



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

## Island Flair Brought Excitement to this Year's Block Party and Resource Fair

If you were in the neighborhood on August 15, you may have heard Island music and picked up on the inviting aromas of BBQ filling the air near Open House Ministries. Campus energy was buzzing with over 700 neighbors and guests who took part in this year's annual block party and resource fair.

Pet owners lined 13th street for their turn for free preventative pet care provided by the Humane Society for Southwest Washington. Their new mobile unit provided a quiet place for over 75 pets to receive shots and checkups. Chairs at the hair cutting stations were in constant rotation as the skilled staff from Deltennium; Great Clips gave kids and adults free hair cuts. Vancouver Church brought their Yum Truck, and we were blessed as their missions team shared frozen treats and hope with our guests throughout the day.

Volunteer teams played a key role again this year, manning stations in the BBQ and serving tables, helping with set up and tear down, and entertaining guests at the Carnival Row games and face painting canopy. Pop-corn and cotton candy workers served up a steady line of happy customers, and the dunk tank had a workout as kids and adults took turns practicing their aim, dropping staff members into the chilly water.

Over 35 area service exhibitors filled our gym, passing out vital information to guests in need of resources and help. *(Continued)*



*Block Party guests participating in the Island Hop Game eagerly anticipated the drawing for prizes. (above)*



*Guests waiting for pet wellness checks at the free Humane Society of SWWA made new friends.*



*Volunteers and staff worked hard keeping BBQ grills turning island burgers and hot dogs for guests. (above)*

*Hair cutting stations were busy all afternoon as guests lined up for free haircuts.*



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

## Season of Renewal

As September arrives, it marks a time of new beginnings and fresh opportunities with students returning to school. However, there is a paradox in the process of learning that is often overlooked. As a mentor of mine put it, "learning first requires unlearning." Before anyone can embrace anything new, they must first let go of old, limiting beliefs—beliefs that often sound like "I can't" and "I'm not enough."

This season of renewal extends far beyond the children at Open House Ministries. It encompasses every resident here. Each resident, young and old, enters Open House Ministries carrying a backpack full of stories and histories. And like all things, much unlearning must take place before they can grasp new truths.

Many residents arrive with a sense of hopelessness, burdened by the harsh lessons life has taught them. Here, they begin the sacred task of unlearning despair. Day by day, through small victories and shared stories, they start to discover that hope is not just a distant dream but a present reality.

*(Continued)*

**TOURS & TALKS**

**Want to see Open House Ministries up close?**  
Join us for a **First Friday Tour!**  
**Noon to 1 pm**  
Contact us for a tour at [events@sheltered.org](mailto:events@sheltered.org)

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONT.**



Outdoor exhibitors took advantage of the cooler weather and filled the upper parking lot by the family resource center. We were pleased to host ten outdoor organizations from all over Clark County this year.

Guests met with representatives from the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) in their mobile unit, and 31 families received help with services, many with immediate financial needs.

For a full list of exhibitors participating in the resource fair, go to our website at [sheltered.org](http://sheltered.org) and click on the link to the block party. You will be blessed to see how many vital service organizations joined us this year.

We appreciate our sponsors, and Corwin Beverages, Franz Bakery, and Frito Lay for generously donating to our BBQ. We thank the many volunteers from area church groups and BSA Troop 320. The annual block party and resource fair brings help and hope to our neighbors and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community through this meaningful event. ●



*Executive Director Renee Stevens joined Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle as she proclaimed August 15, 2024 an official Open House Ministries Day.*



*Neighbors and guests lined up around the block for a fun island BBQ lunch including grilled pineapple and teriyaki burgers.*

**SHELTER BLESSINGS**



On August 20th, 51 volunteers from Liberty Bible Church came to help our staff organize and deep clean gathering spaces on campus. Thank you, Liberty Bible friends, for sharing your time and energy with our ministry. You are a blessing!



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONT.**

Others arrive feeling worthless, convinced they are unworthy of love or respect. Years of societal judgment and personal failure have eroded their sense of worth. Our work is to help them unlearn these devastating lies so they can begin to see themselves through a new lens: as "God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved" (Colossians 3:12).

As we prepare our families to head back to school, let this season also inspire us to take active steps in our own unlearning and learning processes. Let us be intentional in seeking out and nurturing the truth of our identity in Christ and, in doing so, help others see their own worth and potential.

● *Chaplain Jon Nichols*

**JOB OPENINGS**

**Part-time  
Child Care Position**

**Part-time  
Volunteer Coordinator**

**Please inquire at  
[careers@sheltered.org](mailto:careers@sheltered.org)**

**SHELTER NEEDS**

- Toilet paper
  - Paper towels
  - Disposable razors
  - Clorox wipes
  - Hair conditioner
  - Bottled water
  - Canned goods
  - One pound packages of hamburger
- Thank you!*



900 W. 12th St. | P.O. Box 242  
Vancouver, WA 98666-0242  
**360-737-0300**  
**[www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org)**  
*Please consider including Open House Ministries in your will or planned giving program. Thank you!*