

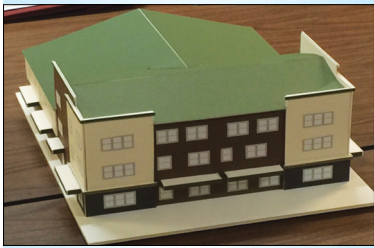


**OPEN HOUSE  
MINISTRIES**

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

### Inside This Issue

*Breaking the Chains* 1



### GROUNDBREAKING DAY!

*A New Chapter* 2

*History* 2-3

*Vision for the Building* 3

*FAQ's* 3

*Chaplain's Corner* 4

*Introducing Our New  
Executive Director* 4

*From Our Executive  
Director* 4

*Blessed by You*

### *Much Needed!*

We would like to know if you could donate full-sized box fans, boys underwear (toddler to teen sizes), and household products (i.e. toilet paper, paper towels, bleach).

# Connections

*Special Edition!*

## Family Resource Center Groundbreaking

*Look Inside!*



The next 30 days were the hardest days of Josh's life. He was admitted into an in-patient treatment program. After a month, he graduated clean and sober then

he joined Kelsey and the two boys at Open House.

Today, Josh thanks you for saving his life. He has a new relationship with God and his family. He will tell you, he is "the father of two beautiful boys". Josh cannot recall completing anything before coming to Open House. Now thirteen months clean with no drugs or alcohol, he beams as he shows off six certificates of courses completed since coming to the shelter. In April he started a new job, the first job he will have ever have had sober. And the family is preparing to graduate from the shelter.

## *Breaking the Chains*

### Your Gift Affects Generations

When you ask Josh the question, "Where did you learn to be a father?" he struggles for an answer. Most of his childhood memories are vague. His father was in and out of prison most of his early years and a stable father figure simply did not exist. He recalls bouncing between his father and his mother in his early years as he and his mother were homeless. When he was just six years old, Josh and his mom moved into the Open House. The experience changed his mom Evelyn, but for Josh, the next two decades would still be rocky.

By the time he was a teen, he rebelled, doing drugs and alcohol and in trouble with the law. At 19, Josh ran away from home. He became and remained homeless for the next eleven years. He gave up.

While on the streets, Josh met Kelsey who he will tell you is the love of his life. But six years ago, both homeless and still doing drugs, they had a child. Josh admits he was "barely present." After their second child, Kelsey knew things had to change. She became clean and sober and was accepted into Open House with the kids. And she put the challenge to Josh: if he did the same, he could join them.

***"I don't know  
where I would be  
if it weren't for  
Open House Ministries."***

When we asked Josh what the Open House experience has meant to him, there is no hesitation: "The greatest impact of being at Open House has been breaking the chain of homelessness so my family will never be homeless again." Josh's testimony is direct: "I don't know where I would be if it weren't for Open House Ministries."

Watch the entire video of Josh's Story on YouTube or on our website at [www.sheltered.org](http://www.sheltered.org).





# GROUND-BREAKING

## *A New Chapter!*

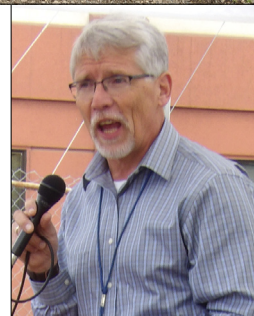
Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 was a historic day for Open House. Just one week prior, Chaplains Mark Roskam and Aaron Knapp conducted a blessing service over the property in preparation for what was to happen in the next seven days. Over seventy friends and supporters braved blustery conditions to celebrate a new chapter for Open House: the Groundbreaking for a brand new multi-purpose building. Board President Dick James led off by thanking the local individuals and foundations who have pledged their support of the project.

Wearing white hard hats, Mayor Tim Leavitt, Sen. Lynda Wilson and City Councilman Ty Stober were joined by Open House Ministries' Joanne Kendall (Founder and Board Member), Renee Stevens (Executive Director), Dick James (Board President), former Directors

Wayne Garlington and John Greholver, project donors and shelter children to "turn the first dirt" during the ceremony. Next time you are in downtown, drive by West 13th and West Ingalls street. That is the site of the new

***"It's not just about getting residents out into the community, but also drawing the community here."***

*~ Renee Stevens, Executive Director*





## History

The project has been years in the making. You may recall that less than three years ago, where the construction site is today once stood an old boarding house, home to a transient and troublesome population who often had lifestyles at cross-purposes of our clean and sober programs for families. For years, the proximity of the traffic and activity were troublesome to staff and a safety concern for our residents and kids.

But seven years ago, the (then) incoming Executive Director Wayne Garlington challenged the staff and board that if we could acquire the land, we could actually build a resource center where families could recreate safely, our programs could grow and we could better serve the neighborhood. The vision was born. By 2014 the money was raised to purchase the land, and in the last days of December, 2014, the old building that once stood on the land was demolished.



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### *How much does it cost?*

The total project is a \$3.3 million project

### *Is the project getting government funds?*

No, the project is 100% funded through the generosity of private donors and local foundations, with no additional burden on local tax payers.

### *Are there going to be residence shelter apartments in the new building?*

The Family Resource Center will provide space for meetings, classrooms, offices and safe recreational activities. Apartment spaces in the shelter currently used for offices will be converted back to their originally permitted function, resident apartments.

### *Who is constructing the building?*

Open House Ministries volunteer Building Committee, comprised of construction professionals will manage the build.

### *When will it be done?*

It is estimated the building will be completed approximately twelve months after construction starts.

## Vision for the Building

Under the leadership of a volunteer Committee of construction professionals and architect Lisa Slater, Open House



Ministries plans to construct the new three-story, 16,700 square foot multi-purpose building that will serve as a family resource center. The new three-story building that will provide a flexible great room for gatherings, recreation space for families,

and neighborhood meetings. Offices currently located in the shelter will transition to the new building as will classes that are now conducted in limited spaces. And it will offer a wide variety of services provided by partner organizations.

How is the project funded? Private individuals starting with founder Joanne Kendall, and foundations including the Community Foundation of SW Washington, Firstenberg Foundation and the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Foundation have made the project possible. Open House Ministries is accepting donations for the Family Resource Center Project which is expected to cost \$3.3 million dollars.



For more information contact Judy McMorine, development director at [judym@sheltered.org](mailto:judym@sheltered.org) or (360) 356-3770.

“Projects like the Family Resource Center that provide the Community Foundation with opportunities to partner with others to bring a project like this to fruition are the best scenarios. It has been our privilege to help support Open House Ministries for many years, and we look forward to our continuing partnership as we all work together to provide assistance to children and families in need.”



Anne Digenis  
Senior Philanthropic Advisor  
Community Foundation,  
Southwest Washington



# Chaplain's Corner

## "This Old Wood Shed"

Ten years ago, I tired of looking at an old shed in our yard. Though useful for storage, it was not functional, it's floors bowed and the doors no longer closed. It was time for a change. De-construction. Carefully, I reversed the process by which it was built, peeling the layers ravaged by time. I was shocked to see that the floor joists were laying flat and bowed, rather than standing strong on their edge - dooming the sagging shed because of her poor construction and foundation.

This is an image of what happens in the first ninety days at Open House. The first several months for our case managers and residents involve de-construction, the gentle peeling back of years of life. The overt challenges of today often have a basis in the past. The process can be hard and painful. Though the peeling may feel like destruction, it is more so the reverse construction of our lives for a time and a purpose. The hard work of looking critically and exposing our often poor, worn and damaged foundations, offers the opportunity of a lifetime for re-building from the ground up.

Open House Ministries is built upon our foundation in Jesus. He is the great bedrock and firm understructure makes all of the difference for life. The entire weight of one's life is transmitted through the walls down to the foundation, where our New Hope lies, and the Foundation provides the strength and integrity that we need to truly live. Jesus is the cornerstone of our lives. "See, I lay a stone... a chosen and precious Cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame" (I Peter 2:6). Thank you, friends, for allowing us the privilege of participating in this noble construction process.

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



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

Two months ago, the Board of Directors, after months of interviews and executive search, unanimously voted to promote Renee Stevens to the position of Executive Director. This comes after former director Wayne Garlington had announced plans to retire. Wayne reflects, "Working with Renee for the last dozen years has given me an appreciation for the unique talents she brings to Open House. She has been at the core of our programs, remaining true to our mission while always looking ahead. Renee continues to be a visionary and champion for the needs of homeless mothers, fathers and children. She is an inspiration to residents and staff alike."



Congratulations to our new Executive Director, Renee Stevens!

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

### *Raising H.O.P.E. 2017!*

This year's Auction and Dinner was an amazing event, put on by so many talented and gifted people and joined by a wonderful gathering of friends of Open House. To all the volunteers who put in hundreds of hours of preparation, to Liberty Bible Church for hosting the event once again, to our sponsors and supporters, and to all our guests of the evening who so generously supported our ministry, on behalf of our families, I thank you and God bless you!



**OPEN HOUSE  
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