

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Strength Born of Faith

Michelangelo was one of the most influential artists of the Renaissance era. He excelled as a painter, sculptor, and architect. His iconic works include the colossal statue of David and the expansive frescoes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Yet, one of his most notable works is arguably the *Pietà*, completed in 1499 when he was just 24 years old. Michelangelo held the *Pietà* in high regard, as it is the only one of his works he signed.

The *Pietà*, whose name is derived from the Italian word for compassion, captures in white marble the bittersweet moment of Mary holding the body of her son Jesus after his crucifixion. Over the centuries, many artists have depicted this powerful scene. In fact, one of the most cherished pieces of art in my office is a painted glass depiction of Jesus being lowered from the cross into Mary's arms.

The image of the *Pietà* captures the vulnerable strength and immense loving sacrifice of our Savior. It also illustrates the costly courage and rugged faith required of all disciples through Mary's example and the trial of motherhood. It is a portrait that speaks to the shared experiences of mothers across cultures and generations.

Motherhood requires courage—courage to bring children into a dangerous world without the guarantee of safety. Entrusting your child to God in an

unpredictable world is an act of faith and self-sacrifice. You must trust God for their future and believe that sending them out into the world is best, even when your heart wants to hold them close.

Every morning, as I watch the mothers here at Open House Ministries



dropping their children off at daycare or sending them off to school, I'm moved by what I see. In the hustle and bustle of the morning routine, amidst the laughter and occasional tears, I see mothers bravely facing the uncertainties of the

day ahead. They kiss their little ones goodbye, whispering words of encouragement, all the while entrusting them to God's care. It's a profound act of faith, a tangible demonstration of their belief that God holds their children's futures in His loving hands.

As I observe these everyday moments of maternal love and sacrifice, I'm reminded of Mary standing at the foot of the cross, watching her beloved son endure unimaginable suffering. Like Mary, these mothers exhibit a strength born of faith—a strength that allows them to release their children into the world, knowing that God walks alongside them every step of the way.

In their simple yet profound acts of love, mothers inspire us all to trust in God's plan, to lean on His strength, and to embrace each day with courage and faith. • Chaplain Jon Nichols

GIVE BIG 2024



You can help
Open House Ministries
reach our fundraising goal during
GiveBIG Washington Gives

MAY 7 - 8

Use this QR Code



Or go to:
[www.wagives.org/organization/
Open-House-Ministries](http://www.wagives.org/organization/Open-House-Ministries)

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.



TOURS & TALKS

First Friday tours are back!
Noon to 1 pm

Contact us for a tour at
events@sheltered.org

GENEROUS GIVING

Artesian Well

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 example 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.



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

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Vancouver, WA 98666-0242

360-737-0300

www.sheltered.org

2024 ANNUAL HOPE FUNDRAISER



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
HOPE
FUNDRAISER**

SAVE THE DATE

For our annual fundraiser to benefit the families at Open House Ministries.

Celebrate the evening with us

June 27th at 7pm

Limited in-person at the Open House Ministries Multi-purpose Gym

RSVP by June 20th
to events@sheltered.org

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Spring Break Fun!

There was a full schedule of activities for school aged kids on spring break in April. The week included Art Day, Science Day, and we were blessed by the Elk's Lodge and their volunteers who brought in activities, games, and a drug awareness program.



The Columbia Play Project set up their exploratory play museum in the gym for everyone at the shelter. We are grateful to Mary Sisson and the volunteers from Columbia Presbyterian Church for helping with the event on April 2.

Kids rounded out the week with a fun field trip to the trampoline park. ●

JOB OPENINGS

**Part-time Accounting Clerk
Case Management Position
Part-time Child Care Position**

Please inquire at
careers@sheltered.org

SHELTER NEEDS

**Toilet paper • Paper towels
Clorox wipes • Disposable razors
Bottled water • Canned goods
One pound packages of hamburger
Boys and girls pull ups
Size 3/4t and 4/5t**

Thank you!