

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

### Action Packed Summer

School is out and summer activities are in full swing for everyone at Open House Ministries. Our calendar is packed with a wide range of coordinated events. Kids will have opportunities to take swim lessons, attend basketball camp and participate in a Fitness and Fun camp with our friends at the YMCA. Vancouver Church is holding Vacation Bible School on campus, and our kids will have two days of IF Robotics activities to sharpen their tech skills.



"We will continue our summer program every day from 1 pm to 5 pm," said Children's Program Coordinator Hannah Emrick. "Kids will hear Bible stories, do projects, play games including pickle ball, and have movie parties over the next couple of months."

Read NW is teaming up for a summer reading challenge through their buddy program. "Keeping kids reading during the summer break gives them a chance to improve their skills before they head back to school in the fall," states Hannah. "We are grateful to Read NW and their reading buddy program. It has helped our kids stay engaged and learn to love reading."

August activities will include an overnight camping trip at Nolte State Park with Peak 7, an outdoor adventure organization. Kids will get to stay in a cabin, share in a campfire dinner, and take part in outdoor activities and games. Peak 7 is a faith-based organization, sharing the gospel with under served kids in the Northwest.

August will also include a Kids Carnival Day and fun games for kids at our neighborhood Block Party & Resource Fair on August 15th.



Please pray for our kids this summer. There are so many great activities on the calendar and we know they will have the opportunity to make new friends while they learn more about God. ●

## GENEROUS GIVING

### Making Great Things Happen

It is important to have an up-to-date Will or Trust. In addition to documenting how your property will bless your loved ones, your Will or Trust can be a meaningful and effective way to support Open House Ministries and our work to provide life-changing help to local families.

There are many benefits to planning a gift in your Will or Trust.

- Assurance. You have provided for others in the way you intend.
- Flexibility. Your gift can be changed during your lifetime if your needs or goals change.
- Impact. Support the work you care about most.
- Influence. Shape your personal legacy and set an example for others.

Your Will or Trust needs to be drafted in accordance with the laws in our state. We can refer you to attorneys who specialize in estate planning and there are even suitable online programs if you have a fairly simple estate. Please contact either Jean LaCrosse at Open House Ministries or email [ross.merritt@sheltered.org](mailto:ross.merritt@sheltered.org) if you would like to discuss or would like more information. ●

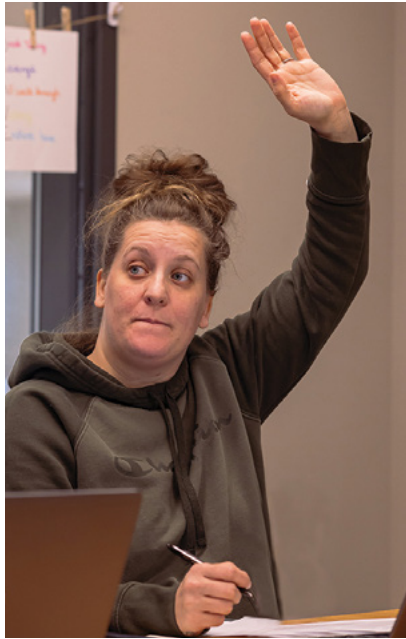
*Please consider including Open House Ministries in your will or estate plan.*

## TOURS & TALKS

**First Friday tours are back!  
Noon to 1 pm  
Contact us for a tour at  
[events@sheltered.org](mailto:events@sheltered.org)**

# The Questions We Ask

There is a common saying: "There is no such thing as a dumb question." Carl Sagan once elaborated on this idea: "There are naïve questions, tedious questions, ill-phrased questions, questions put after inadequate self-criticism. But every question is a cry to understand the world. There is no such thing as a dumb question." However, Sagan, along with many others, recognized that the questions we ask shape the answers we receive. Often, the difference between wisdom and folly lies not in the quality of one's answers but in the nature of one's questions. Poorly framed questions seldom yield fruitful answers.



Over the years, I have observed the questions people ask in times of crisis—questions that often lead to less-than-helpful answers. Questions like: "Why is this happening to me?" "What did I do to deserve this?" "How can I fix this?" "How can I ever get through this?"

Let's examine these questions. When we ask, "Why is this happening to me?" We are led to the door of self-pity and victimhood—a road that continues to despair and hopelessness. What is instead, we could ask a more faith-filled question, such as, "What is God teaching me through this situation?" or "How can I grow stronger in my faith during this trial?" By doing so, we shift our focus from our suffering to the lessons and growth that God may be offering us through our struggles.

Similarly, when we ask, "What did I do to deserve this?" we imply a belief in a punitive God. This perspective can lead us to feel unjustly treated and further isolated in our pain. Instead, we might ask, "How can I trust God's plan even when I don't understand it?" or "What can I learn about God's character through this experience?" These questions encourage us to lean into our faith, seeking to understand and trust in God's broader plan for our lives.

The question, "How can I fix this?" places the burden solely on ourselves, often leading us to feel overwhelmed and alone. It is a question that ignores and can sideline God's power and presence. How might our perspective change if we asked instead, "How can I rely on God's strength and wisdom to navigate this crisis?" or "Who can God send to help me through this?"

Finally, consider the question, "How can I ever get through this?" This question focuses on our limitations rather than God's limitless power, love, and grace. What would change if we asked instead, "What can God's grace accomplish in this situation?"

As we navigate life's challenges, remember that we are not alone. God walks with us every step of the way. The questions we ask won't change this. However, they can profoundly impact how we experience His presence and guidance.

● Chaplain Jon Nichols



We want to thank The Key Club for assembling 82 PBJ Picnic Packs for the families at Open House Ministries. You are a blessing!



The local Little Caesars on 78th street has partnered with the corporate Love Kitchen program out of Detroit, and on Friday, May 24th the Love Kitchen pulled up to OHM and served all the families! Over 200 slices of pizza, sodas, and cookies were shared with lots of smiles from the group. Thank you, Little Caesars!



## JOB OPENINGS

Full-time Case Manager  
Part-time Child Care Position  
Full-time Shelter Receptionist  
Part-time Volunteer Coordinator

Please inquire at  
[careers@sheltered.org](mailto:careers@sheltered.org)

## SHELTER NEEDS

Toilet paper • Paper towels  
Clorox wipes • Disposable razors  
Bottled water • Canned goods  
One pound packages  
of hamburger  
Thank you!



900 W. 12th St. | P.O. Box 242  
Vancouver, WA 98666-0242

360-737-0300  
[www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)