



Connections

August 2023

MINISTRY BLESSINGS

The RE/MAX Equity Group Foundation chooses Open House Ministries

Getting ready to go back to school will be easier for families this year thanks to RE/MAX Equity Group Foundation. Students at Open House Ministries will have new backpacks filled with school supplies when they return to school this fall.



The agents and staff who serve through the RE/MAX Equity Group Foundation focus their charitable time and resources in Portland Metro and SW Washington counties where they work. Through 2021 they have given back close to two million dollars to community organizations who serve people in need.

We appreciate being chosen for their backpack and school supply drive, helping our students return to school prepared on their first day back.

You can learn more about the RE/MAX Equity Group Foundation and their outreach programs at www.regfound.org •

GRACIOUS GIVING

Maximize Your Giving

There are many ways to support Open House Ministries and its efforts to help families get back on their feet with lasting solutions for our homeless population. We have many generous donors that support us with outright cash gifts and donations for our residents and thrift store. Many of you have supported Open House Ministries with non-cash gifts.

When you explore other ways to give your assets, you may be able to increase your impact and experience personal tax savings.

Some examples and options include:

- Adding OHM to your will or trust
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Real Estate
- Business interests
- Life insurance
- Appreciated assets like stocks and bonds
- Personal property
- Vehicles

If you would like to discuss any of these options please contact Jean LaCrosse at 360-737-0300 or email Ross Merritt at ross.merritt@sheltered.org. *Thank You!* •

OHM WEST CONSTRUCTION



Contractors have poured concrete defining the shape for the courtyard of OHM West. Stop by soon and see the exciting progress taking place next door to our campus. To find out more on our affordable housing complex, OHM West, visit our website at OHMWest.org or call 360-737-0300.

TOURS & TALKS

Want to see Open House Ministries up close?
First Friday tours are back!
Noon to 1 pm
Contact us for a tour at events@sheltered.org

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Practice of Living in God's Presence

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Always?! Without ceasing?! In all circumstances!?! Who has time for this? After work, laundry, dishes, appointments, fixing the broken sprinkler head, homework, and, oh did I say, more laundry? I'm done. If anyone needed proof that Paul was single, this verse is compelling. As a parent, the only thing I'm always doing, without ceasing, and in all circumstances, is laundry.

I don't think I'm the only one that has struggled with this verse. I was told in premarital counseling some 18 years ago to avoid extreme words like "always" and "never." Apparently, the Apostle Paul didn't get the memo.

So, what are we supposed to do with this? It is easy to set it aside as hyperbole. Before we do this, though, it is important to understand what prayer is.

What is prayer? Petition? Thanksgiving? Intercession? Listening? Yes, prayer can take these forms.

I would define prayer as awareness of God's presence. See, when I'm aware of God's presence, I'm drawn into thanksgiving, intercession, petition, or quietly listening for the Lord's voice. And would it benefit me to cultivate an awareness of God's presence at all times? Yes.

So, while it is easy to allow perfection to be the enemy of progress, let this serve as a prompt to pause and become more aware of God's presence with us. Go ahead. Try it.

• *Chaplain Jon Nichols*

CHILDREN PROGRAM

Summer camps are bringing kids together



Kids at Open House Ministries have been participating in science days, youth theater, soccer camp, and swim lessons. Volunteer

groups will be on campus throughout August teaching basketball, and holding Vacation Bible School for our community kids.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Countdown to the Open House Ministries Block Party & Resource Fair

Thursday, August 10th • 1pm to 5pm



Free Block Party Includes:

- BBQ Lunch & Ice Cream Treats
- Secondhand Solutions Fashion Show
- Games & Prizes
- Preventative Pet Care
- DOL Services
- Hair Cutting Stations
- Give-a-Ways and More!

Thank You! to our sponsors and supporters:

- Humane Society for SWWA: *Preventative Pet Clinic*
- Vancouver Church: *Ice Cream Treats*
- Deltennium: *Great Clips Hair Cutting Stations*
- Frito Lay
- Corwin Beverages
- Franz Bakery
- Crossroads Community Church
- Evergreen Bible Church
- Grace Foursquare Church
- Journey Theater
- PLS Engineering

SHELTER NEEDS

- Canned fruit
- Canned soups and chili
- One pound packages of hamburger
- Boxed dinners
- Bottled water
- Baby wipes
- Lysol spray
- Women's deodorant
- Paper towels
- Infant and toddler socks
- Children's toothbrushes



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