



OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
We're a family shelter

Connections



December 2020

SHELTER UPDATE: CHRISTMAS

Christmas Celebrations at Open House Ministries

Our calendar is packed with fun activities for our families at Open House Ministries. As the Executive Director, and prior Christmas coordinator, I have observed how lives are impacted by the generosity of people who care. I believe those acts of kindness reflect the spirit of Christmas and honor Jesus, who is the reason for the season.

Even though our Christmas program has changed to keep everyone safe, the spirit of Christmas at Open House Ministries remains the same. Fun contests for the best door decoration and ugliest Christmas sweater are being organized and we will be decorating cookies, gingerbread houses, and wearing our favorite festive socks. The kids will be participating in making their own Christmas story book about the birth of Christ and creating a nativity scene.



Christmas Giving

We have several Christmas helpers this year who are collecting a wish list for each of our shelter families. Our gift lists include clothing sizes and a gift idea for each member of the family.

Unwrapped toys are also being collected for kids of all ages, and anyone needing a little help choosing the perfect gift can always pick up a gift card from Fred



Executive Director Renee Stevens with donated Christmas gifts



Meyer or Target. Gift cards are a huge hit with teens and provide easy solutions for this year's program. The last day to drop off gifts will be December 21st.

If you would like to help with food this holiday season, or gift a Christmas dinner for our families, our pantry would appreciate boxed dinners, yams, rolls, and pies. The pantry at Open House Ministries can also use apartment-sized cleaning products, laundry detergent, and toiletries as well as children's socks and underwear.

For more information on how to help Open House Ministries for Christmas please contact Claudia Merritt at 360-737-0300 or email: claudia.merritt@sheltered.org.

As COVID-19 has been on everyone's mind, we appreciate community members who respond generously each year to our appeal for Christmas Angel Gifts. Our families have been blessed and everyone participating becomes an amazing part of our Christmas story. The outreach Open House Ministries receives from our community is a great encouragement and we know blessings flow in both directions. *(Continued)*



While many Christmas events at OHM have been canceled, our hearts are still celebrating the birth of Christ and this time of rejoicing!



"For this day in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men."

~Luke 2:11&14



Christmas Giving Perspectives

This is a special time of year that seems to change our perspective and helps to put us in the mood for giving and doing more for others. We seem to think less about our own needs and desires and consider others, which helps to make it a wonderful time of the year. You, as our faithful supporters to Open House, are doing this for our residents and staff by your generous support of your time, talent and treasure. Thank you!

Christmas is a good time for giving and Open House Ministries (OHM) seems to be at the top of your list for receiving generous gifts. You have been so faithful in this very challenging year and we cannot thank you enough for being so supportive in helping homeless families have a place to call home and helping them to realize there is a new and better direction they can take. They hear the message that God gave us the greatest gift of all

because He "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

As a volunteer in the development office I have had the pleasure of talking to many of you and hearing how much you love supporting the mission of OHM. Many have told me they wish they could do even more, which often gives me the opportunity to discuss how they can do that by remembering to include a percentage of their estate through their will/trust or with beneficiary designations, after they have decided how much to leave to their family. Thus you are deciding to treat OHM as a family member.

If you would like to discuss in more detail how to consider making a gift of this type please call me at the shelter (360) 737-0300 or email at ross.merritt@sheltered.org.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Gift of Open House Ministries

As the holidays unfold at Open House Ministries, I am reminded of how God has given us great blessings this year.

Organizations and church groups have stayed committed to us, knowing how our mission to help restore homeless families in our community is working. We are so grateful to each and everyone of them for their trust in our ministry.

We continue to rely on God, even as the pandemic continues to run its course and the struggle to respond with grace during unfamiliar trials stretches our faith.

Open House Ministries remains a gift to many families, staying true to our mission and reaching out in faith to those who need Jesus.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to include Open House Ministries in your end-of-year giving. The need to help our most vulnerable population by providing real-life solutions, love and compassion continues as the impact from COVID-19 destabilizes more families in Clark County.

Thank you for your love and concern for our staff members, volunteers and the families staying at Open House Ministries this year.

We pray you and your family are staying connected during the holidays and Christmas.

Blessings,

Renee Stevens, Executive Director



"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, ... present your requests to God." ~Philippians 4:4-6

JOB OPENINGS

OHM Little World Daycare is in search of 2 child care workers, full-time and part-time. If interested, please contact careers@sheltered.org for an application.

SHELTER NEEDS

- Clorox wipes and hand soap
- Lysol disinfecting spray
- Canned and boxed non-perishable foods
- Hats, gloves, hand warmers
- Socks and underwear for men, women, and children

Thank You!



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