

RESIDENT STORY

A New Life for Amiliya

Bringing a child into the world changes everything. When you are a new parent, it takes a lot of adjusting and focusing to create a solid future for your new family. The odds of success increase substantially with a network of love and support.

When Christina became a mom, she knew she was going to need help. She was struggling with substance addiction. She first found help through Life-line Connections, a front-line organization helping people overcome substance use. Upon the recommendation of her Pregnant and Parenting Women counselor, she made her way to Open House Ministries.

She worked hard, and through the program at Open House Ministries, Christina learned to manage her time and establish consistent routines. She attended classes for financial training and parenting and received guidance through her case manager. "The program helped me work on myself and the different areas of my life that I neglected for a long time," said Christina. "Open House Ministries taught me how to establish healthy habits and become closer to God during my journey."

Christina values the time she spent at Open House Ministries, recalling the positive impact daily morning devotions had on starting her day. She attended weekly chapel and grew spiritually through the teachings of Chaplain Jon. "Getting baptized and chapel had a huge impact on me," states Christina. "I strengthened my relationship with God, and I live a life I never thought I would live."

Following her program completion, Christina and Amiliya were able to move into an apartment near the campus. Now, the two of them have a new



Christina with her baby girl, Amiliya

place to call home, and she is grateful to have a close connection with the staff and friends.

Christina is committed to maintaining a clean and sober lifestyle to ensure her daughter grows up with a mother free from addiction. The strong love and bond she shares with Amiliya is unlike anything she has ever experienced. "I would like others to know that Open House Ministries saved my life and actually saved my daughter's as well," she stated. "We had a place to call home, coming with nothing."



We are so proud of Christina, and pray God will strengthen her as she continues to grow and build a new life for Amiliya. ●

GENEROUS GIVING

Gifting

Creating a will or revocable living trust is an important step in your life journey. It's your opportunity to plan how you will benefit your family, friends and organizations like Open House Ministries after your life on earth has passed.

Including a gift as a bequest in your will or trust is a great way to support the future of Open House Ministries without giving away any of your assets today. If your circumstances change, a bequest is a gift that can be adjusted at any time, providing flexibility for an unexpected financial need.

A few ways you can support families through a charitable bequest to Open House Ministries are:

- Make a gift of a specific dollar amount
- Make a gift of a percentage of your estate
- Leave OHM the remainder of your estate after you have provided for your heirs

Your support for Open House Ministries ensures future families will have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and find hope for their families. Consult your financial advisor for more ideas on how you can share with those in need. Thank you for giving to Open House Ministries. ●

*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

Reflecting on Fatherhood

I was at lunch with a friend, discussing the Bible and sharing stories from our lives. Near the end of our conversation, he remarked, "Following God doesn't mean that every day is sunshine." I replied with a chuckle, "Wouldn't it be great if it was?" We grinned, enjoying the amusing thought.

But as those words lingered, mingling with the stories we'd shared, the humor faded. Suddenly, the idea of every day being sunshine became unsettling.

I imagined all the challenging moments of my life being erased, like a bottle of whiteout spilled across the canvas of my life. Those tough times where I learned resilience, where my character was forged—gone. What seemed like paradise turned into a hell scape.

Sure, there are moments I wish I could forget, but those weren't the first to come to mind. Many of the stories that surfaced were from my marriage and even more from my journey as a father. The late-night conversations that strengthened our bond, the struggles that taught me patience and empathy, and the small victories that felt monumental. The sleepless nights comforting a crying baby, the endless patience required to handle tantrums, and the tough decisions made when disciplining my children, guiding them through their turbulent teenage years, helping them navigate peer pressure, and supporting them through academic struggles.

Each of these moments, though difficult, became the seedbed for personal growth. They taught me perseverance, deepened my capacity for love, and strengthened my resolve. Without these challenges, I wouldn't have developed the same depth of character or the ability to face adversity with grace.

With Father's Day approaching, I asked the men at Open House Ministries about their experiences as dads. They shared tales of ups and downs, highlighting how facing challenges has helped them grow. Many mentioned how our ministry has been a supportive force through it all. Their stories show the real-life lessons of fatherhood and the value of having a community by your side. ● *Chaplain Jon Nichols*



“Fatherhood has taught me to be patient, humble, and grateful. All things happen in God’s timing. Having a listening ear and the guiding support here at Open House Ministries has been very helpful. I receive re-direction when needed with grace and understanding.” *John*

“I’ve learned the need to stay flexible. An idea you have in your mind may need to adapt to meet your children’s needs. And a powerful foundation in Christ is the glue to hold your family together. Open House Ministries has provided shelter to my kids and an open door for support to any issues I might encounter.” *Will*

“Fatherhood has taught me patience and compassion. The parenting classes at Open House Ministries have taught me not to react out of anger but in love. Additionally, Open House has influenced me to lift other Fathers up when they are struggling.” *Steve*



Celebrate Hope With Us!
Thursday, June 27th at 7pm

Please RSVP by June 20th
to events@sheltered.org

Limited in-person in
the OHM Gym



SHELTER NEEDS

Toilet paper • Paper towels
Clorox wipes • Disposable razors
Bottled water • Canned goods

One pound packages
of hamburger

Thank you!

JOB OPENINGS

Case Management Position
Part-time Child Care Position

Please inquire at
careers@sheltered.org



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**
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