

MISSION IN THE HOUSE

Vocational Training on a Mission

Moving to a new place is always a challenge. It takes a lot of time and work to organize and make choices when you relocate. There is also much to celebrate in fresh starts and new beginnings.

At Open House Ministries, we made the choice to move our thrift store and bicycle shop across Jefferson Street, and into the ground floor of the new building, where the stores would have better visibility in the neighborhood and space to grow. The move to the new location created an opportunity to rename the stores with fresh identities, and add a coffee shop where friends and neighbors are gathering to catch up.

All three stores serve as vocational training centers for our residents who spend time building job skills and learning how to manage their schedules. Store managers and staff are creating welcoming spaces for our community, making OHM West a favorite new place to shop and connect with friends.

While the location of the stores has changed, the mission to serve the community has remained the same. Wheel House Bicycle Shop is building on goals set by

founder Mark Roskam, who wanted people to feel connected and find support from followers of Christ.

Today, the shop coordinates with

a group of city and county organizations, taking in donated bicycles to refurbish, sell, and provide transportation opportunities to neighbors in need, sometimes as far as Seattle. "It's a joy to help people looking for bikes," said Angie Fosburg, Manager of Wheel House. "I get to serve all kinds of people and build relationships with community partners who want to help."



Angie Fosburg with bike shop mechanic, Isaiah Sheppard



The new thrift store, Revival House, has grown too, creating new experiences for our neighborhood shoppers. "We're excited to have the new space at OHM West," said



Tina Murphy, Revival House Manager

at Secondhand Solutions. We have gotten to know so many people, and we get to bless them here as we did across the street."

The addition of The House Coffee Shop has become a place of true caring and connection for shoppers and friends in the area. "I love serving people who come in for coffee. We catch up on their families and lives," said Miranda Jennings, The House Coffee Shop Manager. "We're also training residents with barista skills," she said. "They're excited to learn in a caring place that's focused on their success."

The stores in OHM West are located next to our shelter on W. 12th St and Jefferson. Stop in soon and see how we're growing. •

GRACIOUS GIVING

A Convenient Way To Help Open House Ministries

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 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 sustain a steady stream of income, enabling us to build 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 *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. We appreciate your generous support. Please consider including Open House Ministries in your will or estate plan. •

TOURS & TALKS

Want to learn more about Open House Ministries?

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

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



Miranda Jennings, The House Coffee Shop Manager

The faithfulness of God's work in us.

From time to time, people ask thoughtful questions about how Open House Ministries holds grace and growth together. They notice that we speak often about God's unconditional love. They also see that life here includes expectations like sobriety, accountability, and participation in community life. It is natural to wonder how those fit together. Isn't grace supposed to meet us where we are? And if so, how do expectations serve the gospel rather than stand in its way?

At the heart of those questions is something good. There is a desire to protect grace from becoming harsh or transactional, from the gospel being reduced to behavior compliance rather than change. The gospel, after all, is not earned, and God's love is not a reward for progress. No one here is asked to become "better" before they are welcomed, known, or cared for.

Yet grace, as Scripture presents it, is never static. Grace does not simply receive us. It reshapes us. It does not leave us stranded in the patterns that harmed us in the first place. As Paul writes, grace "teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives" (Titus 2:12). Grace not only forgives our past, it forms our future.

That is why expectations matter. They are not hurdles to clear. They are handrails for a difficult climb. When we ask residents to pursue sobriety or to live within shared rhythms of accountability, we are not asking them to prove their worth. We are helping protect a space where healing can actually take root. True compassion does not make accommodations for self-destruction.

Grace not only forgives our past, it forms our future.

Jesus modeled this kind of love again and again. There were moments when he fed the hungry. There were also moments when he refused to do so. He did not lack mercy. He cared too much to reduce people to their appetites or to keep them trapped in false hopes. His love was never permissive. It was always purposeful.

Open House Ministries is not a drop-in shelter. Families who come here choose to step into a structured, time-bound intentional community. It is a path marked by patience rather than perfection. It is a path marked by perseverance rather than performance. Growth unfolds slowly and often unevenly.

Life in that kind of community inevitably raises questions about how care and accountability are practiced. Sometimes people notice that not every struggle is handled in the same way. Scripture calls us to show no favoritism, and we live by that command (James 2:1). Scripture also does not call us to a one-size-fits-all approach to care. Not every situation can receive an identical response. Wisdom requires discernment. Some choices carry broader consequences for the safety, trust, and well-being of both the individual and the whole community. Our guidelines are shaped with that reality in mind. They are not meant to rank sins or assign worth.

They exist to safeguard a shared environment where individuals and families can heal, and where children can flourish.

Shared life always brings complexity. And grace gives us what we need to live it faithfully. So we move forward with confidence that the God who began this work will be faithful to finish it.

• Chaplain Jon Nichols

Celebrating Christmas with our families and wonderful friends of Open House Ministries!



Children joined in to sing at the annual Christmas event by the Portland Wholesale Lumber Association

Blessings came in all sizes this year as friends in our community reached out to give. Our shelter conference room was a flurry of activity as gifts for over 130 families were dropped off for our Adopt a Family for Christmas program. Businesses, organizations and our faith community gave generously with their time and gifts this year, blessing our ministry beyond measure.



We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of kindness from our community this year. Please know how grateful we are to everyone for your time and support. Blessings like these will live in our hearts for a lifetime. •

SHELTER NEEDS

Blankets • Bottled water
Paper towels • Toilet paper
Kid's shampoo
One-pound packages of hamburger
Thank you!

JOB OPENING

Volunteer Coordinator
Please inquire at careers @sheltered.org



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

P.O. Box 242
Vancouver, WA 98666
360-737-0300
www.sheltered.org