

ANNOUNCEMENT

OHM West Groundbreaking Celebration

Record heat didn't stop the ground-breaking ceremony at Open House Ministries. Representatives from the City of Vancouver, Clark County, Washington State, and area organizations gathered in the gym on July 25th to celebrate OHM West, the 30 apartment complex being built adjacent to the Open House Ministries campus. Members from faith organizations and guests from our community also received a warm welcome from Jim Mains, fundraising committee co-chair, and heard an inspiring message from Chaplain Jon Nichols.



Founder Joanne Kendall with Executive Director Renée Stevens

Executive Director Renée Stevens shared the importance of cultivating hope in the lives of residents who find their way to Open House Ministries, and the impact

graduate families have on our community when they move on to stable housing. Honorary Co-Chairman Michael Lynch expressed gratitude and the vital need for a shared vision with area leadership who understand the importance of lasting solutions for our homeless population. (continued)



Honorary Co-Chairman Michael Lynch addressing the audience



OHM West Design and Construction: L-R: Jim Sheppard, Dale Kvamme, Lisa Slater, ED Renée Stevens, Dennis Schmid, and Brian Dudley

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Building Community

In classical Hebrew, there are three words for community: **edah**, **tzibbur**, and **kehillah**. Rabbinic tradition teaches that these words are not mere synonyms. They each have their own distinct meaning.

Edah comes from the word meaning "witness." It is an expression of community formed by those who have attested to the same thing or gathered for a common purpose. For example, those who have attended a conference, or in the case of the 12 spies who surveyed the Promised Land in the Book of Numbers, was an Edah.

Tzibbur comes from the word meaning "to heap" or "pile up." The image is that of a group of people who just happen to be at the same place and time. It's a nominal form of community that is an expression of numbers rather than identity. We might speak of tzibbur when we speak of a crowd who saw a surprise concert by a band or the thousands who were present when President JFK was assassinated. There is no uniting purpose, but in some sense, they are united, having experienced the moment together.

Then there's the word **kehillah**. This form of community expresses the idea of a collective purpose and that each member contributes to the whole. They don't merely share the same moment. (continued)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

They have come together for a communal enterprise that requires individual and collaborative participation and contribution. It is said at Mt. Sinai, Israel becomes a kehillah. Those who were not a people became a people because of God.

It is kehillah that I believe best describes Open House Ministries as a community. We who were not a people have become a people because of God. 35 years ago, the Lord brought together a group of individuals united by a common mission to help homeless families by providing shelter and intervention through Christ-centered, life-changing programs. This vital work could not have continued without the hundreds of volunteers, staff, residents, and donors who generously offer themselves, their time, and their resources.

One of the beautiful and fundamental pillars of Open House Ministries' success is the broad connection and partnership with you. We are not the work of one person, leader, church, or business. We are there result of many people, leaders, churches, and businesses coming together for the past 35 years to see the Kingdom of God established here in Vancouver as it is in heaven. Community, in the deepest, most real sense, is not found. Community is made. It requires effort and work. We observe this truth in Paul's instructions to the Church in Galatia, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). I see the work of making community with us every time you remember us and our residents in your prayers. It is the work of making a community every time you drop off donations or get your bike serviced at our bike shop. It is the work of making community every time you welcome one of our residents into your businesses and churches. It is the work of making community every time you refer a family in need to us. Every time you share and educate others about our work, you make community with us.

For those reasons and many more, I am so grateful that you walk alongside us, and together we are **kehillah**. Together we have carried the burden of our homeless families in this community. And it's only together that we will continue to do so. ● *Chaplain Jon Nichols*



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SHELTER NEEDS

- Bottled water
- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes
- 8.5 x 11 Copier paper
- Pull ups of all sizes

GROUNDBREAKING (CONTINUED)

Founder and Honorary Co-Chair Joanne Kendall and guests of honor were recognized by OHM Board President Dick James for their commitment to the ministry and Project Cornerstone, the capital campaign for OHM West. Speakers Bart Hansen from Vancouver City Council and State Representative Paul Harris both expressed their appreciation for the new housing project and recognized the history and example of ministries

caring for people struggling with homelessness.

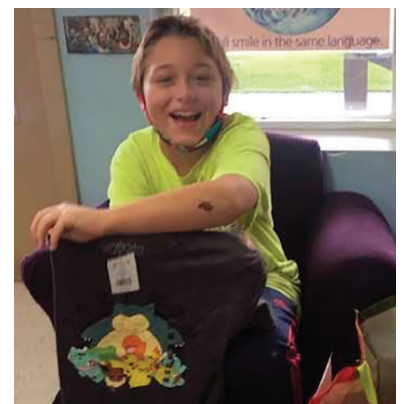
We are grateful to our friends and supporters for joining us and sharing this important milestone in the 35-year story of Open House Ministries. If you would like to learn more about OHM West and Project Cornerstone, please visit our website at www.OHMWest.org or contact Jean LaCrosse at 360-737-0300 ●



OHM Board Directors L-R: Mark Maggiora, Launda Carroll, Dick James, Joanne Kendall, ED Reneé Stevens, Andrew Roskam, David Scott, Heather Knudson, Bryan Dent, Jim Hoeffner, Tim Peters, and Andy Hamlin

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Adopt a Kid for School this Fall



We're getting ready for school! You can help our students go back to class with confidence and put big smiles on their faces with new back to school clothes. If you would like to participate in *Adopt a Kid for School* at Open House Ministries, contact Vikkilyn at vikkilyn.rolfs@sheltered.org You will be blessed. *Thanks!*