

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Blessings and New Beginnings



OHM celebrated the Grand Re-opening for Secondhand Solutions thrift store, Wheel Deals bicycle shop, and the new addition of The House Coffee Shop located on the ground level of OHM West.

We have many reasons to celebrate at Open House Ministries this month. I want to thank all of our friends and supporters who generously gave to our ministry over the holidays. Residents were blessed by your kindness and witnessed first-hand how a caring community makes a difference in their lives and the lives of their children.

Volunteer groups from our faith community were on campus, serving dinners and providing Christmas celebrations. All of our families received gifts through our Adopt-a-Family for Christmas program and through our Christmas Angel ornaments placed on giving trees around our community. The Portland Wholesale Lumber Association provided a fun night filled with entertainment, a Polynesian



dinner, and generous gifts for all the kids in our ministry. It was an amazing Christmas and we appreciate all the gifts and time shared with our families.

Resident graduates are moving into the 30 apartments at OHM West, grateful to have sustainable housing close to friends and support from our ministry. Secondhand Solutions thrift

store and Wheel Deals bicycle shop are settling into their new locations on the ground level, and we now have a new coffee shop on campus.



Soon, residents working on their job skills will have the opportunity to add barista training at The House Coffee Shop to their resumés.

I want to thank Robertson & Olson Construction for their diligent work on OHM West. Their team kept a close watch on our budget and worked hard to stay on schedule. Their compassion toward Open House Ministries will be felt for generations through the generous gift they have given to help finish our capital campaign, and we are deeply grateful.

We appreciate your prayers and support as we move forward, working to restore homeless families in Christ. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of families struggling in Vancouver and Clark County.

Blessings,

Renee Stevens
Executive Director

GRACIOUS GIVING

Helping Open House Ministries in a Convenient Way

Many of our supporters are taking advantage of our automatic-donation option. It's an easy way to simplify your giving to Open House Ministries on a monthly basis with a credit card or an automatic bank withdrawal.

Recurring gifts are very helpful, allowing us to make even more strategic plans for providing homeless families with shelter, intervention and Christ-based, life-saving programs. Your reliable support for Open House Ministries helps make a steady and dependable stream of income, enabling us to create a solid financial foundation for this ministry.

Automatic donations are easy to set up. Just go to our website at www.sheltered.org and click on *Donate* to fill out the required information; or call us at 360-737-0300 and we can assist in setting it up for you. Thank you for giving to Open House Ministries. Please consider including Open House Ministries in your will or estate plan. ●

TOURS & TALKS

**Join us for a First Friday Tour!
Noon to 1 pm**

**To sign up, contact us at
events@sheltered.org**

JOB OPENINGS

**Secondhand Solutions
Thrift Store Shift Lead**

Full-time position

Case Manager

Full-time position

Children's Program

Coordinator

Full-time position

Please inquire at

careers@sheltered.org

Be Still and Be Filled

One of the most important lessons I've learned in ministry, which I often share with my residents, is this: you can't give what you don't have. Whether you work in a helping profession, engage in ministry, or bear the responsibility of caring for others, it's easy to feel pressured to keep pouring out your energy, even when you're running on empty. It's like lending your last dollars to a friend, only to find yourself unable to pay rent. To give, you must first have—and to have, you must first receive. Even our capacity for compassion and love isn't self-made; it's a gift we first retrieve. That's why our primary calling isn't to serve others but to be recipients of His transformative love.

When the needs of others surround us, it's easy to neglect our souls. We push harder, convinced that effort alone will suffice. But without first receiving from God, we have nothing of lasting value to give. Jesus showed us a better way. He prioritized time with the Father, drawing strength and renewal before pouring into others.

So, I urge you: Be still and be filled. Make space for God's presence. Stillness doesn't require a silent retreat. The God whose robe fills the heavens is present even in the mundane tasks of daily life. Leave a seat open at the table. Pause to pray before a meal—then add 30 seconds of silence to listen and receive. Take a deep breath between tasks, turning it into a moment of gratitude. Or, as you fall asleep, open yourself to Him in prayer. And who knows? He might even answer in a dream.

Today, pause and rest in the presence of the One who holds all things together. Let Him renew your spirit and fill your emptiness. Then rise, restored and steady, ready to serve with a heart full of His love and strength. In Him, you will always have enough. ●

Chaplain Jon Nichols

Getting ready for changes in the neighborhood

Preparation for realigning Kauffman Street with Jefferson Street next to the Open House Ministries campus is in the first phase. Crews from Clark Public Utilities have been on the property, making necessary changes and disconnecting power to the Annex building before demolition begins this week.

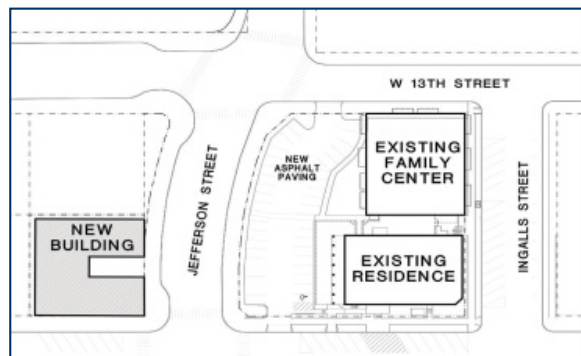


Changes in the road will require removing the building on the corner of West 13th Street and Jefferson. It will also open up the space next to the Open House Ministries Family Resource Center, changing the shape of the campus.

Stores will have street-level exposure on Jefferson for people making their way to businesses and restaurants on the waterfront.

Wheel Deals bicycle shop, Secondhand Solutions thrift store, and The

House Coffee Shop will stay open during road construction, providing shoppers and bike enthusiasts access to the stores. "We want customers to know that our stores will be open during road construction," said Renéé. "We are looking forward to having better visibility for all our stores."



"We have been working with the City of Vancouver for several years now," said Renéé Stevens. "The need to straighten out the road has been necessary for better access to the waterfront. The change will also add parking spaces that we need for our growing ministry."

The City of Vancouver is also adding to the width of the street leading down to the waterfront, creating a bike lane.

You can shop at Secondhand Solutions and Wheel Deals in their new locations at OHM West and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee at The House Coffee Shop. All three Open House Ministries stores serve as vocational training centers for residents working on their job skills. Proceeds from sales at all three stores support the operations at Open House Ministries. ●

SHELTER NEEDS

Diapers in sizes 4, 5 & 6
Disposable razors
Hand warmers Clorox wipes
Hair conditioner
Bottled water
Thank You!



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www.sheltered.org