

## RESIDENT STORY

### Miranda's Story of Healing, Purpose, and Hope

**M**iranda grew up surrounded by addiction and dysfunction. She vowed that her future children would never experience that life. "I thought I was doing everything right," Miranda said. "I got married, bought a home, and prepared to welcome our first child."

However, during her third trimester, everything began to unravel. A quiet struggle with addiction overwhelmed her husband and her marriage, and Miranda made a tough decision to move out. She was broken, grieving, and completely lost. "I knew I had to keep the promise I made years before — that my daughter would have a different life," she shared. "So, in the middle of the night, clutching my newborn baby, we left."

A month later, she was sitting in the lobby of Open House Ministries. She described barely speaking without crying. She expected to be placed in a crowded gym with cots, sleeping with one eye open, while holding her baby close for safety. Instead, she was led to her very own apartment and handed a set of keys. "There was a made bed with fresh sheets, clean towels, cutlery, a private kitchen and bathroom," Miranda recalls. "I sat on that bed, with Ruby still in her car seat, and I wept. God truly is a God of multiplication."

Over the next year, Miranda participated in classes, Bible studies, and counseling. She remembers gaining the tools she still uses



*Miranda and baby Ruby in 2017*

today. "It's where I learned to surrender, to trust Jesus fully, and to let go of everything I was never meant to carry," she said. "I learned how to apply Scripture in my prayers, how to set boundaries with unhealthy relationships, and how to walk in spiritual authority."

Even though she was an adult, Miranda feels like she grew up at Open House Ministries. "The staff and volunteers poured into me and my daughter with such love and consistency. I heard over and over again, 'This is your year to focus on yourself. Take it seriously.'" So I made another promise — I would stay the full year, follow the path God had laid before me, and embrace the process completely," she said.

Today, by God's grace, Miranda's husband is eight years clean and sober. God has reconciled their marriage, and they are raising two beautiful daughters — Ruby and Penelope. They are actively involved in their church, and in a full-circle moment she never imagined, Miranda now works at Open House Ministries in the new coffee shop, serving every day with a grateful heart.

"I will never forget where I came from," said Miranda. "And I am so blessed it has happened. Open House Ministries is more than a shelter — it's a place of healing, of purpose, of hope. It's a place where families are restored and futures are rewritten. Just like mine." ●



*Miranda and her husband with their two daughters, Ruby and Penelope*

## GENEROUS GIVING

### Making Great Things Happen

**I**t is important to have an up-to-date Will or Trust. In addition to documenting how your property will bless your loved ones, your Will or Trust can be a meaningful and effective way to support Open House Ministries and our work to provide life-changing help to local families.

There are many benefits to planning a gift.

- **Assurance.** You have provided for others in the way you intend.
- **Flexibility.** Your gift can be changed during your lifetime if your needs or goals change.
- **Impact.** Support the work you care about most.
- **Influence.** Shape your personal legacy and set an example for others.

Your Will or Trust needs to be drafted in accordance with the laws in our state. We can refer you to attorneys who specialize in estate planning and there are even suitable online programs if you have a fairly simple estate.

Please contact Jean LaCrosse at Open House Ministries or email [jean.lacrosse@sheltered.org](mailto:jean.lacrosse@sheltered.org) if you would like would like more information.

*Thank you!* ●

## TOURS & TALKS

**Want to see Open House Ministries up close?**

**Join us for a First Friday Tour  
Noon to 1 pm**

**To sign up, contact us at  
[events@sheltered.org](mailto:events@sheltered.org)**

# Greater Than Anything We Can Imagine

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20)*

At first glance, it sounds like a promise without boundaries. Almost like a blank check: whatever I can dream up, God can top it.

But when I follow that through, it starts to unravel. Where's the limit? I saw a guy on YouTube count to a million once. Took him 40 days. I think I could do it faster. I could ask for a million blessings in 30 days. At that point, why stop at a million?

And imagining? That's even easier. I can picture a bigger house, a better car, and more perfect weather. If this verse just means God can top whatever I dream up, where does it end?

Anselm of Canterbury once described God as *"that than which nothing greater can be conceived."* His critics tried to poke holes in it: *"If I can imagine a perfect island, then it must exist."* But that's the flaw — a "perfect island" isn't even coherent. How many miles of sandy beach make an island perfect? How many palm trees — five hundred? Take that vision and then double the coconuts, triple the mangos, add a few more palm trees... does that make it better? If it does, why not double it again? And then again? And again after that?

God isn't like that. God's greatness is different. His greatness isn't built on stacking quantities but in perfect qualities — His power, wisdom, goodness, and presence.

Omnipotence isn't just more strength; it's complete strength. Omniscience isn't knowing more facts; it's knowing all things perfectly. God doesn't merely have "more." He is perfection itself.

And that's what makes Paul's words so stunning: God's "immeasurably more" isn't about getting more things — it's about being drawn into more of Him. His power, His wisdom, His goodness — at work within us.

Here at Open House Ministries, we live among those prayers for more. We hear them every day — for work that pays enough, for cars that start in the morning, for safe homes where kids can finally rest. These are good prayers. We carry them together, labor toward them together, and rejoice when God provides.

But Paul's "immeasurably more" stretches beyond even those good and worthy goals. Abundant life isn't found in an abundance of possessions. It's found in belonging to Christ. It's hope that survives setbacks. It's identity that isn't erased by failure or shame. It's grace that reconciles families, restores dignity, and rewrites stories the world had already given up on.

That's the deeper work unfolding here. Not less than steady jobs and safe homes — but more. So much more.

Because God's "immeasurably more" is bigger than anything we dare ask. Greater than anything we can imagine. And better than anything we would have thought to want.

• Chaplain Jon Nichols

Abundant life isn't found in an abundance of possessions. It's found in belonging to Christ.

# 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 Friday, December 19th.

## Gift Guidelines and Ideas

- Toys and clothing items from the family's wish list, wrapped and delivered by Friday, December 19th.
- Gift cards such as Target, Fred Meyer, WINCO foods or a gas card.

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!*

## REVIVAL HOUSE THRIFT STORE

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

*Peace on Earth*

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday  
November 13th, 14th, and 15th  
10 am ~ 5 pm

Family Resource Center Gym

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

## SHELTER NEEDS

Clorox wipes • Paper towels • Bottled water  
Deodorant • Kid's shampoo • Baby wash  
8.5 x 11 Copy paper • Canned Fruit  
One-pound packages of hamburger



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

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