

RESIDENT STORY

A Time to Rebuild and Heal



Shayla, Leo, and Kimber share a moment on our shelter front bench.

Open House Ministries gives residents an opportunity to slow down and work on a better direction for their families and their futures. It's what brought Shayla and her young children to our family shelter.

Shayla needed time to focus and get her life back on track. Time spent in a healthy environment, allowing her to address the obstacles in her life. While she was here, she recognized her need for a deeper relationship with God.

Shayla was impacted by our Art of Faith class, spending time in our Giving Back program, and working on her job skills in our thrift store, Secondhand Solutions. One of her most memorable moments was participating in one of our baptismal celebrations, and we were blessed by her profession of faith in Jesus.

Equipping our residents with new life skills and providing coun-

seling for their families continues to bring results. We recognize that each family is struggling with different needs and our work focuses on helping each of them overcome the obstacles keeping them from living successful lives.



"Open House Ministries has one of the most beneficial, healthy and resourceful programs if you allow it to change your life," said Shayla. "I was able to focus on myself and rebuild my life in God's eyes."

We are so grateful for Shayla and her family. We hope the time she spent at Open House Ministries will continue to bless her. Please pray for her as she seeks a new path for her family with God. ●

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

How do we change?

When I was a child, I wanted to be a paleontologist and live in a cave. I thought dinosaurs were awesome, and Batman had a cave, so why couldn't I have it all?

I was talking with an elementary school teacher recently who told me her classroom is full of children who want to be professional football players and YouTube channel hosts. Some of these children may make these dreams a reality. There is also a good chance that by the time they are adults, they will have changed their minds a hundred times. I know I did.

If you pause and reflect, I'm sure we can all remember different things you had our hearts set on when you were younger. It would be easy to dismiss these as mere childhood fantasies. However, I wonder how surprised we might be if we could talk to a younger person of ourselves. How passionate we were and how much thought we had put into these things. How more detailed and compelling the stories we told ourselves were than we can now remember.

What is true is our interests have changed over time. Our passions and desires also change. It is a truth that seems rather obvious. Yet, there is this persistent myth that change is not possible. It is no new myth either. The prophet Jeremiah quotes a common belief of his day when he asks, "Can a leopard change its spots?" (Jeremiah 13:23).

Yet, our lives are a testimony to the reality of change. We are not the same people we were yesterday. For better or for worse, we have all changed in many ways as we have journeyed through life. So, I wonder if it's not that people doubt the reality of change as much as the idea that we have a say in the process.

The big question is, "How do we change?"

Someone once told me, "It is not change people dislike; it is the process." *(continued)*

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONT.

There is truth to this. Given the option, most of us would choose to be smarter, stronger, healthier, and more accomplished. Likewise, the road that leads this way is indeed hard and difficult. Thus, it could be that the reason why we give up on some desires is because the process requires too much of us (or at least more than we were willing to give to achieve it).

Nevertheless, this behaviorist approach fails to capture the whole picture. Change is hard work. Yet, change is more than a matter of effort. Change is ultimately a matter of the heart.

We held onto many former ways of living and being because they were the most desirable vision we could imagine for ourselves. Maybe our vision was fueled by comfort — I enjoy sitting on the couch eating chips more than jogging. It could be approval — I would rather be sick with friends than healthy and alone. Or maybe it's control — I would rather do what I want than get better.

However, if we ever experienced change, it was precisely because we traded old desires for new ones. We adopted a new vision for our lives. Our hearts changed.

Change is possible, and it still happens as it did when we eventually set aside those childhood dreams and desires. Change requires first falling in love with something more beautiful and real. Our hearts and minds must be captivated by a new and desirable vision for our lives. Something so real and compelling as to leave the old life and self behind and endure whatever costs may occur en route.

I know of only one more beautiful and desirable reality than any other: life with Jesus. In fact, it is when we fall in love with Jesus and desire a relationship with him above all else that we begin to experience not just change but transformation.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

● *Chaplain Jon Nichols*



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**
We're a family shelter
www.sheltered.org

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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, and she will give you the details needed for your family adoption. *Thank you!*

SECONDHAND SOLUTIONS

DON'T MISS THE
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Santa's Workshop

**Monday, November 6th
3 pm ~ 6 pm**

**Enjoy great holiday shopping,
festive cookies, and holiday themed drinks!**

**Come early and enter to win our
door prizes!**

SHELTER NEEDS

**Canned fruit • Canned soups • Chili
One pound packages of hamburger
Boxed dinners • Lysol spray
Copier paper 8.5 x 11 • Paper towels
Baby wipes • Size 6 diapers
Pull ups - all sizes
Women's underwear:
Sizes x-small to medium
Men's boxer briefs - all sizes
Women's deodorant
Socks of all sizes
Children's toothbrushes & toothpaste**

JOB OPENINGS

**Accounting Clerk
Thrift Store Staff Position
Daycare Staff Position**
Please inquire at
careers@sheltered.org

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**