



Shelter Upgrades and Blessings



installed in their bathrooms. “The fans have a moisture sensor built into the units that activate when the showers are on. We anticipate a big reduction in moisture issues with these new fans,” said Melody.

The Kendall Family Shelter was built in 1996, serving homeless families in the com-

New lighting in the Kendall Family Shelter is improving work and gathering spaces at Open House Ministries thanks to an impact grant from PG&E. Better lighting in the basement is impacting the work environment for staff, volunteers, and residents. “We were able to change out all the old fluorescent lighting downstairs,” said Melody Pence, facilities staff. “People in the donations area are enjoying a big boost from the new LED lights.” Spaces dedicated to the children’s program, the laundry room, and pantry are also getting a boost, creating better environments for our residents.

The shelter lobby, case management offices, Grace Place, and conference room are also benefiting from the new lights with an added timing feature. “Being able to program the lights is a big step up in efficiency for the shelter,” said Melody. “Now the lights will turn off automatically when an area isn’t in use.”

New lighting isn’t the only upgrade the grant funds are providing for the shelter. New exhaust fans have also been purchased. Soon the 36-units in the family shelter will have moisture controlling fans

community with a safe place to rebuild their lives and restore families. Over the years, changes to the interior of the shelter and the expansion of the Tod & Maxine McClaskey resource center and multipurpose gym increased the organization’s ability to open up more units in the shelter and reach more families struggling with homelessness.

Providing a welcoming space for families to hear the gospel has been the focus of the ministry since it was established in 1986. The faith-based ministry is blessed by the support of volunteers and groups in the community who have worked along side the facilities staff, painting the interior and keeping the family shelter in good condition. New flooring was recently installed throughout the facility and the common areas of the two resident floors of the shelter were upgraded with wainscoting.

Replacing the lights and exhaust fans will be a big improvement for the Kendall Family Shelter. “We are grate-

ful to PG&E for this impact grant,” said Executive Director Renee Stevens. “Having these upgrades in the shelter is a blessing for the ministry.” ●



Installing moisture control exhaust fans

GRACIOUS GIVING

A Lasting Legacy

Making a planned gift to Open House Ministries isn’t just for the wealthy or for those trying to minimize taxes. It’s a wonderful way to leave a legacy and continue a lifetime of support for an organization you believe in. There are many ways to do this through the use of non-cash assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, and real estate. These can enable you to both avoid income and capital gains taxes and even provide a lifetime income.

After providing for family, friends, and others, many individuals also choose to remember charitable organizations that are important to them by including them in their will or trust. If you believe in the mission of Open House Ministries, this can be a significant and lasting way for you to help ensure we have a strong financial future and continue to provide families with life-changing assistance.

Planned gifts can provide many benefits and we would be delighted to discuss the various options that might be best for you. We have the expertise and information that will help you decide if this might be a way for you to make a gift and assist in getting your financial affairs in order. Please contact Jean LaCrosse at 360-737-0300 or email ross.merritt@sheltered.org for more information.

Please consider Open House Ministries in your estate or tax plans.

Thank you! ●

TOURS & TALKS

Want to see Open House Ministries up close?

**Join us for a First Friday Tour!
Noon to 1 pm**

**To sign up, contact us at
events@sheltered.org**

A Courageous Space

I recently reminded the residents: We are not Open House Homeless Shelter. We are not Open House Family Reunification Center. We are not even Open House Job and Vocational Training Program. We are Open House Ministries.

Because you can find shelter and still be lost. You can reunite with family and still feel alone. You can get a job and still lack purpose. Jesus asked, "What good is it to gain the whole world, yet lose your soul?" (Mark 8:36) A roof over your head, a steady paycheck, even restored relationships—these things matter. But they are not enough. You were made for more than survival. More than comfort. More than just making it through another day.

We believe you were created—formed by the hands of your Creator, made in His image, and crafted for His glory. You were made to know Him and enjoy Him forever. A life built on mere survival will never be enough. It cannot be found in comfort alone or in the absence of hardship.

Too often, we mistake safety for wholeness, as if avoiding pain is the same as being healed. But true life—true growth, true healing—demands more than safety; it requires courage. That's why at Open House Ministries, we don't just offer a safe space. We offer a courageous space.

Courage is not recklessness. It is the strength to leave behind what is familiar, to face reality with honesty, and to choose what is right—even when it requires sacrifice.

Courage is not recklessness. It is the strength to leave behind what is familiar, to face reality with honesty, and to choose what is right—even when it requires sacrifice. It is risking the ease of today for the hope of something greater tomorrow. And here's the irony: every choice demands a sacrifice. The choice to do nothing sacrifices the future that could be. The choice to stay the same sacrifices the person you were created to become. The choice to see yourself as a victim sacrifices the freedom God offers.

That doesn't mean we don't have safe spaces. We do—safe from the chaos of the streets, safe from addiction, safe from despair. But also safe from staying the same. Safe from excuses. Safe from settling for less than what God has for you.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

We are a ministry. Ministry is service to God for the good of others. (This order matters.) It is the labor of worship, where faith takes action, love takes form, and truth sets people free. ●
Chaplain Jon Nichols



LIGHT OF HOPE



Save the Date for the Open House Ministries Annual Benefit for Families

Friday, May 16, 2025 Noon - 1pm

Luncheon will be at the AC Hotel on the Vancouver Waterfront

For more information contact Joanie Curtis at events@sheltered.org or visit our website at

Sheltered.org



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Celebrating Our Volunteers



Are you an OHM Volunteer?

Join us for a celebration for all you do for Open House Ministries!

April 24th, Noon to 1pm

Please RSVP by April 14th

to Jennifer Amerine at events@sheltered.org or contact Jennifer at 360-737-0300



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

www.sheltered.org

SHELTER NEEDS

Diapers in sizes 4, 5 & 6
Disposable razors
Hand warmers
Clorox wipes
Hair conditioner
Bottled water
Thank You!

JOB OPENINGS

Donor Communications Coordinator
Full-time position
Case Manager
Full-time position
Please inquire at careers@sheltered.org

STORE NEWS

Secondhand Solutions
Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop and
The House Coffee Shop
are open during road construction on Jefferson.
Please stop by!