



**OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES**

*We're a family shelter*

# Connections



July 2021

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

### Community of Hope Celebration

**J**une 3rd marked our first community gathering on the Open House Ministries campus since COVID restrictions were lifted. Guests were treated to heartfelt stories from six of our residents, sharing their life experiences and journeys. Videos from our community friends and supporters enhanced the focus on the strength of our community.



*Graduate resident and OHM board member, Heather Knudson, sharing her story*

Heather Knudson gave her inspiring testimony, adding insight to how Open House Ministries gives residents the tools they need to build a successful future. Heather's story as a former resident with five small children was a blessing to hear. Her life since graduating from our program has been built on her faith in Christ and today Heather is grateful to have broken the cycle of addiction in her own family.

Executive Director Reneé Stevens spoke about the importance of connecting with community partners and how those connections are instrumental in our ministry's future. Board President Dick James reported on current homeless statistics in our area and the growing need for affordable housing. He shared upcoming plans Open House Ministries has to build new apartments for struggling families next to our campus on Jefferson Street.

Thanks go out to our supporters, staff, and volunteers for creating our first hybrid event at Open House Ministries. If you missed the program on June 3rd, please watch and share the recording on our website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org). We know you will enjoy the stories from people who have been touched by Open House Ministries. ●



*Host Eric Sawyer entertaining the audience and sharing his love for Open House Ministries*

## HOPE FUNDRAISER

*Thank you for supporting*



*Community of Hope*

You can see a recording of our event from June 3rd on our website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

## SUMMER CAMP

### Summer Camp is coming to Open House Ministries!

We are partnering with YMCA Columbia-Willamette for two fun weeks of camp opportunities.

#### Basketball Camp

July 12th – July 16th

Ages 4 - 6: 9 am - Noon

Ages 6 - 12: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Players will join in fun games designed to improve passing, ball handling, shooting, and defending.

#### Fitness Fun & Games

August 9th – August 13th

Ages 4 - 6: 9 am - Noon

Ages 6 - 12: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Campers will be having fun with interactive games focusing on agility, coordination and cooperation.

For availability please go to [www.ymcacw.org](http://www.ymcacw.org)

For Summer Day Camps contact

Jennifer Lawrence at:

JLawrence@ymcacw.org or (360) 258-3835



## God Meets Us Where We Are

Conversations the past few weeks have reminded me of the seemingly subtle but important difference between the two statements:

**It doesn't matter what we do, God loves us.**

**Regardless of what we do, God loves us.**

What is true in both statements is there is nothing we did to earn God's love and nothing we could do that would cause God to stop loving us. God's love comes with no preconditions. Paul declares this beautiful truth in Romans 5:8 which states, "God demonstrated his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The subtle but important difference between the two is that God does care about what we do. God cares about what we do not because he wants something *from* us, but because he wants something *for* us. God wants for his creation to flourish. He wants us all to experience the good and beautiful life with him. As Paul wrote, "God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

What we do and how we live matters. Sin has consequences. All who have sinned or been sinned against know the devastating power of sin. Yet, God's love is never held out as a reward or punishment for human behavior. Thank God for this! I know my heart needs to hear this. One of the ruinous lies that the enemy whispers to us when we sin is that we now need to hide from God. In our sin, we wonder if God can and still loves us. Worse yet we begin to think we need to fix ourselves to be worthy of his love. These lies not only keep us from experiencing God's love, but they also ultimately keep us from experiencing the joy of life with Christ. For the joy of life *with* Christ is a life *like* Christ.

This is what's so amazing about grace. God meets us where we are, and God does not leave us there. God comes to us in our sin and brokenness and leads us to new life. He washes us clean and helps us to our feet so that we may walk with him. We could never *out sin* God's grace, nor should we want to once we've truly tasted how good it is. Regardless of what we do, God loves us.

● Chaplain Jon Nichols

## Children and Charity

Many questions arise when we consider the options for giving to our children. Why should we give? When, what and how should we give? Will gifts impact the self-esteem and initiative of the child? Can a gift plan transfer values to children?

These are all important questions. Clearly there are better ways to give and a prudent parent will consider carefully the manner, nature and amount of gifts to be of the best benefit and value for the child. There are many considerations and we have an excellent paper on the "Seven Questions on Gifts to Children" that we would be delighted to send you.

In the same way gifts to charity, especially larger gifts and perhaps gifts from assets, might create questions about how, when and what might be the best type of gift to make. The necessity to feel comfortable about having enough to last for your lifetime is important as well as possible tax consequences. For most people a bequest from your estate would be a logical gift and even a small percentage could be significant for the charity and much larger than what you're capable of giving during your lifetime. A possible consideration would be to treat charity as one of your children, which is what I have decided to do.

We would be glad to discuss these and other ways you can support Open House Ministries. Please contact Ross Merritt at (360) 737-0300 or email at [ross.merritt@sheltered.org](mailto:ross.merritt@sheltered.org).

### NEW STORE HOURS

#### Secondhand Solutions Thrift Store

Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm  
Wednesday 11am - 5pm

#### Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm  
Wednesday 11am - 5pm

### SHELTER NEEDS

- Boxed and non-perishable foods
- Men's gloves
- Socks of all sizes
- Men's boxer shorts
- Boy's underwear

### JOB OPENINGS

- Part-time Accounting Clerk
- Part-time Volunteer Coordinator
- Part-time Childcare Worker

For more information please email:  
[careers@sheltered.org](mailto:careers@sheltered.org)



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