



## OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

[www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

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### SHELTER NEEDS:

Box fans for resident  
apartments, newborn diapers,  
shavers, shaving cream, small  
dish soap, small laundry soap.

# Connections

*May, 2018*



*Look Inside!*

## *Real Redemption in Today's World*

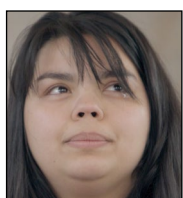
### Real People You Have Saved

Walk the halls at Open House and you cannot help but see that homelessness affects at least two or more generations. Recently we asked five adults to share their past, their choices and how it has impacted their family. Their stories are powerful testimonies to the impact that trau-

***"It was Jesus who taught me  
how to love myself. Now I can  
pass this along to my kids."***

matic experiences in their childhood spilled into their adult lives, how now that threatens to be passed onto their children, and how your support today is helping to intervene and break the cycle of intergenerational homelessness.

In an open forum, Chaplain Mark Roskam introduced the group to the concept of ACEs or Adverse Childhood Experiences. He asked each adult to privately tally which of ten adverse experiences they might have had in their past. Their scores ranged from "3/10" to "9/10". A higher summary "score" reflects a higher degree of childhood adversity and more substantial challenges for the future. Then he asked each to describe the impact on their children and how they deal with that today. We captured their responses on video.\*



**Miranda** and her toddler daughter came to Open House nearly a year ago. She is estranged from most family members who she now realizes are "still sick to this day." Her family gave up on her, and although she self-

scored 6/10 ACEs from her past, since coming to Open House she is thriving, knows and trusts God's love and has her new Open House family.



**Vanessa** (6/10 ACEs) is a mother of three and recent graduate from the Open House shelter. Unknowingly, Vanessa "normalized" her own mother's pattern of being with men who were incarcerated. Recently, she was stunned when she watched her daughters playing house and overheard her daughter saying, "I'll be the mommy, you be the daddy, and you go to prison." Today, Vanessa is breaking the chains of the past, for the benefit of her precious girls.



**Diana** (3/10 Aces) fell into addiction, walking away from her husband and two kids. She realizes today that although her score was "low", because of her choices she passed on higher ACES scores to her children. Diana admits she never realized her patterns until coming to Open House. As she is reconciling her past, with new trust in the Lord she has new hope for her family and the hope that they all will one day be reconciled to one another.



**Alyssa** (9/10 Aces) and her two sisters lived with their mom at Open House nearly two decades ago. Alyssa attests that the ACES score does not define who she is today. She credits God and Open House with changing her life. She just completed her Master's in Social Work and is investing her life into helping others.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Ordination - A Milestone

Chaplain's Corner - May, 2018

On April 16, 2018, I was ordained in the Church of the Nazarene, after over twenty years in the pastorate. I have had the privilege of college and advanced seminary training, yet for the past five years I have engaged in even further studies and examinations in the quest for ordination. Simply, there was a personal longing to be ordained and credentialed, to both formalize my commitment to the Nazarene Church, and to seek accountability and oversight. I choose to be accountable as a pastor, both within and beyond the four walls of the Shelter.

Why the Church of the Nazarene? It was founded in the early 1900's,



the world, and is highly active in overseas missions. The Nazarene's represent a "big tent" of like-minded churches with solid Biblical teaching, a recognition of human free will with personal responsibility, and a great passion for those far from GOD. Since 2010, both Gini and I have attended Starting Grounds Church in Battleground, an awesome Nazarene church plant, and know her to be concerned for reaching the lost, alienated and isolated.

Since ordination, I feel His hand upon my shoulder. He has done great things in allowing me to serve at Open House Ministries and has given me the ministry of reconciliation - reconciling people to GOD through Jesus, and pursuing reconciliation in

the sphere of human relationships (II Cor.5:18). My eight years of service at the Shelter have been the most purposeful years of my life - and I routinely see miracles and wonders. I am so blessed to be the pastor at Open House Ministries.

A few too many people have asked if I am leaving Open House due to my ordination; apparently there are some denominations where ordination signals a looming pastor transfer. All I can say is, GOD willing, I will be at Open House for a long, long time.

With Love and Fond Affection,  
*Mark Roskam, Chaplain*



working in urban settings with the poor, the homeless and the addicts. Today, it has more than 17,000 churches around

## Real People You Have Saved (Continued from page 1)



**John** (8/10 Aces) reflected how he never knew his father growing up, and repeated the pattern in his adulthood. In addition he checked out of his relationship with his twin boys. When the doors of Open House welcomed him in, you gave him the chance to completely reconcile his past, find self-worth, and reconcile with his children, now young adults. "It was Jesus who taught me how to love myself. Now I can pass this along to my kids."

In Chaplain Mark's words, "Every day we praise God for His mighty works amongst us. On behalf of all the generations you are impacting, thank you for journeying with us!"

\*The 2018 "Building Hope" video was presented on May 10th at the Building Hope Benefit Luncheon. To watch the full "Building Hope" video, see the Open House Ministries website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org).



Thank you to producers Ed, Jordan and Alan --the US Digital Media Team -- seen here with residents and staff!





## *When They Are in Your Care... You Do Art!*

**By Vikkilyn Rolfs, Director of Daycare**

How do you help young children deal with negative situations and trauma? What if there was a way to combine play, socialization and nonverbal communications? There is, and Vikkilyn Rolfs knows. You show them God's mercy through love and tenderness and give them the gift of art. Vikkilyn and her staff have found that the more sensory involvement that we can provide the children in the Open House Daycare, the better. Creative play with music, tactile arts, dance, writing or other creative outlets can help children overcome adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). And for Vikkilyn and her staff, the more art the better.

Vikkilyn recalls, "Early after 911, child care professionals found that young children who were near ground zero could not process that the catastrophic event happened one time, because it was always on the news. Each time they saw the replays, they relived the trauma. They had no way to cope with the chronic stress, until providers started to use art therapy. It provided the kiddos a way to process and cope with things they could not talk about."

"We see that here, too. Only for

our kiddos, sometimes the repetitive trauma was in real life in their family. Each time a traumatizing event has occurred to them, it gets more and more complicated for children especially if they don't have an adult buffer to help them make sense of what is happening. We see that a lot in our homeless parents who are still trying to work out their own life. While they are working with their case manager, we are working with the kids. When we get them, a child may not know how to articulate about a bad experience. That is why we are always looking for experiences with music, song, dance and hands on art projects. The more sensory the better. It helps them relieve stress, gives them an outlet and reduces anxiety behaviors. And it is just plain fun. The kids love it."

"It's a beautiful thing to watch people – children and adults – come out of their shell, start communicating and open up when they



pick up a paint brush, play in clay, build something or join in a Zumba class (held twice a week in the shelter!). It helps them become part of God's beautiful world again and for some, start to live for the first time."



**May 10, 2018**



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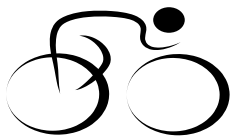
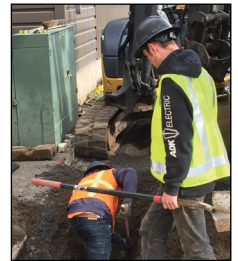




*Tod & Maxine McClaskey*

**FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**

*Opening Summer, 2018!*



**Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop**

***Spring Bicycle Tune Up Special Only \$60\****

Full inspection of all operating parts, including tires, tubes and all bearing centers. Includes truing wheels, replacing cables and housing, setting brakes and indexing shifting. Schedule soon to avoid the summer rush.

*\*Extra charges may apply for broken or missing parts.*

915 West 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660 • (360) 205-5617  
(located on the Open House Ministries campus)

***100% of all proceeds benefit homeless families in Vancouver!***

*On the morning of the National Day of Prayer, May 3rd, 2018, staff and residents gathered outside the front of the shelter to pray for our families, our friends, our community and our country.*

