




OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

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*Holy, holy, holy is
the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is
full of His glory!*

Isaiah 6:3

SHELTER NEEDS:

All things Baby! Diapers
(newborn/infant to 1 year)
wipes, baby formula, shampoo
and lotion, laundry detergent.

Connections

October, 2018



Look Inside!

Our Residents Want You to Know



***"I am so grateful for this Family
Resource Center. It is truly a blessing...
it is saving my life." ~ Andrea***

Imagine for a moment what it feels like to be Ciara, a single parent, grateful for her studio apartment yet faced with the challenge of every young parent: trying to find ways for her pre-schooler and first grader to constructively let off energy in the evenings. Unlike other children their age, Ashland and EJ have had few options in the evenings or on the weekends. Options for safe play areas or even a place for the family to recreate together has been so limited... until now.

September 20, 2018. Open House Ministries opened the gym of the new Tod and Maxine McClaskey Family Resource Center for the first time. It was a combined celebration, first use of the facility and "give thanks/give back" event. Local Rotarians served a BBQ meal to nearly 500 people, while Community Partners came to share their services in a Resource Fair. On the south end of the campus the Banfield Pet Hospital held a free pet care clinic, serving 65 animals and their owners.

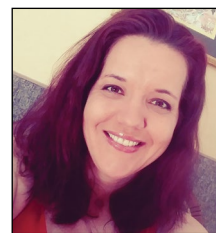
The following week the entire center was opened for public tours, marking a new chapter in the Open House Ministries history book.

Our families will now have classes, chapel, recreation, youth activities and more in the new Resource Center. As residents toured the building for the first time, they shared their reflections amidst tears and outright exclamations of joy.

Ciara started with, "My kids will have a gym to run in and play. When you are 3 and 6 [yrs.], moving around is just something they do. Not being stuck in a room is going to be such a blessing. I am happy, joyful, excited and grateful!"

When asked how she envisions using the center, Andrea overcome with tears of joy said, "...to better myself and the relationship with my children and with God. I am so thankful to be part of this amazing family here at Open House Ministries. I am so grateful for this Resource Center. It is truly a blessing... it is saving my life."

Oscar is excited for him and his son. "I am thankful to have the safe environment for all of us. [It] feels great!"



Then we heard from Jobina. "We will learn a new way of life...a life in Christ. We will reach out to the community so God's light will shine through us into their lives. My girls will have a place to spend time in the rainy and colder months. [I am] excited about having a place for our youth to learn about God's healing grace" She continues, "I feel so blessed to be part of Open House Ministries at all, but especially now in this monumental time. I love that God can make himself known in this place through the healing that happens here in the lives of broken people like me."



The Beauty of Autumn

Chaplain's Corner - October, 2018

“GOD made the moon to mark the Seasons, the Sun knows its time for setting” (Ps.104)

Summer has yielded to fall with its autumnal glory. My heart is also bursting with colors and images, as we celebrate a new season at Open House Ministries. We thank GOD for His faithfulness. We are humbled at your generosity offered in a myriad of ways. Last week, I spoke with an intimate group of Open House supporters and waswhelmed by a touching moment with retired Chaplain Aaron Knapp. Touring the **Tod and Maxine McClaskey Family Resource Center**, I looked up to see great tears of gratitude falling down Aaron's cheeks. We join him with our tears of thankfulness.

Thank you, faithful friends for carrying us with prayers, tender words, open hearts and gifts of generosity. Amazingly, there are many “first generation Christians” at Open House, as lives change and their trajectory is altered forever. Just this week, a young mother shared with me, “Mark, jail saved my life.” An assault charge stemming from a fight with her estranged husband landed her in jail for seven months, where she met Jesus. She is a new woman. Thank You, Jesus, for coming for ***“the broken-hearted and crushed in spirit”*** (Ps.34:18).

At the time of this writing, we just had our first official resident class in the new center — Chapel! We imported the old autographed Cross, which had been signed by our residents, remembering that the parcel of land where we

now worship was an old tenement drug house. We gathered our growing pile of signed river stones, as we built a pile of “stones of remembrance.” And we set the Chapel area for sixty guests. Once again, GOD showed His manifold grace by bringing an overflow crowd to Chapel: our resident families, babies, friends and neighbors. So, Chapel is moving to a larger area in the building, and the great news is that the new facility is more-than-ready for our advance!

GOD willing, seven classes and the first five staff members will move to the resource center next week. As we begin a new chapter in the legacy of Open House Ministries, we send our love and prayers to you — our beloved co-laborers.

With Love and Fond Affection,

Chaplain Mark



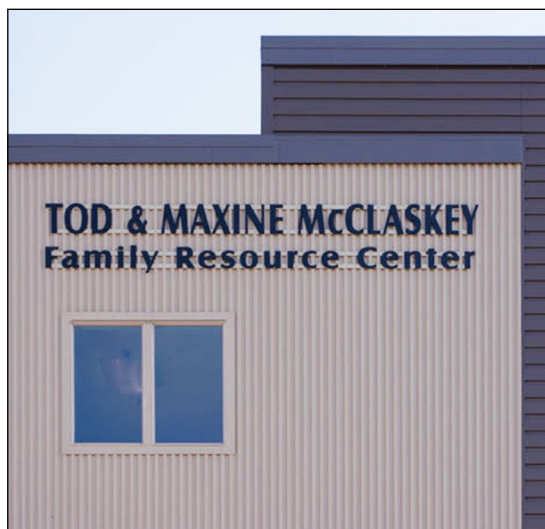
Thank You!



We were so blessed by your donations to provide our thirty-six (soon to be thirty-nine) children at Open House with safe shelter this fall. Thanks to you, funds to provide **over 2,125 “bed-nights”** were raised during this year's Give More 24! September Event.

Our children and families thank you!

Project Supporters Preview the Tod & Maxine Family Resource Center



Dear Friends,

September 26, 2018

A little over a year ago the construction of the new building on campus was underway. We were so excited, even then, anticipating the day when we would finally open the doors and start using the facility. That day has come!

The first events in the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Family Resource Center at the end of last month were about giving back. We have held our first chapel service. By the end of the month our classes will be orchestrated in the new space. We have been so blessed every step of the way by the generosity of our donors who supported the project, teams of workers who built the project, local companies and contractors who donated materials and labor costs, all your prayers that held up the project and God who has truly blessed the project. It is an amazing time in the history of our campus, and I am honored to be a part of it.

I thanked you a year ago, and as I reflected on the words I said then, I cannot help but think how very important they are to repeat to you now. We are so blessed that so many have contributed to the project. Many individuals and companies have donated their prayers and services to the construction. Significant in-kind contributions from our business community have allowed us to build twice the building at a fraction of the cost. The dedication of this building will always be remembered as a celebration and tribute to the legacy created by the amazing support from our generous community!

We have a lot of work to do to continue to meet the needs of homeless families in our community. By the grace of God we have come this far, and by His grace and with your help, we will continue to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters for generations to come.

Blessings, Renee Stevens ~ Executive Director

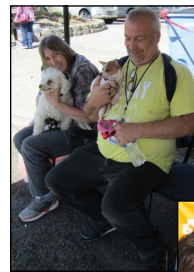




A Resource Fair, featuring over 15 local Community Partners, provided service information to the party attendees.



Rotarians from the Greater Clark County Rotary Club prepared and served nearly 500 people at the annual Community Block Party for Open House residents, alumni, and local neighbors.



Banfield Pet Hospital staff and volunteers served 65 animals in three hours with a free preventive pet care clinic.



**You're Invited To Our
Christmas Preview Event
Winter Wonderland!**

**At Second Hand Solutions
Thrift Store & Coffee Shop**

Monday, November 5, 2018 • 4 pm – 7 pm

915 West 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660 • (360) 735-5943

A fun evening of Christmas shopping, door prizes, hot cider, coffee and cookies. You'll find special savings throughout the store!

100% of all proceeds go to help homeless families in Vancouver!



IRA-RMD

**GREAT NEWS FOR
YOUR IRA-RMD**

The tax advantage for IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) is still in effect this year! If you are 70 years or older, and will be taking an RMD from your IRA account, consider directing a Qualified Charitable Distribution of up to \$100,000 to charity. October is a good time to consult with your professional tax advisor to plan how a contribution to Open House Ministries before 12/31/18 can result in favorable tax benefits for you this year. Open House Ministries is a registered 501(c)3 organization with Federal Tax ID #94-3028685.