



OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
We're a family shelter

Connections

March 2021

SHELTER UPDATE: RESIDENT STORY

Finding a Bright Future Together

Residents Dusty and Aryanna are excited planning for the future while they've been residents at Open House Ministries for the last eight months. There's a lot to look forward to, but they never forget where they came from.

Born in Vancouver, Aryanna lived in and out of foster homes in the South-west Washington area – Battle Ground, Yacolt, Stabler.

"My mom left my twin and me when we were born, and my grandmother took care of us for a while. My father was abusive," says the 20-year-old.

Drugs were part of Aryanna's life early on. She smoked pot and began experimenting with methamphetamine (meth) when she was just 14 years old and quickly became addicted.

Dusty had similar challenges as a young person. At one point, he overdosed on alcohol and was in a medically induced coma for a week. Also, a meth addiction was fueled by excessive drinking.

The couple met on the streets and fell in love. They both vowed to stop using drugs and alcohol when they found out Aryanna was pregnant with a girl.

"God sent me my miracle. If it weren't for her, I would not have quit using. God knew I needed her," says Aryanna.

Aryanna had a tough pregnancy with high blood pressure and gestational diabetes. She and Dusty realized they needed to make major changes to live a healthier and better life for themselves and their young daughter. A social worker



Aryanna and Dusty with baby Amelia

suggested Open House Ministries, and the couple's application was accepted.

Initially, things were very uncomfortable and unfamiliar.

"When we first got here, I didn't put in the effort. It was like Open House Ministries was a burden," says Aryanna.

She adds, "My relationship with God was nonexistent. Through women's group, I realized it wasn't God I hated, but religion that bothered me. I learned I really did love God," says Aryanna.

The Open House Ministries concept was hard for Dusty to grasp as well.

"When I first arrived, I was thankful we got out of the situation we were in, but I still wasn't in the right mindset to get my act together," says Dusty.

He adds, "I felt like I was giving up control. I was 30 years old and had a 10 p.m. curfew. What is wrong with that? But I knew the way I had been living was just not working."
(continued)

"God sent me my miracle. If it weren't for her, I would not have quit using. God knew I needed her," says Aryanna.



Aryanna and baby Amelia celebrating Christmas

RESIDENT STORY CONTINUED

Although stubborn, Dusty eventually experienced the benefits of participating in group sessions and bonding with others.

"I was afraid of sharing feelings behind my addiction. I thought ... 'These people don't know me or the life I've lived.' Over the months, I decided they aren't all that different from me. Their stories are really relatable. I constantly learn from the other residents because many are further along in their journey," says Dusty.

Eight months of hard work and dedication to themselves, Open House Ministries programming and their relationships with the Lord have paid off for the couple.

"I have now had some time to reflect. I like the new me, and I have a desire to be a better person," states Dusty proudly.

He adds, "I learned to love who I am and love my relationship with the Lord. It grows on a daily basis. I put God first, recovery second, and family third. Without God, I wouldn't have recovery, and without recovery, I wouldn't have my family."



Amelia ready to ride



Dusty working at Secondhand Solutions

Aryanna likes her physical surroundings too.

"I can now cook myself a meal in my very own kitchen. I can also walk around in socks in my own apartment," laughs the new mom remembering living in some very dirty homes.

To date, Aryanna completed drug treatment, and Dusty is finishing. He works in the organization's thrift shop, gathering valuable work experience while caring for baby Amelia. The 5-month-old is hitting all her milestones right on cue - flipping from her front to back, holding her head up, learning to sit, and eating solids.

"She recently discovered she has a voice and hoots and hollers," laughs the new dad.

Dusty and Aryanna both agree with Amelia — there's a lot to hoot and holler at these days with such a bright future in front of the family of three. ●

TAX-WISE GIVING

Generous Giving at No Cost

What would you do if you had the power to do something remarkable today that didn't cost you anything! This is possible when you take a moment to review and update the beneficiary designations for your retirement, investment, and bank accounts.

The process of naming beneficiaries is easy, and it gives you the power to control who will inherit your accounts. With a beneficiary designation, you still own the account. You can continue to use it to meet your needs while making future provisions to help Open House Ministries provide life-changing housing for local homeless families.

For more information, contact Jean at 360-737-0300 or Ross at ross.merritt@sheltered.org or contact your financial institution and request a new beneficiary form. Please remember Open House Ministries in your will. *Thank You!* ●

GIVE WHILE SHOPPING

Supporting Open House Ministries has never been easier. You can help through these two ways:

Simply designate Open House Ministries as your favorite charity when you shop at: www.amazon smile.com

Link your Fred Meyer Shopper's Card to Open House Ministries as the organization you wish to support through Fred Meyer Community Rewards www.fredmeyer.com

JOB OPENINGS

OHM Chaplain
Full time position

OHM Little World Daycare
Two child care workers

If interested, please contact
careers@sheltered.org
for an application

SHELTER NEEDS

- Clorox wipes & hand soap
- Lysol disinfecting spray
- Canned & boxed non-perishable foods
- Baby wipes • Men's gloves
- Hand warmers

Thank You!



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**
We're a family shelter

900 West 12th St. | P.O. Box 242
Vancouver, WA 98666-0242
360-737-0300 www.sheltered.org