



OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES

We're a family shelter



Connections

June 2023

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Clearing Space for OHM West



The Robertson & Olson construction crew gave us a 'thumbs up' on their progress preparing for the OHM West foundation. The perimeter of the building's footprint is clear now and it's exciting to see how much space the four-story building plus basement will occupy next door to our campus.

Our staff and residents are closely watching all the activity on the property, keeping an eye on the process as we move closer to pouring the foundation. As each step requires a series of decisions and timing to achieve the right results, I'm reminded of how we use the same process for rebuilding families, and how it takes a series of right choices and enough time for each family to create a new and better foundation for their future.

It's hard work. And just like digging into the property to set the foundation, our residents dig deep into their own lives to learn new processes for success. We are grateful for the opportunity to walk next to each family as they overcome obstacles and find solid ground.

We know the path to success for our residents depends on their ability to find true affordable housing. By providing a solution close to our ministry, families

will be able to build on what they've learned in our program and benefit from staying connected to our organization.

If you would like to learn more about OHM West, we invite you to take a tour of our campus and see the project first-hand. We would love to share our ministry with you and give you more information on this project. Together we can help change the lives of families in our community for generations.

Blessings,

Renee Stevens
Executive Director



To learn more about OHM West visit our website at www.ohmwest.org or contact us at 360-737-0300.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Father's Day Message

If we were to list the defining characteristics that mark Jesus' prayer life, chief among them would be the way he addresses God as Father.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9)

"Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mark 14:36)

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you" (John 17:1)

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

Yet, Jesus is not the first person in the Scripture to speak of God as Father. It is God himself who first refers to himself as Father. When instructing Moses what to say to Pharaoh, God says, "Then say to Pharaoh, 'this is what the Lord says: Israel is my first-born son, and I told you 'Let my son go...' (Exodus 4:22). This a revolutionary declaration. To a people whose identity had been reduced down to that of "slave," God calls son. To a people who had lost all hope for a life beyond mere survival, God offered them a future and the hope of salvation.

For God to refer to himself as 'father' is not an attempt to be relevant to earthly people. Nor is the fatherhood of God a projection of human qualities on God. Rather, God is called 'father' because traces of his nature are given and reflected by earthly fathers. Paul expresses this in Ephesians 3:14-15, "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name." Here the (continued)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONT.

Greek word for family (patria) is derived from the Greek for father (pater). The point is that family and fatherhood derive their very name and essential nature from our heavenly Father.

Now all earthly fathers no more perfectly reflect the heavenly Father than all humans perfectly reflect the image of God. We are all flawed, broken, and sinful. Some of us have had bad fathers. Some of us have *been* bad fathers. This is not an excuse. It is an acknowledgment that while our family tree is bent and broken, the roots are soaked in the grace and mercy of God our Father.

It is a privilege to be called 'dad.' It is also a great responsibility. I'm grateful for the men in my life who have modeled the heart of the Father.



The pastors, mentors, teachers, grandfathers, and neighbors who spoke into my life. Yet, most of all, I'm grateful for my father, a man who could say, "Follow me as I follow Christ." He taught me it is possible to be tough in this world *and* tender toward God. And although he is a perfectionist, taught me much more by the way he humbly deals with his flaws and failures.

Thus, one of the great joys of my work at Open House Ministries is helping the dads here to walk in the shadow of their heavenly Father. To stand tall and take responsibility for themselves and their families. To not cast blame when things don't go right. To exercise healthy authority in their children's lives. And to serve their families by leading as an example of love.

Blessings and Happy Father's Day
• Chaplain Jon Nichols

2023 ANNUAL HOPE FUNDRAISER

Constructing Hope

On Thursday, May 18, Open House Ministries celebrated *Constructing Hope*, a fundraiser to benefit families rebuilding their lives at our shelter. We want to thank everyone for joining us and giving to our fundraiser this year. If you missed our program, you can see the recording on our website at www.sheltered.org



OHM Board Directors with Executive Director Renee Stevens

Thank you to our Constructing Hope Sponsors:



O'Donnell
Law



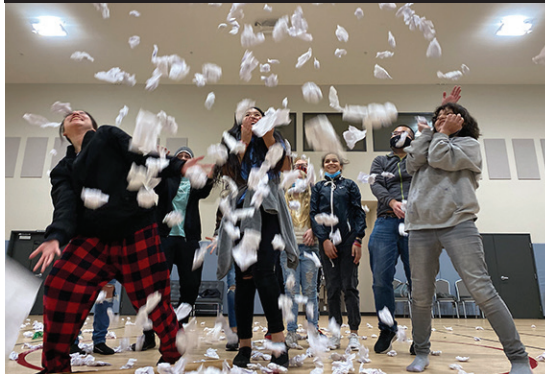
SolVerity

If you would like to give to *Constructing Hope*, please click to donate on our website at www.sheltered.org Thank you!



Event Emcee Eric Sawyer entertained the audience between speakers. We were blessed by those who shared their stories and passion for Open House Ministries.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Summer Volunteer Alert!

Opportunities to share your time and talent are waiting for you.

We need your help in our Youth Program on Thursdays in group gatherings and daily with individual activities.

Time slots available:

Monday - Friday, 1 pm - 5 pm

For more information on our Youth Program or to sign up visit our website at: www.sheltered.org or contact norma.seeley@sheltered.org

MINISTRY BLESSINGS

Thanks go out to Church of the Good Shepherd for choosing Open House Ministries as one of their Women's Spring Outreach Tea charitable recipients. We are grateful for their generous support, and for blessing our ministry.



SHELTER NEEDS

**Baby wipes • Lysol spray
Paper towels • Bottled water
Infant and toddler socks**
Thank you!



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We're a family shelter

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