

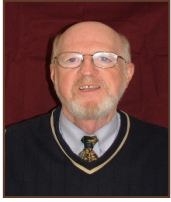


2011 April

Alleluia! He is Risen!

OHM News
OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER

chaplain's corner



“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” Proverbs 13:12

Most people walking through our doors who are seeking residency are experiencing a delayed or “deferred” hope. The hopes that have been deferred have to do with an adequate support system composed of reasonable health, positive family relationships, a job or career that meets basic financial goals and a secure and safe living environment. Life circumstances have disrupted those goals and put the family in a crisis mode.

There are a variety of reasons why families find themselves with the weight of the world on their shoulders and seemingly impossible hurdles to overcome in route to returned hope. Sometimes it is through no fault of their own that they find themselves in a chaotic and discouraging mess. Domestic violence, abandonment, health issues, economic depression and the like are often the cause of the current crisis. Sometimes it is the combination of circumstances out of control and bad choices that create the problem, and sometimes it is just bad choices.

In any case, these families need HOPE!!

Our goal for these families is to create an environment of hope by encouraging relationships and connecting families with the resources that will provide the best opportunity to restore well being. For us that begins in the arena of faith—faith in God and then renewed faith in themselves. That is followed by engaging every legitimate resource in the shelter program and in the community that can address the issues in their lives toward a responsible life.

Your continued prayers and support help us to give the maximum effort to function in the best interests of the families we serve. Thank you and God bless you.

In His Service
Chaplain Aaron

Would you pray for...



Some of our residents who are ready to move out and are seeking affordable housing.

How are we doing?

- * God is blessing us in our finances. Thank you for your generous donations.
- * We are starting a bicycle repair shop - any bicycles donated would be appreciated.
- * Our first “Financial Peace University” by Dave Ramsey was recently completed with eight graduates.
- * Thank you to all who donated materials and labor for our “Grace Place” room. It is starting to take shape.
- * We miss you if your haven’t been down here in a while. Please feel free to come for a visit.



we would like you to meet:

Adam and Andrea Ekman, and their daughter, Sharon



We are truly what you would call childhood sweethearts. We met and began going together in the seventh grade. We were married in April of 2010 here at Open House. Pastor Aaron performed the ceremony. We have a daughter, Sharon, who is five years old.

It was a hard road, however, getting to this place. Four years ago we had a baby daughter that passed away less than a month after she was born. I, Adam, was angry with God and with the world. How could He take our little child? However, as I look back today - though I still miss her - we now know that even in this, God is still a loving God.

We originally came to Open House in 2008. But we did not stay very long. I, Adam, was struggling with drug addiction and was not ready to give that up. We moved around a lot.

There came a time, though, in 2009, when “enough was enough.” We were living in a travel trailer with five other adults - no water, no heat. One day we left our daughter, Sharon with these roommates while we went to get groceries. When we came back we found that she had fallen and broken her elbow. Taking our daughter to the emergency room was the last straw. I, Andrea, convinced Adam that he needed to go in for treatment and we had to change our lives.

I, Adam, went for treatment in an in-patient program in December of 2009. It was a difficult and frightening decision to make. I knew that I would have to look at the pain and emotions that I had been masking all these years with the drugs. I say now, however, I will never go back - I will never forget where we were and the sick environment that we had our daughter in.

We moved into Open House for the second time in January of 2010. We were married that following April and I, Andrea started a new job the day after the wedding. We were being given a second chance.

In December of 2010, I, Adam was hired by Open House working nights as Staff on Duty. We want to continue to be a part of Open House Ministries. We know that we would not be where we are were it not for God working in our lives.

Blessings,
Adam and Andrea



Jason and Mary, and their sons, Zack and James



We are proof that the phrase “there but for the grace of God...” is more than just a cliché.

We both come from a drug background, about as deep into drugs as you can get. One year we moved seven times, dragging our young son, James around with us. We had severed all contact with our older son, Zack, who was living with a grandmother; and had alienated ourselves from all of our relatives.

And then we watched as God started to turn our lives around. We did not know at the time that it was God breaking into our lives, but we knew that things were changing.

I, Jason, went into a rehab program in Spokane. I was torn. On one hand, I had had enough of the lifestyle that I was living and Mary had made it clear that if I did not get clean, our relationship was over. (She too was working to get the drugs out of her life and change her lifestyle.) On the other hand, I did not want to change.

The crux point came when we moved into Open House. Even we knew that something out of the ordinary was happening. I, Mary, had been praying, asking God to “show me a big neon arrow telling us what we should do.” One day we got a call from subsidized housing saying that we qualified for housing. On that same day, we got a call from Open House Ministries saying that they had an opening for us; which should not have been, for we were way down on the waiting list. It was the “arrow” that I, Mary had been asking for. We turned down the subsidized housing and came to Open House.

Literally, from that day on, God has been restoring our lives in dramatic ways. Both of us are free from drugs and free from the desire to take them again. I, Jason, have a job that I can honestly say I like going to every day. It is physical work, but I have fun doing it. It is a temporary job that was to have ended a year ago in March. Instead, I have been getting full-time hours and have received a raise. I, Mary get to be a mom, taking care of my home and my family.

Our relationship with our older son, Zack, has been restored. We have been reconciled to God, to all of our other family members, and to each other. We can look beyond today and see that we have a purposeful future.

We know that we have a long way to go, but by God’s grace we have come a long way. We believe God.

In God’s Grace,
Jason and Mary

How Can I Help OHM?

We are in need of a tall, enclosed cargo trailer — 7 x 14 or 7 x 16 — with brakes and dual tires. If you are able to help please contact Richard Barton at 360-737-0300.



OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES FAMILY SHELTER

PO Box 242
Vancouver, WA 98666

Ph: 360.737.0300 Fax: 360.737.3157
Website: www.sheltered.org

Helping homeless families regain their independence
...and their lives

MAY 13TH IS ALMOST HERE!

Do you have your reservations?

~ **COME CELEBRATE WITH US** ~
25 YEARS OF CHANGED LIVES

Please join us at Liberty Bible Church of the Nazarene
Friday, May 13th, for our celebration dinner.

Silent auction begins at 5:30 pm ~ dinner will be served at 6:30 pm
This year's event will be a fun-filled evening:
delicious meal ~ music ~ silent auction ~ and great door prizes

Reservation cost is \$25.00 per guest

By attending this event, you make it possible for us to continue
providing shelter and services to our families in need, such as:
**counseling ~ case management ~ job skills ~ free child care
spiritual counseling ~ transitional support**

**Because of our many generous event sponsors, 100% of every
dollar you give will go directly to Open House Ministries.**

To reserve a place for you and/or your guests, **contact Lucy or Viki
at 360.737.0300. You can also place your reservation on line at
www.sheltered.org, click "Donate".** After you've filled in the amount
and your information, please be sure to indicate
"May 13th Celebration Event" in the area for Special Instructions.

~ From our Community ~

Date: April 7th—April 30th 2011
Address: 700 Chkalov Drive

Invite all of your friends and family to come
to Curves. During the month of April you
can join Curves by donating a bag of groceries. All food
donations go to benefit Open House Ministries. For more
information feel free to call Janet Charlton at 360-256-0205.



Hello, my name is Wesley Cox. I am an 8th grade student at the
Gardner School in Vancouver, WA.

For my eighth grade project, I decided to hold a canned food
competition at my school from January through May and donate
all of the canned food to Open House Ministries. At the end of
the competition, the team with the most pounds canned food
donated will win an ice cream celebration.

I divided the school into two teams – preschool through 3rd
grade, and 4th through 8th grade. Once a month I collect the
canned goods from each team. I weigh the cans, chart each
team's progress, and take the donation to Open House. So far we
have collected 400 lbs of canned food. It's a close race, with the
preschool through 3rd grade team leading by 10 lbs. It's been fun
getting the whole school involved and I am glad to be able
to do something for Open House Ministries.

Sincerely,
Wesley Cox

~ Some of our favorite Scriptures ~



Danille ~ The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my
deliverer; My God,
my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn
of my salvation, my stronghold. (Psalm 18:2)

Vikkilyn ~ I would have lost heart, unless I had believed
that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of
the living. (Psalm 27:13)

Lucinda ~ Therefore take up the whole armor of God.. (Ephesians 6:13a)

Ruben ~ But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They
shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they
shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Viki ~ 'Not by might, nor by power, but by My
Spirit', says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4.6b)

Mark ~ (and Jesus said) "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has
anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the
Broken- hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty
those who are oppressed. (Luke 4:18)

Date: April 21, 2011 Time: from 11am — 10 pm
Address: 9909 NE HWY 99, Vancouver WA
Invite all of your friends and family to dine with us,
and Chevy's will donate 25% of the proceeds to Open
House Ministries Family Shelter. Be sure to bring this
flyer or a coupon with you.
Coupons can be printed at: www.sheltered.org



Come and Visit us at:

Second Hand Solutions

OHM's Thrift Store
Store Manager - Richard Barton

Store hours are:

Tuesday through Friday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**2nd and 4th Saturday of the
month**

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Contact Richard at:
360.487.9390



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

CALCULATORS
HI-LIGHTERS
CRAYONS/ MARKERS
PENCIL CASES



CHILDREN

DIAPERS
(Sizes: newborn, 4, 5)
FORMULA
SNACKS
(No peanut products)
BOTTLES
BABY WIPES
CRACKERS/COOKIES
APPLESAUCE

CLOTHING

MEN'S PANTS
(Sizes 38, 40, 48, 50, 54, 56)
MEN'S SHIRTS
(sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
WOMEN'S CLOTHING
(all types and sizes)
CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
(all types and sized including
infants and toddlers)
UNDERWEAR
(new women's)
SOCKS (women and girls)
SWEAT PANTS & SHIRTS
(men's, women's,
children's - all sizes)
SHOES (women's joggers)



Donation Room Needs



HOUSEHOLD / PERSONAL

SHAMPOO
CONDITIONER
HAIR BRUSHES
DEODORANT
RAZORS
SHAVING CREAM
DISH SOAP
SHOWER CURTAIN LINERS
KITCHEN TRASH BAGS
POTS & PANS
TOWELS
WASHCLOTHS



FOOD ITEMS

CANNED MEATS
(Tuna, Chicken etc ...)
FRESH MEAT
Hamburger – 1 lb pkgs
Chicken
BUTTER
SOUPS/ STEWS
(all kinds)
CANNED FRUIT
RAMEN NOODLES
SPAGHETTI-O'S
RAVIOLIS
PANCAKE MIX
SYRUP
JELLY & JAM
COFFEE
POWDERED CREAMER
SUGAR
COOKING OIL
KETCHUP
MUSTARD