



OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES

*We're a family shelter*

# Connections

June 2021

## RESIDENT STORY

### God's Soldier on the Ground

**B**orn and raised in Medford, Oregon, Candice joined the U.S. Army right after high school as a Chemical Operations Specialist. After leaving the military, the now 36-year-old endured a long history of addiction with oxycontin and heroin that started in her 20's.



*Candice with her children, Lincoln and Lena*

In 2012, Candice went through treatment and got clean, but relapsed five years later and sunk into addiction again. Her children were taken away and she attempted rehab a second time. Realizing she needed more than addiction treatment, Candice arrived at Open House Ministries in October 2020 during the pandemic. Initially, she didn't think she would stay very long with the faith-based comprehensive program. "I didn't like living here very much. There were so many rules and it was a very structured environment," says the mom of four.

Candice quickly recognized the facility's strengths and program benefits. "I hate room checks. I mean ... I really hate room checks, but I know they are good for me.

I forgot how to be a regular person when I was using drugs, and Open House Ministries helped me regain those skills - being responsible and accountable, taking care of my stuff and my space," says Candice of learning how to navigate daily life again. She adds, "I also loved the classes. The financial class was my favorite."

In Bible studies, Candice has enjoyed learning about Jesus and is beginning her own exciting journey walking with the Lord which she now works on every day. "Make that marching with the Lord," Candice adds loudly as she has joined *His* army now.

Candice believes Open House Ministries is a really amazing place if you want a better life bad enough. "I don't know where I would be without them - spiritually, mentally, and emotionally," she says. "I am in a much better place. It's definitely not easy, but I love the staff and other residents. I don't feel so alone like I did before. Everyone really cares about each other."

Candice's future is bright. Three kids are currently living with her and she is working on getting the fourth child back. Candice is looking for a place of her own thanks to obtaining a voucher through the Veterans Administration. "I feel like I will be ready to leave when that time comes in the very near future, says Candice. "I need more space for kids, but for now, I feel safe and love having the support around us."

The work Candice has put in at Open House Ministries is paying off, and God has blessed her in so many ways. Please pray for Candice as she prepares for the next mission with her children. ●

## HOPE FUNDRAISER

OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES  
**HOPE**  
FUNDRAISER

*Community  
of Hope*

June 3, 7pm

**Livestreaming from OHM**

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

Thank you for your support.

## CELEBRATING DADS

*Happy  
Father's Day*





**W**hen the disciples sought Jesus for instruction on how to pray, he began with the words "Our Father..." Volumes have been written on the significance of Jesus' preferential familial name for God. What I've witnessed in pastoral ministry, and in particular serving as a hospital Chaplain, is an inverse truth that author Kerry Egan notes, "people talk about their families because that's how they often talk about God." She goes on to add, "If God is love, and we believe that to be true, then we learn about God when we learn about love. The first, and usually the last, classroom of love is the family. Sometimes that love is not only imperfect, it seems to be missing entirely."

I'm not sure what image the word "father" evokes for you. My hope is that it is a beautiful one. I understand that is not always the case. The pain, rejection, and hurt many have experienced in their families is real. Yet, my hope is that what is broken can be mended and what is dead can be made new in Christ. It is to this goal that I am delighted to be a part of what Open House Ministries is doing.

As I start here at Open House Ministries, I find myself reflecting on fatherhood. Maybe it's because

I miss my sons who are with my wife finishing their school year in California. Maybe it's because in the past few months I've lost three grandfathers. They are men I dearly love and who had a big impact on my life. I know as I look around, I'm reminded of the importance of family. The family is at the heart of how God ordered a good creation so that we might flourish.

Open House Ministries is a family shelter. Families come in different shapes and sizes. Not every family looks the same. Not every family faces the same challenges. This does not hinder us from pursuing the same goal in Jesus. We may all have different starting places, yet we sojourn together. Thus, we can say with conviction that we do want to see all families heal and reconcile. It's my desire that as our residents grow, one of the truths cultivated is the beautiful and compelling vision of God as a "Good Father."

Those of us who call upon Christ know that we all have one Father. A Father who will never leave us or forsake us. A Father who will never hurt us or abandon us. So, while some of us may have good earthly fathers, all of us have a great heavenly Father. ● *Chaplain Jon Nichols*

## Understanding Planned Gifts

Planned Giving is a way to integrate your stewardship goals with your estate planning by making lifetime or deferred gifts to Open House Ministries (OHM) and/or other charitable organizations. These gifts cost very little or nothing and also provide tax incentives to you and/or your estate. They can also enable you to leave a lasting legacy through an endowment.

Some common types of planned gifts that help support the work of OHM in providing shelter, hope and faith in Christ for homeless families are:

- A bequest through your will or trust-fixed amount, percentage or residual
- Naming OHM as a successor beneficiary in your IRA or Life Insurance policy
- A transfer of cash or property to fund a charitable gift annuity or remainder trust that makes payments for your lifetime and then passes to our ministry
- A transfer of your personal residence or farm while retaining the right to use the property for your lifetime as a life estate agreement

For more information on these or other planned giving strategies, please contact either Jean LaCrosse at (360) 737-0300 or email Ross 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
- Childcare Worker

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



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