



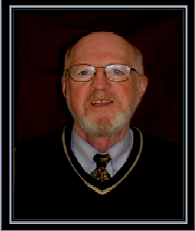
Open House Ministries

a family shelter

July

2011

chaplain's corner



As you would understand we have emergencies among our residents on a fairly regular basis. Recently, two families experienced the death of close family member. In one case we tapped our emergency fund to assist in the cost of a cremation. We provided assistance for travel expense for three children to attend their grandma's memorial service.

The emergency fund has also prevented the loss of a family's earthly possessions by paying their storage. We have helped from that same fund in liquidating old utility balances that blocked approval for housing. We have helped provide post surgery medication where no other funds were available to purchase the needed prescription.

There are many other unscheduled emergencies that arise in the lives of thirty families who call Open House Ministries their home. Part of the financial support provided is designated as "benevolence" for such emergencies. While we provide a wide range of services in addressing critical needs related to homelessness is just under \$15/person per night, we receive no government funding. The government's cost for programs addressing homelessness is four to five times that amount.

Since we do not accept government funding, our residents are not limited to length of stay; hence our slogan: "a week at a time for as long as it takes", being our response to recovery and stabilization. We are also able to design our own program which is much more extensive and intensive toward restoration of people's lives. Our program includes free child care, counseling, GED preparation classes, financial guidance, healthy relationships and character building classes, case management, advocacy and spiritual guidance. All of these services are provided at no cost to the resident. We also keep updated on the community resource pool of supplemental services not included in our program. We also have a Donations Room where donated clothing and food is available as needed to augment support for our residents.

Our funding sources for supporting this full program are private donations, local businesses and church contributions. We also have fundraising events throughout the year. Every effort is made to carefully manage our support to its most effective use, and maintain accountability to our supporters.

To operate within our budget we have trimmed back costs at every level. One of the short falls is we are under staffed, especially in the area of case management. If a few more folk could come on board with, say, fifty dollars a month, we could shore up this shortage in our staff and strengthen the quality of personal service to each resident.

Our goal is to provide the best quality program possible - relational excellence with emotional and spiritual support - creating a positive environment. By the grace of GOD and through the support of those who believe in what we are doing, our hope is that of lastingly changing lives.

Thank you for partnering with us in this effort.

Chaplain Aaron

Jonathan, Nicole and Nevaeh ...

It is easy to have a material view of poverty, believing that financial problems and poor personal choices often culminate in homelessness. Yet, through the following story of Jonathan and Nicole, we see not only the simplicity of that view, but also the complexity of navigating through unrelenting storms of life, with few actual "free choices" along the way.

Jonathan and Nicole married about one year ago, and three months later gave birth to their daughter Nevaeh. They were soon homeless and residing at Open House. Jonathan was born as an identical twin to his brother, Chris. The boys were separated at a young age, when Chris went to a foster home, while Jonathan remained home with his mother. His father was and is in prison, and his mother suffered from her own life issues, rendering her distant and "missing in action" as a mother. Jonathan feels that he was "abandoned" - and was ultimately raised by his grandmother, who died in the past few months.



Two summers ago, his brother Chris died as a result of Lowes-Dietz Syndrome, a hereditary disease that threatens the integrity of the aorta coming into the heart. *Both Jonathan and his daughter Nevaeh have this terminal health condition, which has to date required six open-heart surgeries for Jonathan.* Jonathan struggles not only with his grief with the death of Chris, and anger at his upbringing, but also with his own health issues. Recently, he had two spontaneous "brain hemorrhages" - after which his doctor warned against further migraines or over-exertion, as his very life is at risk with another bleeding episode.

Nicole grew up living with both her grandparents and parents in a rural area. When her parents could finally afford their own place, they moved away from the grandparents, and shortly thereafter, divorced. Nicole's father left home and joined a biker gang, while her mother struggled with her newfound role as a single mother with her newest companion, depression. Nicole began to distance, getting in trouble and fights, and finally running away from what was left of "home". It was during her life as a sixteen year old runaway that she met Jonathan.

This family's plight demonstrates that the reasons for homelessness are actually as diverse as the maladies of life in a broken world. At Open House each family has a different story of brokenness, yet we witness that poverty has common roots in the world of fractured relationships - our broken relationships with God, with others, with our culture and within ourselves. In our community at Open House we often witness first-hand these broken spheres of relationships, and yet are so privileged to see profound restoration and reconciliation in many lives.

For Jonathan and Nicole their emerging personal faith in Jesus, their many friendships, the intensive classes, the mentoring, counseling and spiritual influences, have helped them to see that their lives are not potentially ending, but are actually just beginning. They are not victims of their past, but are emerging into their new lives in Jesus. Still, the road ahead is a twisting and difficult journey as they look to their future.

Getting married was the easy part for this couple. Today, as they near eight months in shelter, Nicole is working at Partners in Careers, while Jonathan cares for Nevaeh. They have both completed the mandatory structured times and studies for the first several months at Open House. They are headed towards secondary housing, as they step out into their God-given identity, independence and their lives. And soon, there will be a formal wedding, as they ready for a "real" wedding day, surrounded by community, with a "real live" pastor officiating rather than the Justice of the Peace of one year ago!

by Mark Roskam
Case Manager

How Can I Help OHHM?

Have a truck? Have some time? We need assistance with picking up furniture for our Thrift Store. If you would like to help, please contact Dawn Barton, Volunteer Coordinator, for further details - 360.737.0300.



NOTE: Please let us know if we have your name/address correct, so we can keep our records updated.

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**OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES
FAMILY SHELTER**

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

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



**Race for the Homeless
Saturday, August 6th, 2011**

This is an annual fundraiser event, graciously sponsored by New Heights Church for Open House Ministries. 100% of the race fee will be matched with a generous donation to Open House Ministries.

contact: New Heights Church
phone: 360-759-9335
website: www.raceforthehomeless.org



Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop

Open 1-5 PM Weekdays

Located adjacent to Second Hand Solutions
at 915 W 13th Street

We service and sell bicycles of all types at very very affordable prices. Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop not only helps provide affordable transportation for our community, it also offers on-the-job training experience for residents and a means of income to help support Open House Ministries programs. Come visit! Buy! Donate! And while you're at it, browse in our Open House Solutions Thrift Store, right next door.

For more information contact:

Ruben Cortez or Mark Roskam at 360.737.0300.

~ From Our Community ~

Thanks to Battle Ground's **Prestige Theaters** for advertising for Open House Ministries. They also gave our children free passes to the 3-D movie, "The Green Lantern"; and included free snacks!

Leona & Darrel Coffield are hosting "**The Edi Olson Art Group Art Exhibit/Sale**" fundraiser for Open House Ministries - July 22, 23, and 24th at their home, address: 4819 NE 94th Street in Hazeldell. Friday - 12-8 pm, Saturday - 11-7 pm, and Sunday - 12-4 pm. Check our website for more details.

"Operation Dinner Out"



July 18th, 2011 from 5pm-8pm.
Mill Plain Location



August 20th, 2011 from 8am-10am
13006 NE Hwy 99 Vancouver, WA
(Salmon Creek location)

For Applebee's tickets call Lucy Gaspar at 360.608-1241.

Say What!! School supplies already?? Yup! By the time you get this, it will almost be time, and next month's newsletter will be almost too late. So here's our BIG needs for this year's school supplies: BACK PACKS, SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS, REGULAR CALCULATORS, 1" & 1 1/2" BINDERS, & 2 GIG FLASH DRIVES. As always, any help you can provide is GREATLY appreciated!!

Resident Needs for July

Food Items

- ◆ Canned Meats
(tuna, chicken etc.)
- ◆ Fresh/Frozen Meats
Hamburger, Chicken
(1-3 lb packs Please)
- ◆ Butter
- ◆ Soups/Stews (all kinds)
- ◆ Canned/Packaged Beans
(chili, refried, pinto, etc)
- ◆ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Ramen Noodles
- ◆ "Helper" Meals
- ◆ Spaghetti O's/Raviolis
- ◆ Jelly/Jam
- ◆ Pancake Mix
- ◆ Syrup
- ◆ Dry Cereal & Oatmeal

- ◆ Coffee
- ◆ Tea
- ◆ Sugar
- ◆ Dry Baking Products
- ◆ Cooking Oil
- ◆ Mayonnaise
- ◆ Ketchup

Babies & Children

- ◆ Baby Food
- ◆ Formula
- ◆ Diapers
(newborn, & sizes 4,5,6)
- ◆ Baby Wipes

Clothing

- ◆ Men's Pants
(32,33,40,50,54,56)
- ◆ Men's Shirt
(XL,2XL,3XL,4XL)

- ◆ Women's Clothing
(all types & sizes)
- ◆ Children's Clothing
(all types & sizes, including
Infants and Toddlers)
- ◆ Socks
- ◆ Underwear (new)
- ◆ Bras

Household/Personal Care:

- ◆ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Razors
- ◆ Shaving Cream
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Wash Cloths
- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Kitchen Garbage Cans
- ◆ Pots & Pans