




## OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

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*Want to help make Christmas special for our youth? See page 4 for a list of gift ideas.*

# Connections

*November, 2017*

*Look Inside!*

## *Peace, Patience and a Place to Live*

### THANK YOU FROM SANDY



*You may recall that last November the feature resident story was about Sandy, a mother of twin 7 year olds who had recently come to the shelter. Every new family entering Open House is told "You can stay one week at a time, for as long as it takes." Here is your update about how Sandy's life is unfolding, one week at a time.*

A bit of background for you...Sandy's story began in Albany, OR. Her addictions started with prescription pain killers prescribed during the twins' pregnancy. When the twins were 1 year old, her mother — her best friend — died unexpectedly. Clouded in a "deep, dark depression", Sandy turned to pills, alcohol and weed, then eventually, meth. Combined with a toxic relationship (the twins' father), her life was "chipping away" with drug use, fighting and domestic violence laced with multiple traumatizing incidents for her and her children. CPS was involved, her teenage son left, no longer wanting to be around the drugs and the abuse and everything was falling apart. But it wasn't until after an 8 hour standoff of her partner holding her hostage at knife point that Sandy took action. She talked him into letting her go, and immediately sought police intervention and restraint on him. And it was then that Sandy owned up to her part; she was an addict. Treatment followed.

For the first time in 8 years, Sandy was clean and sober. She was able to get her 7

year old twins back. But her path wasn't flawless, and in June, 2016, they were homeless, sleeping every night in the back of relatives' vehicles. It was then that a friend of a friend told her about Open House. For weeks she called back, hoping and praying for a chance. And the chance came.

"I have learned that God has bigger plans than I ever realized. I cannot tell you how much this place has changed my life. God shook me up and took everything away. But slowly, patiently, God is putting everything back into my life." She adds, "When I first saw my apartment, I literally fell to my knees crying. I had lost everything and you gave me this beautiful place to live."

In April, Sandy lost her father. "This com-

***"When I first saw my apartment, I literally fell to my knees crying. I had lost everything and you gave me this beautiful place to live."***

munity kept me from going back to drugs. I have been taught the meaning of peace here."

Sandy has loved working in the Clothing Annex and the sorting room. Yet she admits she gets anxious about next steps. "I think God wanted me to be here at this time to learn patience. Before, I was always 'My way, and quick, quick, quick.'" She holds onto Lori [Richardson's] advice; "Pray, be patient and it will come to you when God wants it to." And after months of wait list, mere days before this writing, Sandy's prayers were answered: she has now received notice that she has been

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Chaplain's Corner - November, 2017

## "Raising Hope"

The Family Resource Center is changing the landscape of downtown Vancouver. This great structure, with her impressive walls and massive trusses, is taking shape into what she will become. Though the **Family Resource Center** hosts dozens of construction workers daily, this *inanimate* wooden structure is only beginning to become *animate* - and *already teeming with Life*.

It is easy to see your pivotal role in this ministry. As I walk through the skeleton structure, I see hundreds of wall studs, nailed together and enjoined in a common purpose. I see you in our superstructure. Scripture says, **"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses..."** I see your faces, your signatures, your sacrifices on these walls. Literally or figuratively, actively or passively, you help us

to **"run the race with endurance... looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"** (Hebrews 12:1).

The staff and daily teams of volunteers here at Open House thank you for partnering with us, showing the love of Christ in the sea of human brokenness. When we receive, for example, a bicycle donated by you, an afternoon of volunteering, or your financial gift, it is transformed into ... *Life*. Every time that you call, come, co-labor, contribute, care, or grace us with your generosity, you are stacking hands with us in this gargantuan task, to GOD's glory. Thank you.

We Love You.

*Mark Roskam, Chaplain*



## *Congratulations, Joanne Kendall!*



Joanne Kendall, Founder of Open House Ministries has been named the Honored Citizen of the Year presented at this year's Clark County Prayer Breakfast on November 9, 2017. Each fall, Clark County residents, businesses and organizations gather to honor, thank and pray for our community leaders and those that serve and protect us.

**Proverbs 31:20-21** *She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.*

This year, Joanne is recognized for her life-long commitment to homeless families with children. Her dedication to the homeless need began in the early 1980's when she and her

husband enlisted the help of their fellow Christians and community leaders to help homeless mothers with children by opening the Open House Ministries shelter in a 10-room boarding house in 1986. Their legacy lives on.

**Proverbs 31:26** *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

Even today, Joanne plays an active part in the Ministry, serving on the Board of Directors and giving classes. As local community leader says, "Joanne Kendall is the real deal, the best of the best." Those who have had the privilege of working with Joanne will agree she is a Godly woman.

**Proverbs 31:31** *Give her the reward she has earned and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

Please join us in congratulating Joanne Kendall, Honored Citizen of the Year, 2017.



**We recently asked the kids at the shelter what they are most grateful for this month.**

**We hope you enjoy their responses as much as we did!**

*"Mom, grandpa, a home & brothers."* - **Kaden**

*"My birthday is almost here!"* - **Bella**

*"My mom."* - **Brooklyn**

*"Food, drinks & mom."* - **Trevor**

*"Mom, dad, little brother, actually, family and Jesus."*  
- **John**

*"My head phones."* - **Jayme**

*"Baby sister and mom."* - **Emery**

*"We got a new home and a new picture."* - **Dustin**

*"Not failing room check, and my phones not taken away."* - **Alexis**

*"Everything, except the bad stuff, only the good stuff!"*  
- **Aurora**

*"Yogi Bear club. They teach us about God. He's a nice guy! It's so fun."* - **Matthew**

*"Jesus Christ dying on the cross."* - **Isabelle**

*"Horsies!"* - **Eva**

*"Everything. My mom!"* - **Talia**

*"God and living."* - **Tre**

*"For sharing."* - **Sawyer**

*"My mom and dad."* - **Cameron**

*"That I know God is my savior."* - **Keelie**



### **SANDY'S STORY** *(Continued from page 1)*

accepted into a housing program that will allow her and the twins to get their own apartment beyond the shelter.

Sandy's voice goes quiet as she reflects on the losses of the last three years. The hardest has been the separation from her (now) 17 year old son. "He didn't want to have anything to do with me while [the twin's dad] was around." For months Sandy has prayed that she would one day see him again. Her voice chokes, "Out of the blue, just before the end of October, he contacted me and drove up to visit us here. The first visit in three years. I cannot tell you how much that means to me! My prayers were answered. I am in awe right now."

"I have always been a spiritual person. When I came here, the first thing I learned is trust in the Lord, pray and let Him do the work. They say, 'Believe and you shall receive'. I am living proof of that."



## What Will Be Your Legacy?



Have you thought about how you want to be remembered? Planning to give beyond your lifetime (otherwise called "Planned Giving") is a way for your generosity to live on for future generations. By taking Planned Giving steps now with your estate planning, you can make choices today that can live

on for many generations by making lifetime or deferred gifts to Open House Ministries.

You might consider some common – and easy to do -- types of Planned Giving that can be gifts that do not directly affect

your financial resources today, yet can be the legacy gift that will provide shelter and Christ-based programs to homeless families at Open House in years to come:

- Include Open House Ministries in your will or trust.
- Name Open House Ministries as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy.
- Designate Open House Ministries as a beneficiary of part or all of your IRA.

For more information on these or other Planned Giving options, please contact us at [plannedgiving@sheltered.org](mailto:plannedgiving@sheltered.org) or call us at (360) 356-3770.



## The Open House Ministries Retail Shops on 13th Street

915 West 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10am-5pm, Wednesday 11am-5pm.

*100% of the proceeds from your purchases at any of our shops benefit homeless families.*

### SECOND HAND SOLUTIONS

It's time to start Christmas Shopping! Check out the wide variety of gifts and decorations available with great deals throughout the store!



### Now Serving Hot Soup!

Starting the month of November, you can get a \$5 "Hot Soup and Roll" lunch at the Common Grounds Coffee Shop. Available from store opening through lunch every Tuesday - Friday. Located in the Second

Hand Solutions Thrift Store.

### WHEEL DEALS BICYCLES

If you are looking for a great price on a new or refurbished bicycle, we have an expanded variety of bicycles that can make great gifts this Christmas. And we gladly accept donations of gently used bicycles all year long.



### CURRENT NEEDS:

New boys underwear, Sizes 4-16

### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR SHELTER YOUTH

*We are now gratefully accepting gifts for all our children. You can help make this Christmas special for our middle school and high school students living at Open House. Here are some items on their "wish lists":*

- Gift cards for movies, fast food restaurants, book-stores or Game Stop
- Wallets
- Hoodies
- Make up
- AXE cologne
- Scented body sprays



**OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES**

*We're a family shelter*