




**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**

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*"You have established
all the boundaries
of the earth;
You have made
summer and winter."*

Psalms 74:17

Connections

August 2019



Kaleo day camp in shelter's new gym built memories, friendships

Games were played, Bible stories were acted out, snacks flowed and, most importantly, relationships were built.

"Older kids were really fun to play with," said an 11-year-old resident at Open House Ministries when asked about her favorite part of Kaleo Missions' camp week at the shelter in late June. "We learned about Jonah and the whale and Daniel in the lion's den and the three dudes," said a 7-year-old resident. "I got to make new friends," said another middle-school girl living in the shelter.

Vikkilyn Rolfs, director of day care at Open House Ministries, said the relationships were integral. "We had some huge breakthroughs with kids during camp week that helped direct case managers to areas of need."

Kaleo Missions has been blessing Open House Ministries with its urban outreach for nine of its 10 years, ever since it began serving the Portland area. "We love Open House and are so thankful for our partnership," said Ronnie Davis, Kaleo's director.

Kaleo recognizes that our corner of the Pacific Northwest is one of the most unchurched regions of the country and that it also has a high percentage of homeless people per capita. "The mission of Kaleo is to care for the poor and marginalized people of the urban United States," says its website. Urban mission trips are a primary tool the organization uses to accomplish that mission.

While based in Dallas, Texas, the Gospel-centered ministry trains and draws on groups

from all over the country to serve in various locations. This time around, young people from Faith Church in Kent, Washington, were dispatched to the camp week at Open House. Our kids adored them.

This year was the first that Kaleo was able to offer a camp experience that could take advantage of the gym and gathering spaces available in the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Family Resource Center, made possible through the generosity of our donors.

In the past, the shelter's day care served as basecamp for Kaleo week. Cramming dozens of extra, full-grown people in a space

that comfortably houses 10 young children was always challenging.

"What a blessing it was to have a gym available for Kaleo to play sports, have activities and Bible time and build those one-on-one relationships," Rolfs said.

"The ministry of Open House is incredible and we love the opportunity for our teams to come to serve," Davis said. He added that Kaleo teams always learn from the work Open House is doing with homeless families in transition.

"We are so thankful for all of the staff at Open House, especially Vikkilyn and her team. They are always a tremendous blessing to Kaleo," he said.

Kaleo and Open House seem to be a match made in heaven. 

For more information, visit: www.kaleomissions.org.

(See sister article "Belonging," on page 2)



Cycling Route 66 for the homeless

Chaplain's Corner

In the New Testament, there are two dominant words for life — “bios” and “zoe.” The former, “bios,” refers to days, and the quality and duration of those days, in a physiological, biological sense. The latter, “zoe,” connotes life in the absolute sense — life as God has it for humans, full and free through Jesus. Literally, “zoe is a term equivalent to the Gospel,” according to Vine’s Dictionary.

As I begin my 10th year at Open House, God has given me a front row seat to “zoe,” as Jesus rescues and restores, enlivening many people to real life — rich, full and free.

I am taking this message of Good News on the road through the heart of America on Route 66! For nearly five weeks, beginning in September, my brother Mike and I will bicycle 2,448 miles, the entire span of Route 66. From Chicago to Santa Monica, California, we’ll ride to promote the Christ-centered program that is restoring lives at Open House Ministries. We hope to raise \$66,000 for operations at Open House and are enlisting your “by-the-mile” prayers and financial support.

Both Mike and I have extensive bicycling experience. In

2017, my brother, an avid cyclist, with his wife Sherrill in material support, rode from Astoria, Oregon, to Virginia Beach, Virginia (over 4,200 miles!). Conditioning for Route 66, we are now up to riding nearly 400 miles

each week. And in September, with a support vehicle driven by our wives, Gini and Sherrill, we will pedal between 70 and 100 miles per day, six days per week, ending around October 11 at the Pacific Ocean.

We’re asking for prayers and pledges of pennies, dimes, quarters and dollars per mile for this 2,448 mile trip (lump-sum gifts are also welcome). Not a single dollar raised will be spent on expenses during the trip, as it will be entirely self-funded.

To donate, call Leslie Cook at

360-737-0300 or visit Open House website events page at <https://www.sheltered.org/upcoming-events/>.

Join us as we co-labor with you in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus in our life together at Open House Ministries and beyond!

Doing life together with you,

Mark Roskam



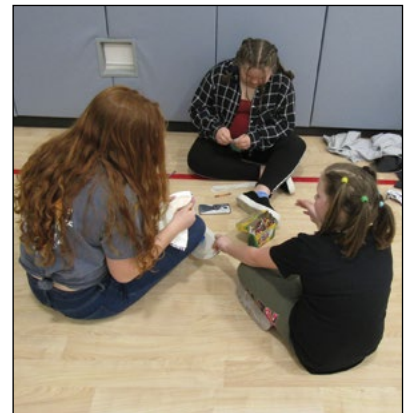
Belonging

“I like it ’cause I’m normal here,” one of our young residents told a Kaleo camp counselor. It warmed and broke the counselor’s heart, and it points out one of the gifts we strive to give the families here at Open House Ministries.

Belonging is a basic human need. Abraham Maslow, the American psychologist best known for creating Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, believed the need to belong was such a major source of human motivation that it’s third on his list of five human needs, sitting only behind physiological and safety needs.

Brené Brown, best-selling author and research professor at the University of Houston, put belonging this way: “We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. When those needs are not met, we don’t function as we were meant to. We break. We fall apart. We numb. We ache. We hurt others. We get sick.”

Feeling like you belong to a place, a group or your experiences is important. It’s something people experiencing homelessness often lack, and it’s something Open House and the care and generosity of donors and volunteers can help restore. That one of our young residents voiced that sense of belonging in the place she calls home kicked off our summer right.



Love in pictures

When getting life back on track after addiction or homelessness, family portraits are usually way down on the list of priorities.

Professional photographer Katie Harding recently set out to change that. The owner of Arrowcreek Portraits volunteered her time and talents to capture images of Open House residents and offer them a series of memorable family portraits.



trait — upbringing, history, finances. All you can see is the love in a picture.”

Sessions took about 30 minutes and, in some instances, Harding took advantage of what was happening naturally — moms cuddling with toddlers or families laughing together.

“The families went out of



“It was one of those things that was on my heart. Those kids needed some sort of physical image with their parents — a nice one, not a cell phone picture — so they can remember good times in a good place with parents who are happy, healthy and doing well,” said Harding.

The talented photographer has been capturing images for five years. Her goal is to touch the hearts of others, through shots of families, individuals, seniors, new babies, weddings and engagements.

Harding adds, “Circumstances don’t really matter when it comes to a por-



their way to make the pictures special,” she said. “Everyone was dressed up. It was an event they cared about, and I was blessed to be able to freeze that moment in time for them.” ❤️



To see more of Katie Harding’s work, please visit www.arrowcreekportraits.com.

Have a talent or service to share, or want to volunteer in general? Please call 360-737-0300 or fill out the volunteer form on our website (www.sheltered.org/volunteer/).

Breaking the Cycle of HOMELESSNESS



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



Follow brothers Mike and Mark Roskam as they pedal their way on a fundraising bicycle ride this fall. For more than a month, the cycling enthusiasts will ride 2,400-plus miles along historic Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica, California. Funds raised will go to Open House Ministries to help end the cycle of homelessness. Expenses on the trip will be funded by the cycling team.

"God has given us our good health and stamina to do this. He is in us and with us every mile on the road," says Mike of the duo's goal of raising \$66,000 for Open House.

To support Mike and Mark on their quest to help break the cycle of homelessness, call Leslie Cook at 360-737-0300 or visit our website events page to make your by-the-mile pledge or secure donation for this event at <https://www.sheltered.org/upcoming-events/>.



Mark your calendars for September 19, 2019!

Join us for 24 hours of generosity in our community. Mark your calendar for Sept. 19 and head over to our Give More 24! event page to support OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES with a single click. Matching funds and prizes can make your gift to Open House go further on this community-wide day of giving.

www.givemore24.org/organizations/open-house-ministries



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

givemore24.org

**GIVE
MORE 24!**

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

TAX-WISE GIVING

We often hear our generous donors say they wish they could do more to support Open House, as they want to see Christ-based shelter and assistance going to even more families. Including Open House Ministries in your will or trust is an excellent way to help.

Another way to make a significant gift to our ministry is by transferring all or part of an appreciated asset, like stocks, mutual funds, or real estate, to Open House Ministries and avoid capital gains taxes. As an alternative, you can transfer an appreciated asset into a Charitable Gift Annuity or Remainder Trust, which will avoid the upfront capital gains tax, and retain life-time income (most of it tax free) from the asset. Plus, you will receive a current-year tax deduction. Please contact me, Ross Merritt (ross.merritt@sheltered.org/360-737-0300), if you would like more information or have any questions.

~ Ross Merritt, donor relations volunteer

Volunteers Needed!

We have immediate needs for individuals and groups to volunteer with us - from working in our thrift store to leading activities with our children in our gymnasium! Please visit our website to apply or call Claudia Merritt, Volunteer Resources Coordinator, at 360-737-0300.

SHELTER NEEDS:

Paper towels, razors, Kleenex, size 4 and 5 diapers, quart- and gallon-size zip-close baggies, boys and girls socks and underwear (all sizes), day bus passes, copy paper.



**Please consider Open House
Ministries in your will or trust.**