

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Fun Summer Activities Keeping Kids Engaged

The summer months are filling up with fun activities for our kids with help from our faith community and area organizations. We are excited for our families as groups of volunteers will be on campus, sharing their time and talent, engaging in everything from Vacation Bible School to Carnival Day.

Journey Theater will be hosting our kids this summer for a week-long arts camp themed *A Year With Frog and Toad*. Children will be participating off campus at Journey Theater with a closing showcase, highlighting the program and their theater experience. We are grateful to Vicky Dillon and this faith-based organization for including kids from Open House Ministries in their summer events. Our staff and volunteers are also planning an Art Day in the gym for kids to express themselves through fun, creative projects.

Teams from the YMCA will be on campus for two basketball camps in July and a fitness and fun camp in August. Kids are getting excited for a swim week scheduled this summer with the YMCA.

Child Evangelism Fellowship will be joining us for a week of activities in



the gym along with groups from City Harvest Church, Vancouver Church, and Crossroads Church. We are grateful for our friends who share their faith and love for Christ with our kids during the summer months.



Summer is a great time for kids to build new friendships and hear the gospel. Please pray for our community as we open our doors to neighbors and friends. We are excited about the children's program this year and for our kids as they learn new skills and make new friends. There will be a lot of fun for kids this summer at Open House Ministries. •

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Gift of Children

As a child, I lived in my imagination. Playing cards wedged in my spokes turned my bike into a fighter jet. Old cardboard boxes cut and folded into shape were transformed into forts and spaceships. And the bucket of my dad's spare PVC fittings became a never-ending source of material to forge lightsabers and jet-packs.

Children play make-believe. They imitate what they see.

As a child, this was the epic battles of Star Wars, the adventures of Indiana Jones, and the events of my Saturday morning cartoons. But it was more than this. It was mimicking my dad shaving or laying under the car wrenching away. It was the way my mother held a pen or trimmed plants in the garden. It was the way my mother spoke to God when she prayed. And the way my father raised his hands in worship.

Yet, as theologian Stanley Hauerwas notes, somewhere in the process of becoming adults, we go from make-believe to mere belief. We trade imitation for propositions—embodiment for ideas. We learn to accept things as true that we do not live. We memorize facts and information and live largely unaffected by this knowledge.

Matthew 18:2-5 records, "He [Jesus] called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, (continued)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONT.

whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Jesus illustrates what humility and teachability look like. They look like being a child. Not that children are pure expressions of humility or that they exemplify everything it means to be teachable. Children have the same temptation toward pride and self-centeredness as adults, just packaged in a smaller footprint. Rather, what young children have by design is a developmental desire to do things on their own and mimic what they observe their parents and other significant authority figures in their lives doing.

I teach parents that their role is to help their children understand what it means to be a child. And their children help them learn what it means to be a parent. The second half of that statement often surprises many residents. I imagine in the same way Jesus' teaching to "become like little children" surprised his disciples.

It's obvious we have a lot to teach our children. What is not as obvious is that our children have something to teach us. When children respond to healthy structure and boundaries, they teach us about the goodness of God's Law. When we observe the slow development and maturation of our children, they teach us sanctification is a process. None of us arrive overnight. And when we see them imitating us and others, they teach us that learning is more than acquiring knowledge; it's putting it to practice.

I love that Open House Ministries is a family shelter. Not only is the family the most important social institution, there can be no such thing as a healthy Christian community without families. We have so much to learn and teach each other. Praise the Lord for the gift of children and the lessons we can learn from them.

• Chaplain Jon Nichols

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Pouring the foundation for OHM West



Concrete trucks lined the streets last week as crews worked hard on the foundation of OHM West. Exciting progress on the building is taking place each day. To find out more on OHM West, visit our website at OHMWest.org or call 360-737-0300.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Block Party & Resource Fair



Open House Ministries is hosting a community block party and resource fair for our neighbors in need on Thursday, August 10 from 1pm to 5pm. Guests will enjoy a free BBQ lunch, resource information from local organizations, blessing bags and much more.

Please pray for this event as we share God's love with our neighbors. For more information contact Bernie Gerhardt at bernie.gerhardt@sheltered.org



SHELTER NEEDS

Canned fruit • Canned soups and chili
One pound packages of hamburger
Boxed dinners • Bottled water
Baby wipes • Lysol spray
Paper towels
Infant and toddler socks
Men's and women's deodorant
Thank you!

GRACIOUS GIVING

Gifting

Creating a will or revocable living trust is an important step in your life journey. It's your opportunity to plan how you will benefit your family, friends and organizations like Open House Ministries after your life on earth has passed.

Including a gift as a bequest in your will or trust is a great way to support the future of Open House Ministries without giving away any of your assets today. If your circumstances change, a bequest is a gift that can be adjusted at any time, providing flexibility for an unexpected financial need.

A few ways you can support families through a charitable bequest to Open House Ministries are:

- Make a gift of a specific dollar amount
- Make a gift of a percentage of your estate
- Leave OHM the remainder of your estate after you have provided for your heirs

Your support for Open House Ministries ensures future families will have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and find hope for their families. Consult your financial advisor for more ideas on how you can share with those in need.

Please consider including Open House Ministries in your will or estate plan.

Thank you for giving to Open House Ministries. •



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**
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