

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *Thankfulness for a Month of Generosity*

**T**his month Open House Ministries had an incredible outpouring of thoughtfulness and care as volunteers and organizations reached out with gifts for our residents. Mother's Day was especially blessed as our wonderful volunteers donated gifts from Bath & Body Works, and Seeds of Greatness Ministries provided flowers for resident moms, honoring the day and creating a more cheerful time for everyone.

The Chinese Association of Clark County provided food donations for our resident families with the help of the United Chinese Americans. The chance to experience another culture with traditional Chinese flavors gave our families a fun way to connect with each other over dinner. We appreciate the friendship gift of food shared during this stressful time.

Giving Tuesday Now, a global day of generosity on May 5th, focused on acts of kindness and collaboration benefiting non-profits everywhere. We appreciate the donations to Open House Ministries and we hope you found new opportunities to help

those around you, encouraged through this new worldwide day of sharing.

100 Men Who Care in Clark County also blessed us, adding Open House Ministries to a group of non-profits they donated to in May. We are so grateful to have been included on their list of recipients during this time.

As we look to the summer, plans are coming together for our annual fundraising event *Hope In Motion*, celebrating the stories of current and graduate residents at Open House Ministries. We will be sending out more information and instructions for a special virtual *gathering-while-separate* event, planned to keep everyone safe.

We want to thank all of you for your prayers and continued support. We hope you and your families are safe and healthy.

Blessings,

*Renee Stevens*

Renee Stevens, Executive Director



Vikkilyn Rolfs sharing gifts on Mother's Day.



Erik Sawyer(l) and Monte Phillips(r) of 100 Men Who Care present Renee Stevens with a donation check for Open House Ministries.



## A Father's Blessing

Soon we will be celebrating Father's Day. As chaplain of Open House Ministries, I enjoy spending time with the dads staying here as they work hard to rebuild their families and gain new life-skills for their futures. Together we reveal the power of God's blessing in Christ, and through it, understand a father's role.

One of our Bible study classes covers how our view of our *earthly* father relates to our view of our *heavenly* Father. This topic often reveals deep wounds. Tony, a former resident, struggled with issues related to his father's time in prison. "That does it!" He said, "I am turning into my dad, the very man I never knew. It is up to me to stop this cycle and ask God to break the chains of my past!"

Oftentimes, wounds caused by fathers define young men. Consider the Biblical story of Jacob. Born of Isaac, Jacob struggled behind his brother Esau for his father's blessing. Broken relationships followed Jacob until the night he wrestled with God to gain the *Father's blessing*. (Gen.32)

At Open House Ministries, we steer into issues of fatherhood, identity, responsibility, and legacy. Most important, we work on our relationship with our heavenly Father. The Bible teaches us foundational truths, and if we do not know what a good father is supposed to be, we cannot accurately define our *birth* fathers or ourselves as fathers. Only God can heal old wounds and set us free through His son, Jesus, to reflect Him in our generation, *and the next!*

I have been blessed to know many dads at Open House Ministries who have found faith in Christ and turned their lives around. A young father and former addict, Doug came to our shelter an angry agnostic. While reading *A Case for Christ*, Doug's heart was changed by God's healing touch. Transformed, today he is a great dad. Oscar, a single father at the shelter, loves the Lord deeply. This same deep love has compelled him to reconcile with his own dad. JT is a former resident who found new life in Christ. A single father of two adult sons, JT now takes his call to lead seriously. God, our Father is faithful.

Have a Blessed Father's Day,



Mark Roskam  
OHM Chaplain

"The Lord bless you and keep you,  
make His face to shine upon you, and  
give you peace." *Numbers 6:24-26*



We invite you to join us in July for our annual fundraising event, coming virtually to your living room.

Open House Ministries will be broadcasting a program of stories by current and graduate residents, giving viewers insights into our *Hope In Motion*.

Look for more information soon in your mailbox, email, and on our website: [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

### SHELTER NEEDS

- Clorox wipes and hand soap
  - Canned and boxed non-perishable foods
  - Diapers: Size 5 & 6
- Thank You!

### TAX-WISE GIVING

As current events with the corona virus have changed our daily lives, so have opportunities to give to your favorite non-profit charities.

The CARES Act of 2020 allows \$300 in charitable contributions, even when *not* itemizing deductions.

For more information concerning this helpful tax option for 2020, please consult your tax representative.

To learn how you can include Open House Ministries to your long-term giving plans, please contact us at:

360-737-0300 or email  
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## OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

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