



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**

www.sheltered.org

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*Come, let
us adore
Him!*



Connections

December, 2018



Look Inside!

Blessed by You – Diana's Story

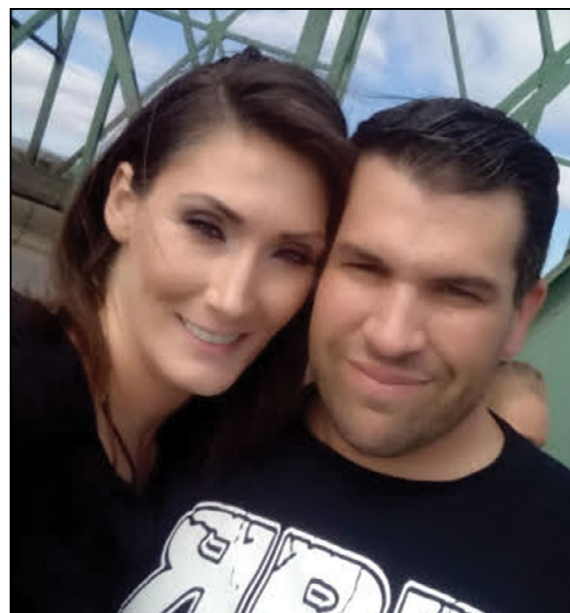
Diana settles into the chair, relaxed and at ease. Her smile radiates a calm and excitement about her future. She is employed, her family is together, she is going to school, and she is picking up and rebuilding the pieces of her life that were shattered not long ago. Less than two years ago, Diana's family was fractured, her future bleak and her life spinning out of control.

Diana knows what it is like to be caught up in the damaging cycle of chronic drug addiction. She had her first child at the age of 16 and by the time she turned 19 she was actively using drugs. She and her partner were "on again/off again" with substance abuse, living a vicious cycle of methamphetamine addiction, treatment, re-entry, panic, then relapse. She will tell you today that for fleeting moments, meth numbed the chaos of her broken life, helping her to forget the misery. When she came out of treatment the last time two years ago, Diana was despondent, unable to support herself and without life skills or self-confidence.

"When I was clean, I would live with my mom, always dependent on someone else. Our relationship was strained. I could never figure out how I was going to take care of things. I never had a job. Each time I got sober I would panic wondering how I could support me and my kids [today 12, 16 and 19]. I would push, trip out and go back to drugs."

But soon things were to change. In 2016 Diana was separated from her children

and her boyfriend. For a spell she was in a halfway house in Spokane, WA. She soon relapsed and was in jail again. Coming out of jail in 2017, she was accepted into Open House through the Jail Re-entry Program and that is when miracles started to happen.



Chaplain Mark told her, "Trust the process and tame the rebel". For the first time in her life she had a chance to "just be." Blessed by you and working together with a team of resources Diana has broken the cycle of addiction and homelessness. While she cannot pinpoint any one moment ("There are so many!"), she is clear about one thing: the difference in her life today is God.

Today, Diana is joyfully rebuilding her life. Her family is reunited, and Diana's relationships are stronger than ever. She and her family are clean and sober. The celebra-



Christmas Peace

Chaplain's Corner - December, 2018

I own a 1969 Toyota Landcruiser. Years ago, after a long day of cleaning and polishing *The Cruiser*, I decided to gas it up. After filling the tank, I started home, when the truck suddenly began to heave, smoke and lurch down the road, slowing to a crawl. I wondered, “*What changed?*” Only the gas. I called the gas station, to find out that they had mistakenly put diesel fuel in the underground fuel tank designed for regular gas.

Similarly, many of our families living at Open House Ministries are trying to live on the wrong “fuel in their tanks.” Whether volitionally or consequently, they find their lives in turmoil and chaos, much like my truck lurching down the highway. Often, this upheaval actually becomes “the new normal” for their lives and they lose track of how long life has been “messed up.” One of our mothers recently said, “*It is really hard to learn how to parent, when I was never parented.*” All they know is that life is not working.

Shalom is the Hebrew word for “peace.” Interestingly, there is a positive and negative side to *shalom*. Positively, *shalom* can be seen as harmony between two parties in right relationship (like a smooth-running old truck). In contrast, *shalom* can also be seen in the “destruction of

authority attached to chaos” (like an old truck running on bad fuel!) Literally, part of the journey towards *shalom* is the draining of the old and the refilling with the new.

Just a few days ago, a middle-aged, homeless man named Jordan, came into Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop. While I helped him with his badly broken bicycle, he asked, “*Do you ever have spiritual warfare in your life?*”

I confirmed and routed the question back to him. After an hour together with our bike staff, he surrendered his life to Jesus, with many tears and much confession. Though challenges remain, much has changed. Pray for him. “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here*” (II Cor.5:17 NIV).



At Christmas, we revel in the Good News of Jesus’s birth and that He “*became flesh and moved into the neighborhood*” (John 1:14 MSG). Jesus is our “*Prince of Peace.*” We celebrate these foundational truths at the heart of the ministry at Open House Ministries. We bless you for your loving support of our families on this “*peace mission.*”

With Love & Fond Affection,
Mark Roskam, Chaplain

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here” (II Cor.5:17 NIV)

Blessed by You — Diana's Story (Continued from page 1)

tion of her daughter's marriage was a recent high point and tribute to just how far your support and prayers have brought her and her family. They moved into transitional housing in the summer of 2018 and she is working to fulfill her life-long dream of completing her cosmetology degree and pursuing a career in that field.

Diana has a clear message for you. “I cannot say it enough: I am so thankful for Open House! My family, my God, a new perspective on life. Every day I wake up and I say aloud, ‘I love my life!’ I give all the credit to God. I really found Him here.” Thank you!



10 TIPS FOR YOUR 2018 TAX REPORTING

January will be here before you know it, so we compiled a short list of tax planning reminders for you this month.

1. Charitable gifts of currency in any amount require a gift receipt.
2. Bank records (canceled checks or credit card statement), payroll deduction record or a gift acknowledgment qualify as “proof” of contribution.
3. Collect gift acknowledgments before filing your tax return.
4. Do you volunteer? Your out of pocket costs incurred performing services are tax deductible.
5. You can deduct any payment over the Fair Market Value (FMV) of Items or services “won” or “purchased” at a charity event such as a benefit luncheon or golf tournament.
6. Charities cannot appraise FMV of donated goods in-kind, so retain your receipts.
7. Good news for your IRA Roll over! Taxpayers age 70 ½ or older may give up to \$100,000 from their IRAs and Roth IRAs to Open House Ministries without having to pay income tax on the withdrawn amount.
8. Mail-in donations postmarked by December 31, 2018 qualify for a deduction on your 2018 return.
9. If processing an e-check through your bank, check the time zone when the transaction will be date stamped.
10. Process online gifts to Open House Ministries through www.sheltered.org by 9pm PST (midnight Eastern time) on December 31st to ensure IRS compliance for a 2018 contribution.

*Open House Ministries is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization with Federal Tax ID # 94-3028685.
For questions specific to your financial situation, please consult with your professional accounting and tax advisor.*



Yes! We Are Open!

Open House Ministries Retail Shops on 13th

***Second Hand Solutions Thrift Store & Coffee Shop
Wheel Deals Bicycles***



December Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday — 10am-5pm

Wednesday — 11am-5pm

***We will be closed December 25th in observance of Christmas
Closed January 1, 2019: Happy New Year!***

905 West 13th Street, Vancouver WA 98660

Follow us on Facebook for weekly specials!

***100% of proceeds support homeless families
at Open House Ministries***



SHELTER NEEDS:

Socks, gloves, hand warmers, blankets, twin size beds in a bag, Rubbermaid totes and dressers, baby food, diapers size 3, wipes, baby formula, small laundry detergent, small dish detergent, toilet paper.