



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**

We're a family shelter

Connections

April 2021

SHELTER UPDATE: CREATING NEW SPACES FOR LEARNING

Helping Our Children Succeed

There is always something new going on at Open House Ministries. Last September, when our school-age children began remote learning at the shelter due to the pandemic, staff and parents mobilized quickly to keep them on track and advance their studies. Recently when the state of Washington announced the partial reopening of schools, our children started going back to their classrooms and catching up with friends. While everyone is



Vikkilyn helping with Zoom classes in the learning center

grateful to have schools returning to normal, several discoveries were made while our children were attending classes remotely at Open House Ministries.

"It has been a great seven months helping the kids in our remote learning center," said Vikkilyn Rolfs. "We set up the third floor of the family resource center with educational posters and had headphones and cubbies ready for each child. No one knew what this was going to look like. We were learning to connect each child with their teachers in Zoom classes and working to navigate through new territory. The first week was crazy."

After investigating, Vikkilyn found a great solution to help children and their parents connect with teachers and better understand the requirements necessary for their children to succeed in each class.

"I did a little research and found these wonderful things called splitters," she said. "When we attached the splitters to their digital devices, the parent, volunteer, or I could 'click in' to the class with our headphones and hear the teachers."

(continued)



Mom and daughter working through lessons

ANSWER TO PRAYER

Announcing Jon Nichols

OUR NEW CHAPLAIN

We are delighted to announce Jon Nichols, who will be joining the Open House Ministries staff in May of 2021 as our new Chaplain.

Jon will be relocating from San Diego with his wife Sarah and their two sons, Micah, and Jude. Jon is an ordained pastor, spiritual educator, and counselor. He brings years of experience in pastoral care, church ministry, spiritual guidance, and chaplaincy.

One of Jon's greatest gifts is being a passionate leader. He also enjoys building strong relationships which will be a true blessing for the residents, staff, volunteers, and donors at Open House Ministries. We have enjoyed spending time with the entire family and believe Jon has been called to serve with us.

We are grateful for Jon and his family, and look forward to seeing what God has planned! ●

SAVE THE DATE

**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
HOPE
FUNDRAISER**

*Community
of Hope*

June 3, 2021

To find out more visit our website at:
www.sheltered.org

LEARNING CENTER CONTINUED

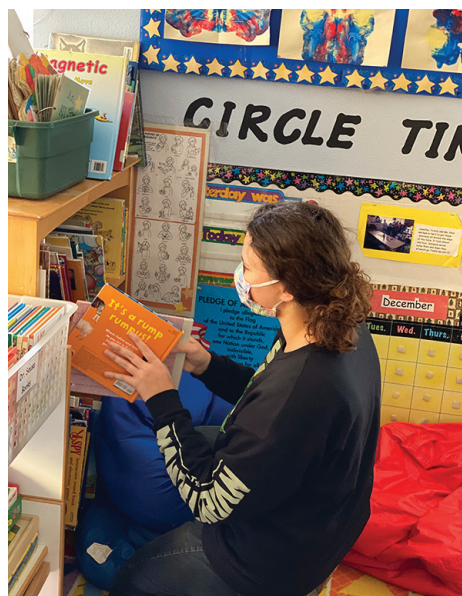
The learning process quickly improved as parents became actively involved with their child's schoolwork. Open House Ministries was blessed with wonderful volunteers who came in and "clicked in" to give each child one-on-one support. A fantastic tutor was also available to help our high school students with focused math and science instruction. One of our girls elevated her reading capacity three grade levels in time, making the honor roll. One of the boys was reported as making better progress at Open House Ministries after two weeks of hybrid learning at his school.



Vikkilyn and Taisiya in the childcare center

Vikkilyn expressed concern as she discovered startling information about remote learning since stay-at-home regulations were implemented. When talking with several daycare supervisors, she found they could not give students in their facilities critical one-on-one support.

Successful results in the learning center have since prompted a novel change at the shelter. Plans to include the learning center in the childcare center are underway, making a new space out of the school-age room in the shelter. Open House Ministries is also happy to announce an addition to our childcare and learning center staff. Taisiya Rozhkova has recently joined our team and will be working with Vikkilyn, helping children with their studies.



Taisiya organizing books in the center

The childcare center's new learning center space will accommodate children with room to study and assistance as needed. Creating a new place for our learning center will continue to provide a safe environment for kids to speak up and say, "Help! I don't get it." and we will be able to help make sure they do. ●

HAPPY EASTER

HE IS
Risen

He is not here; he has risen just as he said.
~Matthew 28:6

TAX-WISE 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 do this through the use of non-cash assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRA's 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 and others, many individuals also 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.

Planned gifts can provide many benefits and we would be delighted to discuss the various options that might be best for you. We have the expertise and information that will help you decide if this might be a way for you to make a gift and assist in getting your financial affairs in order.

Please contact Jean LaCrosse at 360-737-0300 or email ross.merritt@sheltered.org for more information and please consider including Open House Ministries in your will.
Thank You! ●

NEW STORE HOURS

Secondhand Solutions Thrift Store
Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm
Wednesday 11am - 5pm

Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop
Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm
Wednesday 11am - 5pm

SHELTER NEEDS

- Canned and boxed non-perishable foods
- Men's gloves • Hand warmers
- Men's boxer shorts
- Boy's underwear

Thank You!



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