

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How We Are Keeping Hope Alive

One of the highlights at Open House Ministries is our annual Hope Fund-raiser. Each year we focus on the strength of hope and what that means to everyone in our ministry. We know first hand how hope has transformed the lives of families coming into the shelter, and have watched residents, who often hear about Jesus for the first time, replace years of brokenness with new life and hope.

This year we were blessed to hear powerful messages of hope from several of our current and graduate residents. They shared



Christina with her daughter, Amiliya

how living at Open House Ministries has given them an opportunity to learn new life skills and build solid futures. They spoke about their struggle to find help and how spending time in our program has renewed their hope.

I remember how powerful it was to have people walk next to me when I came to Open House Ministries with my children. They believed in me, and keep me in their prayers. And just as it is with these residents, Open



Chaplain Jon Nichols sharing God's work in the lives of our graduate residents living in our off-site apartments



Executive Director Renee Stevens with event emcee, Eric Sawyer

House Ministries taught me how to live a new life in Christ and find lasting hope.



Paul sharing his education journey at OHM

Our community is struggling with many challenges from drug related issues to a lack of true affordable housing opportunities. If you were unable to attend the event on June 27th, or haven't had a chance to watch the recording, please visit our website at **Sheltered.org** and click on the *Keeping Hope Alive* link. I know you will be encouraged to see how God is using Open House Ministries to help heal our community, one family at a time.

Our work is primarily funded through private donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations. We appreciate your support and know you will be blessed as you help us keep hope alive and bring the gospel to people working to build stable lives.

Blessings,

Renee Stevens

Renee Stevens
Executive Director

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 contact Jean LaCrosse at 360-737-0300 or email Ross Merritt at ross.merritt@sheltered.org.
Thank you! ●

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

Abiding in Christ

Imagine standing before a black-smith's forge, the air thick with heat and the smell of burning coal. In the heart of the forge, an iron rod glows intensely, almost blending into the flames surrounding it. The once cold, lifeless metal now radiates with the fire's brilliance and heat, transformed by the flames.



on the heat and glow of the fire without becoming the fire, we share in the glory of God through our union with Christ. However, this glory is not ours—it is God's.

Yet, when we distance ourselves from God's presence,

like an iron removed from the fire, the warmth of His love and the brilliance of His holiness fade within us. Jesus reminds us, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." (John 15:4).

Therefore, let us be encouraged to remain and abide in Christ, for in Him, we find our true identity and purpose. As we immerse ourselves in His Word, in prayer, and in fellowship with other believers, we draw closer to Him. Jesus promises, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7). This promise calls us to stay connected, live in His presence, and glow with His love and grace. ● Chaplain Jon Nichols

As the iron stays in the fire, it absorbs the heat and light, becoming something more than it was. Yet, no matter how long the iron stays in the fire, it will never become the fire. The moment the iron is removed from the fire, it starts to cool and lose its glow, quickly returning to its original dark and cold state.

This powerful image illustrates the Christian life. We are called to become like Christ through our union with God. As we remain in God's presence, we are transformed by His holiness and love, reflecting His character and glowing with the light of Christ. Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Similarly, just as the iron takes



Open House Ministries recently baptized a group of our children who made commitments of faith in Christ at summer camp. We were blessed to witness the celebration with their families on our campus. Please pray for these kids as they grow in their relationship with Jesus.



Chaplain Jon Nichols and Children's Program Coordinator Hannah Emrick baptising children back from summer camp

OHM WEST UPDATE



Finishing work continues throughout the three floors of apartments and ground-level vocational training thrift stores at OHM West. We are excited to be nearing the completion date for the truly affordable housing complex next to our campus. For more information please visit OHMWest.org



Ott Gaither (l) joined Executive Director Renee Stevens, Jim Mains and Michael Lynch for a tour of OHM West

JOB OPENINGS

Full-time Case Manager
Part-time Child Care Position
Full-time Shelter Receptionist
Part-time Volunteer Coordinator

Please inquire at
careers@sheltered.org

SHELTER NEEDS

Toilet paper • Paper towels
Disposable razors
Clorox wipes • Hair conditioner
Bottled water • Canned goods
One pound packages
of hamburger
Thank you!



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

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