



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

Connections

May 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT

Construction begins on OHM West!



Heavy machinery made it's way to West 12th Street and Jefferson in late March, marking the beginning stages for OHM West. After years of planning and prayer, staff and residents are excited to see construction start on the 30 unit apartment complex next door to the Open House Ministries campus. "Everyone has worked so hard to get to this point," said Reneé Stevens, executive director for Open House Ministries. "We are so excited to see this next step in affordable housing becoming a reality for residents graduating our program."

Changes at Open House Ministries will include relocating the two thrift stores, providing greater visibility for Secondhand Solutions and Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop. Street-level shopping at OHM West will also include a new coffee shop, increasing vocational training opportunities for residents and a new coffee destination for the community. "I appreciate the expertise of Robertson & Olsen Construction and the creative addition by Slater Architecture," states Reneé. "More residents will have access to work experience with greater retail space and the new coffee shop."

The addition of 30 new apartments will help provide nearby housing for families finishing the Open House Ministries

program in need of ongoing wrap-around services through the ministry. "Having newly graduated families living next to our campus is vital. Success for each family is much greater when case managers and a strong network of support is within reach," said Reneé. "Being able to provide this new space will open up units in our family shelter and allow our ministry to reach a greater number of the homeless family population in our community. We are so grateful to our early donors and area foundations supporting OHM West."



Progress and more information on OHM West will be posted on-line and in publications throughout construction. If you would like to contribute to OHM West or would like more information, please contact Jean LaCrosse at 360-737-0300 or email jean.lacrosse@sheltered.org •

MINISTRY BLESSINGS

100 Men Choose OHM



Thank you, 100 Men Clark County, for choosing Open House Ministries as your 2023 charitable recipient.

We are grateful for your generous support, and for choosing our ministry twice!

You are a blessing.

You can learn more about the **100 Men** organization at **100mencc.com** or on facebook at **facebook.com/100MenCC**

CELEBRATION

Happy Mother's Day from Open House Ministries

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

~ James 1:17

We hope you feel God's blessing as you celebrate this special day.



Constructing Hope

On Thursday, May 18, Open House Ministries will be celebrating *Constructing Hope*, a fundraiser to benefit families rebuilding their lives at our shelter. This year's annual fundraiser will highlight our program and the new opportunities our ministry is working on to help families thrive in our community.

Our celebration fundraiser will be held at the Open House Ministries campus in the multi-purpose gym. If you would like to join us, we will have limited in-person seating and ask you to please RSVP by May 11th by calling 360-737-0300 or email events@sheltered.org to reserve your space.

Constructing Hope will be a hybrid event, broadcasting live on our website at sheltered.org starting at 7 pm on May 18th. Please tune in and celebrate God's great work in the lives of residents and our ministry.

We know you will be blessed to hear how families are recovering through counseling and life-skills training at Open House Ministries and through community partnerships. We are excited to share stories with you from residents who have found successful paths forward and a stable future for their families.

Thank you for your continued support for Open House Ministries. If you have questions please contact us at events@sheltered.org. If you would like to donate to our annual fundraiser, go to sheltered.org and press the link to donate on our website. •



OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
HOPE
FUNDRAISER
2023



Our Stories

There is a conversation I have frequently. It occurs every time someone finds out I'm a Chaplain at a shelter for homeless families. It begins with them recounting the effects homelessness is having on their neighborhood or business, often followed by a personal story of an encounter they had with someone on the streets, wrapped up in a hopeless comment or a question like "I don't know how you do it" or "What can even be done to help?"

While their distress is real, so is my joy. Because every day I get to see the darkness retreating. I see lives restored and families reunified. I see the chains of addiction broken and trust rebuilt. I see fear and trauma healed by the love of God. What's more, I get to offer these stories of hope to those wondering what can even be done.

Yet, these aren't just their stories or my stories. They are our stories. The victory belongs to the Lord, and we are all his messengers. So, every time you stop to read this newsletter, pray for us, volunteer, donate, or share Open House Ministries with someone who wonders what can be done, you are becoming a very part of this story of hope and change. Thank you!

• Chaplain Jon Nichols

GENEROUS GIVING

The Timeless Gift of Endowments

An artesian well is known as a well that never runs dry. Endowments are like those kinds of wells since they never run dry. When people set up endowments they are able to benefit charities like Open House Ministries forever. That is because the principal is never used, only the earnings or a set percentage (for example 5%) from the gifted amount. The idea is the gift will always be available to be used since only a percentage of the endowment will be spent on a regular basis. This is an attractive idea for those who wish to make a larger gift, for exam-

ple a gift from your will/trust, appreciated stocks or real estate.

Open House Ministries has a policy on the administration and setting up of endowments and we would be glad to share that information with you. If you would like a further explanation or brochure please contact Jean LaCrosse at Open House Ministries, 360-737-0300 or email: ross.merritt@sheltered.org. Thank you for giving to Open House Ministries.

Please consider including
Open House Ministries in your will or
estate plan. Thank you! •

SHELTER NEEDS

- Lysol spray • Hand warmers
- Paper towels • Bottled water
- Gallon Ziploc bags
- Infant and toddler socks
- Men's gloves



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