



OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

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Progress Not Perfection: Each and Every Day

You might hear “Progress, not perfection” if you were to observe a meeting between a family and their case manager. These words put life in perspective when working through the interwoven causes and effects of being homeless. It is also a phrase that Ashley personifies.

The Open House Ministries resident can tell you that her road has been bumpy. She freely acknowledges her journey is not perfect, but she is making progress ... each and every day.

Six years ago, Ashley arrived at Open House Ministries pregnant with her second child. The stay was brief, and after her daughter was born, she and her husband departed. From there, life was punctuated with adversity as the relationship turned dark and he became physically violent. She fled and her estranged husband was put in jail. Without a place to live, Ashley moved in with a friend. Regretfully, the primary income provider in that household was injured, lost their job, and then lost their housing. So, for the second time, Ashley, her son and daughter were homeless.

Ashley pitched a tent on the streets of Vancouver. A week later, Child Protective Services (CPS) intervened and Ashley lost custody of her children.

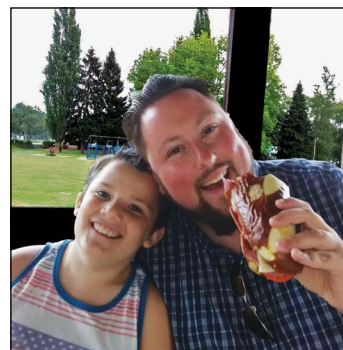
Homeless and heartbroken, Ashley didn't give up. She was determined to prove she was not a drug user and worked to be reunited with her children. Moving from temporary shelter to temporary shelter while maintaining her sobriety, Ashley regained the rights to unrestricted and unlimited visitations with her kids. In 2016, she was given a second chance at Open House, and with it, reunification with her children.

Today, Ashley is eager to share what this second chance has meant for her. “The personal counseling and support you have given me at Open House is huge.

I never had support like this from my own family,” she explains.

Learning life management skills has really been a work in progress for Ashley. For example, two years ago you would have found her hoarding, hiding and avoiding staff during room checks. Today, thanks to a partner program her case manager arranged, she has reversed those patterns. “I used to hide things during room inspection, and now I cannot stand it if my home is not clean, clean, clean!” she states excitedly.

By offering community and structure, the Open House case management team has helped Ashley's whole family make better life choices. Her fiancée, Anthony, has been gainfully employed for three years and continues to participate in Open House



What is this?
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SHELTER NEEDS:

Adopt-A-Room
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"The Unexpected Gift"

Chaplain's Corner - August 3, 2018

The "City Saints" softball team has represented Open House Ministries for years in church-league softball. On July 15, I received a significant concussion when a batter hit a hot shot down the third base line, which careened into my left eye. Doctors and family urged caution, as this was my second recent concussion after a tree limb fell on my head on July 4. Since then, I have experienced cognitive losses typical to concussions: loss of memory, trouble with processing, fatigue, weakness and fear.

My best friend, Kevin, lives in California and asked the dreaded hard question; "What is GOD saying to you, Mark?" Our friendship has weathered the blistering pace of ministry at Open House over the miles. Kevin has experienced these divine interruptions – his life was profoundly impacted by wounds suffered in the war in Iraq, and he now spends his days in a powered wheelchair. He patiently helped me unpack my fears, my new and old weaknesses, while not bothering to compare our losses.

The conversation went to the pace of life at Open House, now shut down by this accident. Sitting at home

for the past two weeks on sick leave, was a time for deep reflection, prayer and healing. In my heart, I want to share with all others about the goodness of GOD in Jesus, yet I had once again defaulted to operating at full throttle, trying "My Utmost for His Highest" (Oswald Chambers). GOD tenderly reminded me that the best that I can do is actually what He alone can do. Paul said it best:

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (II Cor.12:9-10)

I thank the residents and staff of OHM who loved and prayed for me. Thanks to all of you, our beloved supporters and co-laborers in ministry who stepped in to serve. And I thank my wife, Gini, who tenderly cared - even preaching for me - out of her heart of love.

With Love on the Journey,

Mark Roskam, Chaplain



Progress Not Perfection: Each and Every Day (Continued from page 1)

programs. Children's counseling and parenting support has made a huge difference. And in February they moved into transitional housing. Ashley now holds onto the power of prayer, attends the weekly chapel at the shelter and is encouraged that her son is involved in a home bible study.

Jodie, a case manager, attests, "Ashley is consistently taking steps in the right direction. She is open to learning and making her life better for herself and her family."

Ashley has learned that progress comes when you respond. "It's not perfect, but we are getting better all the time," she says with a smile. Your generous support has given Ashley the structure she needed to be at peace with being a work in progress, each and every day.



When They Are In Your Care - You Calm Down the Melt Down

From the desk of Vikkilyn Rolfs, Director of Daycare



“Come and see this. It is soooo cool!” exclaims Vikkilyn Rolfs as she shows off a light table that changes colors. At the perfect height for a toddler or preschooler, the table is topped with a translucent tray which holds thousands of multicolored plastic beads. The children run their fingers back and forth in the beads, experiencing a vibrant array of colors. Luminous patterns come alive at the touch of tiny fingertips. Vikkilyn, the daycare director continues, “This table also has other accessories like numbers, letters, larger beads that the kids just love to play with. It gives them a hands-on learning experience which helps them in the development of their motor and language skills. I have hoped for years that one day we could have one of these, and now, thanks to a grant, we have two!”



The grant Vikkilyn is referring to is a \$5,000 award received this spring from the Vancouver Energy Community Fund to support the Open House Daycare “Sensory Calming Project”. The grant equipped the daycare with an assortment of sensory items and equipment that the daycare staff can now put to use.



The sensory therapy products are durable and

professional grade, like those developed years ago by child care experts for children with special needs. Since then they have found that most children, special needs or not, enjoy the comfort that they provide. The items include blankets, vests, stuffed animals, lap pads and squish pockets. They are colorful and weighted. Vikkilyn explains, “They are very calming and soothing if you’re having a bad day or even on a good day! They feel like a soothing hug and have a calming effect that helps the child focus.”



As Vikkilyn asks several of the children to help model the vests, she explains, “The weighted blanket is really amazing. All of these items really help us to ‘calm down the melt down’ when a child is having a hard day. The calming affect is almost instantaneous when the child hugs the weighted bear, or sits with the glitter gel lap pad.”



Thanks to these wonderful “gifts” from the grant, the children in the daycare center have a whole new world of sensory experiences to explore.

Thank you Vancouver Energy Community Fund for funding the Sensory Calming Project!

Kids Helping Kids!

Thank you to 8 year old Life Oxford (seen here with his mother Meagan) who raised \$817.15 from a lemonade stand he hosted to benefit OHM.



Thank you to our local neighborhood youth who assembled and delivered backpacks to the shelter for our school age children in support of the HOPE program.



We are grateful for teenagers and counselors of Kaleo Missions Groups from all over the country who have volunteered their service throughout the summer. Bless you all!



Thank you Amiah Langlitz (9 years old) for your hand sewn 4H project as a gift for one of our children.



AT SECOND HAND SOLUTIONS THRIFT STORE

We love our Seniors and Military Personnel!


Introducing Special 20% Discount Days!

- Wednesday Senior Discount Day ~ 20% off any merchandise purchase!
- Saturday Military Discount Day ~ 20% off any merchandise purchase!

Offer valid at the Second Hand Solutions Thrift Store, Clothing Annex and Antique Room.

SECOND HAND SOLUTIONS THRIFT STORE

Located in the **Open House Ministries Retail Shops** on 13th
915 West 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660 • 360-735-5943

When you shop the Open House Retail Shops on 13th, 100% of your purchase helps support homeless families at Open House Ministries. Like us on Facebook! 



ADOPT-A-ROOM

Join the "Adopt a Room" program to furnish a studio apartment with the basics for a new family. Call the shelter at 360-737-0300 or visit our website www.sheltered.org for more information.



GIVE MORE 24!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

**On 9/20/18
Please remember
the children of
OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES**

**September 20, 2018
is Give More 24!, Southwest
Washington's day of giving.**

**To see how you can be
involved, see our website at
www.sheltered.org.**