

## MINISTRY

### Thankfulness and Joy

One of our ministry maxims is “one week at a time, for as long as it takes, as long as you are making progress.” At Open House Ministries, we expect progress. We do not expect perfection. We learn to judge our progress by comparing ourselves to where we were yesterday, not by comparing ourselves to others.

This drive for progress can feel like a burden if we forget the grace and mercy of the Lord afforded us. We don't walk this journey alone. We don't even walk through the power of our strength. It is important to remember that we have not only been saved by grace, but we live by grace. Grace, by definition, is something that cannot be earned. It is something freely given. At every turn, the story of Scripture (and our own lives) is the story of God relentlessly pursuing and drawing us to Himself.

Therefore, we talk a lot about progress, constantly celebrate growth, and give thanks to God every day. As we turn toward a season marked by gratitude, I want to celebrate with you by sharing a few of the joyful thanksgivings of our residents.

- *Chaplain Jon Nichols*

*“I'm so grateful for the opportunity to rebuild my life, grow with Jesus, and restore my broken family. Today, I get to walk with the Lord and fix all things broken.” - Kelli*

*“Having a home here at OHM has given me a second chance to be a better mom with ample opportunities to learn and grow in ways that would be much harder without the help and support offered here.” - Shelby*



*“The classes here at Open House Ministries are what I'm grateful for. They help build our foundation of faith and life skills to apply to our growth and life outside the shelter.” - Mariah*

*“I'm grateful for everything in my life today, for the opportunity to be here at Open House Ministries. Me and my children get to wake up and go to sleep knowing we are safe from the outside world. I am grateful to be alive and a child of God today.” - Amanda*

(Continued)

## GRACIOUS GIVING

### Year End Giving

As a supporter of Open House Ministries, your gifts throughout the year have enabled us to help change our residents' lives in so many ways. By providing a stable living environment for families, continuing education, and most importantly, regular Bible-based encouragement, you make that happen through your generosity.

Many of you have decided to make gifts directly from your IRA to maximize your gifts and avoid unnecessary taxes. Another way we have received numerous gifts is from your Donor Advised Fund (sometimes known as a Giving Fund or similar names). These funds can be set up in numerous ways, but one of the best ways is transferring appreciated stock to avoid capital gains taxes. This makes larger year-end gifts possible and gives you the flexibility to delay making a large gift, such as to our new capital campaign, yet provides you with a current year tax deduction. This can allow you to take time to prayerfully consider where, when and how much to give and plan a more comprehensive giving strategy.

Giving appreciated assets can make you a more cheerful giver because these assets are almost like a gift from God. Thanks to His leading, you have enjoyed a blessing that acknowledges the fact that He is the rightful owner of all that we have, and we are just trying to be a good steward of what He has entrusted to us.

If you have any questions about how to give through funds like this or would like to discuss other unique ways to make a generous year-end gift, please contact Ross, or Jean 360-737-0300 or email [ross.merritt@sheltered.org](mailto:ross.merritt@sheltered.org).

Thank you for your continued support for Open House Ministries. Please remember us in your will or estate plan. ●



## OHM WEST CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Construction crews are working their way up to the fourth floor of OHM West. Warm Fall weather has been a blessing for everyone on site, keeping pace with the building schedule. We invite you to see the exciting progress taking place at OHM West on Jefferson and W. 12th Street. The 30 affordable apartment and vocational training complex is quickly taking shape next door to our campus!

## CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENT

# Adopt a Family for Christmas

Christmas time is quickly approaching at Open House Ministries, and we invite you to celebrate by adopting one of our families this year.

If you would like to participate, the following guidelines will be helpful.

● **Last day to drop off gifts will be Wednesday, December 20th.**

### Gift Guidelines and Ideas

- Toys and clothing items from the family's wish list, wrapped and delivered by Wednesday, December 20th.
- Gift cards such as Target, Fred Meyer, WINCO foods or a gas card. Unwrapped toys and gift cards are also welcome. To adopt a family for Christmas, please contact Claudia Merritt at 360-737-0300 or email [claudia.merritt@sheltered.org](mailto:claudia.merritt@sheltered.org), and she will give you the details needed for your family adoption. *Thank you!*

## SHELTER NEEDS

Bottled water • Copier paper 8.5 x 11  
 Clorox wipes • Lysol spray  
 Baby wipes • Diapers size 5 & 6  
 Pull ups: All sizes  
 Women's deodorant  
 Women's underwear:  
 Sizes x-small to medium  
 Men's boxer briefs: All sizes  
 Children's toothbrushes & toothpaste  
 Socks of all sizes • Canned soups

## VOLUNTEER!

Visit our website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org) and find out how you can make a difference at OHM

## TOURS & TALKS

Want to see Open House Ministries up close?  
 First Friday tours are back!  
 Noon to 1 pm  
 Contact us for a tour at [events@sheltered.org](mailto:events@sheltered.org)

## MINISTRY CONT.

*"I am grateful that I'm learning how to handle stress without it affecting me mentally. Taking that stress and proactively using it to push me harder towards where I want to be in life."*

- Antoinette



*"I am grateful to have a safe place for my baby and grateful to be around people who love and super grateful for the relationship I have been able to establish with our heavenly Father."*

- Christina

*"I'm grateful for my freedom. For my sanity. To have my son back with me. To be at Open House Ministries for a new start."* - Bradyn

*"A lot has changed in the last few days. I have had a lot of help from the community at Open House Ministries. God and I are coming closer together, thanks to you. You are helping me finally find myself. And I've been lost."* - Amaya

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1*

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

We had to say good-bye to the old birch tree by the shelter. It faithfully provided shade for kids playing outside for many years. We appreciate Cascade Tree Works for donating their time and service, safely removing the tree. *Thank You!*



**OPEN HOUSE  
 MINISTRIES**  
*We're a family shelter*  
[www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

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