



OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
We're a family shelter

Connections

September 2020

SHELTER UPDATE: ADOPT-A-ROOM

Moving Forward and Moving In



The Adopt-a-Room program at Open House Ministries was formed in 1995 by a generous group of sponsors who identified the need to furnish newly constructed shelter units. The goal was to make each residence a welcoming place for families to stay while they work on rebuilding and restoring their independence.

Today when a family completes our program and moves on from the shelter, a room sponsor steps in to make the unit ready for the next family. Open House Ministries has been blessed over the years with many generous groups and individuals, committed to helping new residents get a head start with basic household needs.

"I give thanks daily on my family's behalf for the adopters not only investing in our future, but creating a home and foundation for us," said Kailee. "When we came in to our apartment for the first time I felt a complete sense of home and belonging!"

At this time we are in need of help with room readiness for families moving in. Each unit requires household items everyone needs to set up a home. Bedding, bathroom necessities, cooking and kitchen essentials, cleaning products, and dishes are all part of the OHM Adopt-a-Room Wish List refined over the past 25 years.

Like many programs at Open House Ministries, Adopt-a-Room has been undergoing changes to meet current COVID safety requirements. Limited access to the shelter makes it necessary for items to be dropped off with our team, allowing them to organize units and add the finishing touches for new families.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or belong to a group looking for a fulfilling project that serves our community in a tangible way, we would appreciate your encouraging help. Most units require less than \$1,000 to furnish and set up. To find out how to get involved please email Ruth Bennett at rbbennett53@comcast.net or go to our website at www.sheltered.org for more information.

Thank you in advance for helping with a time-honored program, and helping new families feel safe and at home at Open House Ministries. We are forever grateful.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Blessing Through Challenge

Greetings from Open House Ministries. As summer comes to a close I am thankful for all the blessings we have received over the past months. Our staff has worked hard, adjusting to COVID-19 restrictions throughout our campus. We have established new procedures for our bike shop and thrift store, adjusting our hours and spacing shoppers to keep our workers and the public safe. We appreciate everyone for calling in advance and making arrangements to drop off donations with our store manager. All of the efforts we are doing together make running our stores much easier and we are grateful for your help.

As regulations continue to delay kids returning to classrooms this fall, we are moving forward with plans to help our school age residents stay on track with their education. Spaces for kids to work on their studies while staying safely separated from each other are in process at Open House Ministries. Challenges are being thoughtfully worked through in order to provide the educational resources necessary to make this school year successful and keep our kids moving forward.

Recently we moved our training classes into the gym of the McClaskey Family Resource Center to safely distance and continue with vital programs and spiritual training for our residents and staff. Having a gym to accommodate these needs has been an amazing blessing for everyone on our campus, and I want to thank the supporters of Open House Ministries for providing a place to safely continue our work.

This has been an incredible time of change and challenge for everyone in our community and I am grateful for family and friends who have come together during this crisis.



Mike Roskam leading a financial training class

I pray your families and friends are safe and you are finding new hope as we walk through this challenging time together. Please continue to pray for the residents, volunteers, and staff at Open House Ministries. We appreciate you.

Blessings,

Reneé Stevens

Reneé Stevens
Executive Director

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ~ Psalms 91:2

THANKS



Members of the Vancouver Bicycle Club

We want to thank the members of the Vancouver Bicycle Club who have been delivering fresh produce from Vancouver's Farmer's Market to OHM.

Because of their dedication to helping our community, our shelter families have enjoyed healthy foods from local farmers for several seasons. Thank you VBC!

SHELTER NEEDS

- Clorox wipes and hand soap
 - Lysol disinfecting spray
 - Canned and boxed non-perishable foods
 - Bulk school supplies
 - Socks and underwear for men, women, and children
 - Diapers: Size 4, 5 & 6
- Thank You!

TAX-WISE GIVING

One way you can help our ministry financially is with a "blended gift." Your gift today allows you to watch how it makes an impact while giving you immediate tax benefits, and your planned giving (such as a bequest) creates a deferred gift for later.

Begin impacting the next generation now and see how God blesses you through your generosity and partnership with us. To learn how you can include OHM to your long-term giving plans, please contact us at:

360-737-0300 or email
ross.merritt@sheltered.org



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900 West 12th Street | P.O. Box 242
Vancouver, WA 98666-0242
360-737-0300 www.sheltered.org