




**OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES**

[www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

P.O. Box 242  
Vancouver, WA 98666  
(360) 737-0300

Follow us on facebook 

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Your Gifts In Action -  
A Family Reunion Like  
No Other* 1

*Chaplain's Corner* 2

*When They Are in  
Your Care...* 3

*ACH Now Available* 4

*On The Road Again* 4

*Summer Events* 4

**As a father has  
compassion on his  
children, so the Lord  
has compassion on  
those who fear him;  
*Psalms 103:13 (NIV)***

### SHELTER NEEDS:

Baby food, deodorant,  
small laundry detergent,  
small dish detergent.

# Connections

*June, 2018*

*Look Inside!*

## *Your Gifts in Action - A Family Reunion Like No Other*

"Normally I would not be the one to offer to tell you all about my past, about my story. But I feel it is so important for people to know how Open House really changes lives." That powerful statement is from Tabitha, a mom about to be reunited with all four of her children by the end of June.

Tabitha quietly begins her story back in 2014 when she lost her house. Homeless, she started using drugs. Within a year, Child Protective Services (CPS) intervened. Her three children, 4, 8 and 9 at the time were sent up North to a foster family. In her words, it was "devastating", losing her kids, with the thoughts of never having them back again. "I felt hopeless, alone. I couldn't live with the thoughts of losing my children. In 2015 I attempted suicide, ended up in the hospital with a 14% chance of living. I stopped believing in God."

Tabitha's voice goes quiet as she recalls a most painful, deep memory...her own childhood. She was only 11 years old when she took to the streets to avoid an alcoholic mother and sexually abusive male in the household. She lived on the streets for the next eight years, surviving as she could. She tearfully recalls, "I thought my mom would come looking for me, but she never came..."

After a long pause and a deep sigh, Tabitha

resumes her story. After the hospital, she stayed with an abusive boyfriend, staying high "all the time" on meth and heroine to escape the pain. Then she became pregnant with her fourth child. As soon as she knew, she immediately stopped using.

Still, she bounced around and could not stay in one place. Although she did find work shortly after her son was born, he too was taken into custody and placed in foster care.

With two CPS case workers ready to permanently remove her rights to custody for her children, Tabitha was ready to do

anything to get them back. Both case workers confirmed she had one last chance: Open House Ministries. The only possibility -- not a guarantee --- of qualifying would be to go through

***"I couldn't live with the thoughts  
of losing my children.***

***In 2015 I attempted suicide..."***

the Open House program. And every week, even knowing there was a waiting list, Tabitha came in and appealed to Renee and Jodie to take her in. In August 2017 she was admitted and began to rebuild her life.



*(Continued on page 2)*



## *“The Famous One”*

### Chaplain’s Corner - June, 2018

My first day at Open House Ministries was wrought with nerves, multiple questions and few answers. I sat in the lobby waiting and trying not to look as conspicuous as I felt. Nine years later, Open House is “Home” to me and countless others. I am deeply and profoundly changed by the One who has been our cornerstone since day one.

A tour around our campus reveals how GOD has blessed this ministry for decades far beyond anything we could have imagined. The main shelter, now renamed the Kendall Family Shelter, is well traveled - running at nearly 100% occupancy for over 20 years - yet today it stands as functional and faithful as



ever. Our Annex building - nearly one hundred years old and greatly “storied” houses our thrift store and bike shop, provides countless residents with vocational training, is a regional favorite shopping experience for our customers, and offers a brief respite for people in our neighborhood seeking a few minutes out of the weather. And now, as I look at the new Tod and Maxine McClaskey Family

Resource Center, I see hopes and possibilities that have been only dreams - until now.

Yet, the hero in all of this is Jesus, the Famous One. Last week at our staff meeting, we looked back at over three decades of ministry, as the newest chapter begins with the opening of the Family Resource

Center. Let me share some reflections from our staff.

- We love our daily devotions, the spiritual activities and our faith-based foundation
- We value the diversity of our staff, supporters, volunteers and families; we truly stand on the shoulders of giants
- We treasure a ministry of deep, spiritual change amongst both residents and staff, and see this lived out in our life together as a “Community”
- We honor the Journey of life change, knowing that it takes time and patience to grow
- By the grace of GOD, we are able to give people the time to change.

Jesus “became flesh and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14 - MSG). He is our cornerstone, and we delight in being a small part of making Jesus famous in America in the 21st century.

Humbly Serving Beside You,

*Mark Roskam, Chaplain*

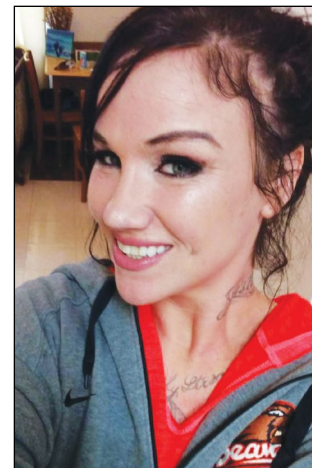
### A Family Reunion Like No Other - Tabitha’s Story (*Continued from page 1*)

***“I saw how God moves through the staff. They really walk the talk.”***

“This is the first place that has ever been a home to me. It was safe and they really cared about me. I came to devotions every day and worked with my Case Manager. I saw how God moves through the staff. They really walk the talk.”

Tabitha continued to keep her job and after nine months in the program, was able to graduate to transitional housing. “The more and more I got on God’s will, the more things started coming my way.”

For Tabitha, a strong single mother, completely devoted to her children, this summer will be a new chapter, having all of her children back in her care. Today her children are 15 months, 7, 12 and 13 years old. She sums it up gratefully, “I don’t know where I would be or where my kids would be without Open House.” Because of you, this will be the summer when Tabitha and her children will have a family reunion like no other.





# *When They Are in Your Care... You Raise Them Up to a New Normal!*

**From the desk of Vikkilyn Rolfs, Director of Daycare**



If you have ever been around a pre-teen, you know it can get challenging. For most kids, it is “normally” a time of internal and external changes. Most of our homeless kids have

the added weight of ACEs. Imagine how your pre-teen years might have been different if your “normal” included exposure to and abuse of alcohol and drugs, drug addiction, moving from place to place, early exposure to sexualization, and a parent figure struggling with their own issues. When Vikkilyn Rolfs welcomes pre-teens in

her daycare/after school program, within the first hours she gets a pretty good idea of how deep the wounds go.

Vikkilyn recalls three years ago when two sisters -- Precious and Celestine arrived at the after-school program at the Open House Child Care. Their home had been torn apart by their mother's addiction to methamphetamine, spinning out of control.

Vikkilyn admits that it was not easy when they first arrived. One of the girls really had a mean temperament that required a lot of help. The other was withdrawn into a shell. It took many, many months of the Case Manager working with mom and the girls. “I really cannot say enough about how much the Case Management team went above and beyond to not only work with the family,

but really make a difference. It was a total team effort. Every day these girls received the support and counseling that they needed and the assurance that life can and does improve. They are totally different people today as a result.”

What was normal then is now, years later, a distant memory. The family is reunited after the girls were placed in foster care, their mom is clean and sober and has learned how to be a parent. She is present to her children, working, and fully supporting her family. Today you will see the girls have also changed completely.

Celestine, now 12 years old, likes Spanish class, is a talented

artist and aspires to be a writer. Precious, age 13, loves math and hopes to be a teacher or to go into a math related field. Both are proud of their mother Charleyn who has come so far. “She loves her job. She loves to work on bikes and cars!”

After lots of work, Precious and Celestine are completely different young ladies. By Vikkilyn's testimony, “The girl with the mean temperament turned into a girl with a super sweet heart and attitude and her sister began to come out of her shell and let her personality come forth.” You raised them up to a “new normal”.





# You asked for it and we heard you! ACH is here!



Now you can give to Open House Ministries directly from your checking or savings account! It is easy with ACH transfer\* now available on the Open House Ministries website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org) through the “Give Now” button on the home page. It is easier than writing a check and your gift is processed immediately without incurring additional credit card fees, and you save a stamp! You also have the option to give each month, and you choose the day that best suits your household. If you don’t have access to the website, you can also call our Development Office at 360-356-3770. Our staff can process it for you!

*\*ACH transfer stands for “Automatic Clearing House” which is the direct and secure transfer of funds from one bank account to another bank account. Gifts are processed by GoEmerchant.*

## On the Road Again? Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop

Don’t wait until prime bicycle time to find out your bike is not as ready as you are!

- Do you enjoy your bike?
- Are your tires flat or wheels wobbly?
- Do you have trouble riding the bike and feeling safe?
- Are you able to shift gears easily and access the gear choices?

Bring your bike to Wheel Deals for an estimate and we will review your options. We have the lowest cost for a tuneup in the area and all work is guaranteed. And as always all proceeds go directly to Open House Ministries.

*Contact Wheel Deals Bicycles at 360-205-5617 and like us on Facebook!*



## You can have summer fun and help Open House Ministries by attending/supporting these annual summer events:

**August 4th, 2018**

**Race for the Homeless sponsored by New Heights Church**

*5k and 10k runs, 5k walk, kids activities and more.*

Registration and more information available at <https://newheights.org/race/>



**August 14th, 2018**

**Scramble for the Kids Golf Tournament  
Sponsored by Liberty Bible Church**

*Golf for four, carts, dinner and a great day of golf supporting orphans, foster kids and homeless kids!*

Registration available online at <http://www.lbnaz.org/liberty-blog/scramble-for-the-kids>

