS

**Bottled water • 8.5 x 11 Copy paper
Paper towels • Toilet paper
Box fans for shelter units
Household items • Hair conditioner
One-pound packages of hamburger**

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

WAYS TO GIVE

Please remember Open House Ministries in your planned giving, estate, or will.

Thank you for your support. You are a blessing!



OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES
We're a family shelter

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