




**OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES**

[www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)

P.O. Box 242  
Vancouver, WA 98666  
(360) 737-0300

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**REMEMBER!**

**GIVE  
MORE  
24!** 

**Thursday, September 21st.**

# Connections

*Special Edition!*

## Family Resource Center First 90 Days

*Look Inside!*

### *Your Gift Became His "Compass"*

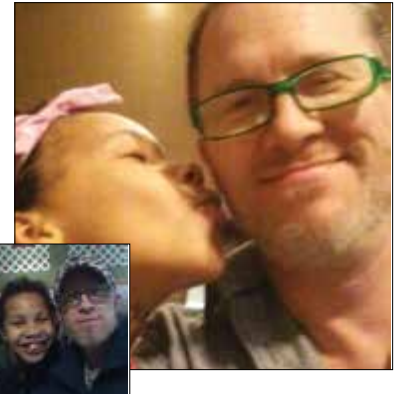
As he stirred in bed, the linoleum floor came alive with the rapid clicking of cockroaches scurrying back into the baseboard. An acrid blend of liquor, opiates and cigarette butts lingered in the air, an inescapable reminder of the night before. Nasty alarm clock, this reality. Trapped in a vicious cycle, here he was again: homeless, broke and addicted. Surviving night after night in a cheap, dirty, infested motel, his family broken, his life had fallen apart. Like a traveler adrift without a compass, he asked himself, "How did I end up here again? How do we get out?"

*He starts every day with the Lord – his "true North", forever grateful for the "moral compass" you gave him that guides him today.*

Shad had hit bottom. He ached with the memory of 2013 when he and his family were at Open House. That time had been great. There they had found peace and direction. They were all together as they transitioned to their new home. They thought, "Life's not perfect, but at least we are together." Or so it seemed. But sometimes the journey is not a straight path, particularly when addictions become a roadblock.

Outside of the shelter, Shad and his wife detoured back to alcohol and drugs. Today he admits that the toxic mixture of substance abuse and codependency

sent him into a downward spiral — loss of job, housing, and even custody of their daughter. And it was that day, laying in empty, deafening silence that Shad hit rock bottom.



## "I AM THE WAY ..."

Shad began to pray that he would hear the voice of GOD again, to find direction. Shad recalls, "It was like GOD said, 'You know how much you love your wife? How much more do I love you? You know how it feels when she leaves you. Why do you keep leaving me?'" Shad realized in his quest for love in his marriage, he had walked away from his "First Love" ~ a loving God. In that moment, Shad surrendered and immediately knew his "true North" had to be to God.

## STARTING OVER...

Today, Shad is clean and sober, living on his own in a new supportive community, working, active in his church and regularly visiting his daughter who now is in the care of loving family members. With the help of the Open House case management team, supportive alumni friends from Open House, he went through Detox, joined AA, and found a church community. He has direction again. He starts every day with the Lord – his "true North" – forever grateful for the "moral compass" you gave him that guides him today. His outlook for the future? Put your faith in God and stay the course.





# Chaplain's Corner - September, 2017

## "The City Saints"

"Just as our bodies have many parts ... so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other" (Romans 12: 4-5 NLT)

For the past five years, the City Saints have been prominent in the Living Hope Co-ed Softball League; a team comprised of residents, past and present, staff and friends of Open House Ministries. Shane (MVP) and Alizz, coached us to be good competitors. Some of our players have never played softball, or in Monica's case, had never played any team sport - ever. Yet she played with simple joy and a steady smile.



For the third year in a row, the City Saints won the League Sportsmanship Award! Other teams would say that the league was better because the Saints were on the ballfield. As Saints, we prayed and played to the glory of GOD, and were so grateful to hear "Well done, good and faithful servants." Life is about so much more than softball.

Fifteen players - One Team. So it is in our efforts together with you on behalf of Open House; many people, individual roles, each unique, all needed, some in the spotlight, more in the shadows, some rich and many poor, some deeply faithful and some having only a fleck of faith. Thank you for the Joy of the Journey of ministry together, and for the noble cause of caring for others, and learning how to live as One along The Way.

With Love and Fond Affection,  
*Mark Roskam, Chaplain*



## Open House Rocks Vancouver!

Have you heard of Vancouver Rocks? It's like Pet Rocks on steroids. You may have already stumbled upon a painted pebble, stunning stone or really remarkable rocks "hidden" around town. If so, you are one of over 35,000 people in Vancouver experiencing a rapidly growing a community "game" for kids of all ages: Vancouver Rocks. You see, you paint paint them, hide them, post on social media, share them with friends, then repeat. And check the back. If it says, "OHM Vancouver Rocks", it is a gift from us.

It started this spring when students from Vancouver School of Arts and Academics brought in paints and supplies. Open House families joined in. Kids, parents, staff and volunteers have been "rockin" ever since!

Our Rock Stars have been "painting forward" rocks of gratitude for friends of Open House. Over 150 gratitude rocks were distributed to participants at this year's Race for the Homeless put on by New Heights Church. And another 160 went to the Scramble for the Kids put on by Liberty Bible. What's next? We are gearing up for a "Rock-A-Thon" from 2pm-4pm during this year's Give More 24! day of online giving, gifting our creations to say "Thanks" to you, our supporters.

Do you want to see more for yourself? Check out our website and Facebook Page. If you find an "OHM Vancouver Rock", post it, keep it to treasure, re-hide it and/or pass it on. Visit Open House on Give More 24! September 21st when we will be painting from 2pm-4pm and giving away hand painted OHM Rocks. Join in the fun, spread the word ~ Open House Rocks Vancouver!



Open House "Rock Star"



OHM Vancouver Rock



Mindy Chumbley, Chair of  
Scramble For Kids Golf



E.D. Reneé gifts rocks  
to runners





**OPEN HOUSE  
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## *Your Construction Update*

Even from three blocks away you can see the McClaskey Family Resource Center is well underway. The foundation has been poured, rebar set, rooms framed, walls put up and the third floor is underway.

What's next? The "great room" gym, trusses and roof. The plan ~ 100% "dry" (under cover) by the time the rains set in. Come see for yourself. Your generosity is hard at work!





## THEIR FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

I need your help. The fall is when we are planning for the next year. The new construction is opening doors of opportunities for Open House to expand programs for our families. When I was in the program years ago, I received life changing classes and guidance. Years later my children shared that they felt left out because the emphasis was on adult education. This year I am committed to change that. In the upcoming year, 2017-2018, our focus is on family. And to do so, I need your help.

This month we are gathering information about other successful Christian programs for families with children, from our community and around the globe. If you know about a successful, proactive program, please write me, drop me a note, send an email to [4theFamily@sheltered.org](mailto:4theFamily@sheltered.org), or leave a comment on our website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org). Let's join hands in giving the children a hand up to a brighter future.

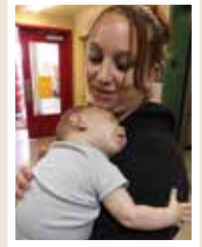
God bless you~

Renee Stevens

Executive Director  
Open House Ministries



*Will you give them just one more night?*



**Your gift of only \$19 will provide ONE MORE CHILD a night of shelter.**



**OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES**

*We're a family shelter*

**GIVE  
MORE  
24!**

*Powered by the Community Foundation*

**Tonight we can name 52 reasons,  
all under the age of 17, why your gift  
during Give More 24! matters  
more than ever for the families at  
Open House Ministries.**

**Will you give them  
just one more night?**

**This year during Give More 24!,  
choose Open House Ministries.  
Your gift matters.**



**On September 21, 2017, give online at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)  
or [www.give-more-24.org](http://www.give-more-24.org) and choose Open House Ministries.**

*Open House Ministries is a charitable 501©3 organization with Federal Tax I.D.# 94-3028685*