



OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
We're a family shelter

Connections

July 2020

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Measuring Steps of Grace

Summer has finally arrived and everyone at Open House Ministries is grateful for the months of good health and wellness at our family shelter. Like many of you, we have been diligent, sanitizing our environments and practicing safe distancing. Our staff members have done an amazing job, working hard to keep programs and life at the shelter moving forward in the midst of hard challenges and limited staff on campus.

We have missed our volunteers and the blessing each one of them brings to our ministry. The energy they give to the shelter is a treasure and the help they provide plays a big part in what makes Open House Ministries a special place to live and work.

Many of you have reached out, wondering when our thrift store and bicycle shop will reopen. Your commitment to Secondhand Solutions and Wheel Deals Bicycles is heartwarming and we have shared your anticipation, missing the fun of having open stores on our campus.

We are happy to announce the grand re-opening of both shops was on June 16th after three months of shuttered doors and observing the restrictions in place by the state from COVID-19. Both shops have limited hours and guests so please be patient as we work through each phase of opening up to the public. We want everyone to stay safe and have fun shopping.

I would like to invite everyone to participate in our annual fundraiser, *Hope In Motion* on July 23rd at 7 pm. This year we are gathering online at www.sheltered.org for a program of shared stories from our current and graduate residents. These stories are just a few from the many families who have come through our doors and found healing and restoration through our Christ-centered programs.



Please share the date with family and friends. I know you will be blessed, hearing from residents who have experienced first-hand the life changing programs at Open House Ministries.

To find out more about our fundraising benefit, go to our website at www.sheltered.org and look for the *Hope In Motion* event. Until then we pray you are staying healthy, trusting in God's timing and grace.

Blessings,

Reneé Stevens

Reneé Stevens
Executive Director

With a Heavy Heart

On June 21, 2020, our dear friend and pastor, Mark Roskam, went home to be with Jesus. We lost Mark to an aneurysm Sunday evening while riding his bicycle. His passing has profoundly shaken everyone, and Mark will be deeply missed by all those impacted by his life. Please pray for the Roskam family during this difficult time. We know Mark is rejoicing with Jesus. We love you!

The Process of Freedom

As we celebrate our nation's independence, we readily recall the costs. These costs were shouldered by faithful men and women throughout far more than our nation's 246 years. They are also a reflection of Jesus, who paid the ultimate price for our freedom from sin and to gain peace with God. Truly, freedom has always been very expensive.

At Open House Ministries, the struggle for freedom is a basic process as we see heavily-burdened people yearning to be set free from the brokenness of life. In one of our required classes, we study Hebrew laments as a part of our prayer life. We learn to lament, grieve, and yearn for freedom and relief while trusting in the God who hears our cries.

Though the struggle for individual freedom happens here daily, it is obviously a part of a larger change process for individuals and even for nations. Many of our residents find peace with God in the very process of straining to become "new." From their vantage point, their journey is much like a caterpillar entering the "tomb" of its chrysalis. Yet that is where the miracle of freedom begins.

The story is told of the father and son who excitedly watched a caterpillar's two beady eyes peek out as it emerged from its chrysalis. Hoping to help the struggling insect, the father carefully opened the hole, allowing its easy exit. They watched as the malformed bug with misshapen wings struggled for its life. Only then did they realize the necessity of struggle required for freedom. It was in the *struggle* that its newfound wings would gain vital strength.

In the context of current world struggles and national tensions, the need to lament to our caring God is great. The struggle and lament are good for us too and give us strength for such a time as this (Esther 4:14).

As we pray for our nation and the world, please pray for our young Christian community called Open House Ministries. We are forever grateful for your partnership in this essential ministry to invaluable lives.

With love and fond affection,



Mark Roskam
OHM Chaplain

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." II Cor.5:17 (NKJV)



SHELTER NEEDS

- Clorox wipes and hand soap
- Disposable face masks
- Canned and boxed non-perishable foods
- Diapers: Size 5 & 6

Thank You!

TAX-WISE GIVING

Please consider Open House Ministries when planning your will or trust.

For more information contact

Ross Merritt at:

360-737-0300 or email

ross.merritt@sheltered.org

BENEFIT EVENT IN JULY



Please join us on July 23rd

Online at 7 pm

www.sheltered.org

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generosity and support for this fundraising event.

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