



OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES

We're a family shelter

Connections

March 2022



FROM OUR RESIDENTS

Living out hope at Open House Ministries

Each month we hear from many of you who send encouraging notes to Open House Ministries. You share how meaningful it is to partner with us as you drop off items for the shelter, bike shop, and thrift store. Through your emails and phone calls we learn how important it is for you to be making a difference in your community, knowing the lives of our residents and families are being restored.



God is at work at Open House Ministries. We see His hand in the joy and growth our residents experience as they learn about establishing a relationship with Christ and observe the changes God is making in their lives. Many share the hope they now feel for their futures and for their families. We hope these comments from our residents will give you an opportunity to experience the blessings we see at Open House Ministries each day.

“I’m learning to persevere through difficult times. That true peace comes from Him regardless of the circumstances life gives me. I can stand up for what is right and have integrity in my life. I’m grateful for a life worth living every day. Recovery isn’t easy but it is so worth every moment. And I don’t have to be perfect to be worth it. God does heal and answer prayer. He gives me strength in my weakest moments and hope every day.”

“I see Him opening doors for me that were never possible until I learned to really love myself and love Him by opening my mind and heart to Him and praying and meditating on his word. I had to let go and let God be 110%. I had to become brand new and give my drug addictions completely over to him. Give my broken hopeless—no good for nothing thoughts of worthlessness—to him and believe that I am worth fighting for! (Continued)

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

No Greater Treasure

When Jesus encounters blind Bartimaeus, he asks, “what do you want?” He asked this of others, including his own disciples. You never see Jesus ask, “What do you know?” Or even an open question like, “What do you believe?” Jesus wants to know what we want because we are what we want. We live in the direction of our love. As author James K. A. Smith writes, “Our wants and desires are at the core of our identity, the wellspring from which our actions and behavior flow.” We learn this from Jesus when he taught, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other” (Matthew 6:24).

One of the most beautiful changes I get to witness here at Open House Ministries is the change in affections. Change is difficult and scary. It requires courage and tenacity. Yet, it’s not even possible until we first discover something more desirable than what we already have. Then like the man who found a great treasure hidden in a field, everything else is joyously sold to gain this new treasure. What’s more, there is no greater treasure or relationship more desirable than life with God. It’s my great pleasure to watch others discover this for themselves. ●
Chaplain Jon Nichols

FROM OUR RESIDENTS

Today I believe there are things in store for me and my family that I am completely unaware of, but I have hope.”



“God is helping me realize my worth and strengthen my boundaries. I am able to support others and say “no” if need be. I don’t need to sacrifice myself while trying to build others up. I need to put God before all else, then myself. I need to do this so I am able to be healthy, happy, able to care for my son, and a positive contribution to society.”

“Some would say my past life was something out of a movie. People don’t make it out of some of the things I went through. But with God by my side I made it. I survived! And now, thanks to God, I stand

here with my head held up high. He is still making change in my life. He is never done. Sometimes I catch myself blaming someone but he makes me see that there is no one to blame but me.”

“I got my son back! God made me choose death or life. I chose to live. Now I have everything I need and want in my life. I love what God has put in my life and what he has taken from my life. If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t be alive right now.”

These comments are just the tip of the iceberg from everyday moments we share with our residents. The work we do is a partnership with all of you who faithfully pray for our residents, staff, and volunteers, and help to support Open House Ministries. Our relationship with you is vital to helping families find new lives in Christ and become transformed by faith and new connections. Thank you for caring for our ministry. You are a blessing. ●

GENEROUS GIVING

Support Open House Ministries and reduce taxes

In 2 Corinthians 8:2-3, Paul wrote about a group of believers whose joy at what God was doing overflowed into generosity as they joyously took part in God’s work through their giving. Being generous with what God has entrusted to us is also honoring Him as being a wise and faithful steward.

Does seeing the life-changing work OHM is doing in helping to change the lives of homeless families for eternity fill you with that overflowing joy? If so, we encourage you to consider giving to OHM. If you’re 70½ or older, then a charitable rollover from your IRA may be a great way to partner with us. You will pay no taxes on transfers up to \$100,000 with a direct transfer to OHM, it will satisfy your RMD (required minimum distribution) and it will reduce your taxable income even if you don’t itemize on charitable gifts. Another consideration is that if you desire to remember OHM in your estate planning, your IRA may be one of the best options since a charity can receive a gift from your IRA without any tax consequences but your children and/or others named as beneficiaries would have to pay taxes on an inheritance from your IRA.

Please contact me, ross.merritt@sheltered.org, or call Jean LaCrosse at 360-737-0300 if you have any questions. Thank you for giving to Open House Ministries. ●

Please consider including Open House Ministries in your will or estate plan.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Open House Ministries is grateful to the Clark County Sheriff Employee Association for their generous gift. We appreciate the continued relationship we have with this Clark County community partner.

Thank You!

Executive Director Reneé Stevens pictured with Commander Kenneth Clark



SAVE THE DATE

JOB OPENINGS

SHELTER NEEDS



Annual Hope Fundraiser

Thursday May 19

Facilities Manager
Full-time position available

Bicycle Shop Staff
Full-time position available

Child Care Worker
Part-time position available
Contact careers@sheltered.org for an application

- Men’s gloves
- Gallon size zip lock bags
- Pull ups of all sizes
- Bottled water

Thank You!



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