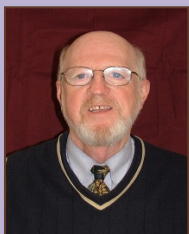




chaplain's corner



Some times when my creative skills bail out on me, I seek the inspiration of outside sources to stimulate my thinking. The writing of this article is the product of an old story that has powerful truth. I hope it will be as

impacting to you as it was to me.

There was a business man working out of his home office on a significant project and was in a time crunch. While laboring over his project he kept being interrupted by his five year old son who was persistently seeking some father/son time. Finally the man came up with a plan to satisfy his son and give him time finish his project. He tore a page from a magazine on his desk that had a picture of the world into many pieces, placed it in a basket and instructed his son to put the world together and promised they would have some ice cream and play ball when completed his assignment.

The man was quite sure he had bought himself enough time to complete his project. However, his son returned in about ten minutes with all the world in place. Totally surprised by the speed with which his son completed the puzzle he asked, "how in the world did you do that so fast?" "Easy," the boy replied. "I saw a picture of a man on the other side of the world and I knew if the man was right, the world would be right".

The details of the story may vary a little from the original, but the truth is clear. It is our hope our residents that supportive, nurturing relationships, a solid program and a communicated faith in God will create an environment where the man/person has the best chance of getting themselves together, THEN THE WORLD WILL BE RIGHT!!

Please keep us in your prayers that we may continue to be a place where people can heal.

In His Service,
Chaplain Aaron

Give a "shout out" to Bryan.



Just recently Bryan was accepted into VA subsidized housing, is working through the Partners In Careers (PIC) program, and is looking for a permanent position in warehousing – shipping, handling, receiving, inventory, operating a forklift. His life is back on track! So where did he come from and how did he get to this point? Here's Bryan's story.

Bryan served with the USMC from 1978 to 1984 – stationed for two years in Hawaii and was then off to the South Pacific. He "enjoyed" his six years in the military – "foot loose and fancy free" as he puts it; but said he was also severely addicted to alcohol. He worked hard towards a Warrant Officer position, but when he was denied, decided to leave the USMC and go home to spend some quality time with his parents. That decision did help him stay away from excessive alcohol for a time, but then he moved on. He worked in convenience stores and as a bouncer off and on, where he met the mother of his two children. He and she were both deep into drugs at that time, but when his first child was born, he managed to reel it in somewhat. However, after moving from the area to Las Vegas and then back here again, he and his significant other (SO) had fallen heavily back in to the whole drug scene. They "pretty much lost everything".

His life was at its worst on his son's birthday. His SO had taken their children - keeping them in an unsafe, drug-infested living environment, and Bryan was totally out of control with his lifestyle. "I lost everything including my kids and without my kids, I'm nothing!"

He was seriously preparing to take his life, when . . . he got a phone call from his niece: "Gramma told me to call you. She said to tell you to stop doing what you're doing and don't do anything until she gets there!" Gramma (Bryan's mom) had no idea what he was about to do before that call. "This is the point", Bryan said, "I opened my eyes to God and knew it was time to change."

With his decision to do things differently, he completed a 30 day in-patient treatment program sponsored through the VA, got counseling and found the tools he needed to "keep on the straight and narrow". During that interim he had also gotten his children back, and for nearly 4 years he lived independently, providing a safe home for his children. Although he had remained clean and sober, things started to unravel again and he lost his housing. Bryan immediately applied for subsidized housing through the VA, but the waiting time was going to be long, so he went to His pastor for help and was referred to Open House Ministries.

Bryan said that when he and his children came through the doors of Open House "we felt openness and love when they [Open House staff] didn't even know us". When his children saw their room for the first time they were overwhelmed. It had been decorated and stocked by an Adopt-a-Room sponsor and was "clean, welcoming and safe". He received what he called "survival things" – a safe place to stay, food and clothing from the donation room and free daycare for his children. Bryan had been attending church, but with life coming at him, he'd basically set his relationship with God aside. Through the classes taught by Chaplain Aaron, he felt his relationship with God being rekindled. "They brought back all the memories of what I had learned in previous Bible studies."

While at Open House Bryan took advantage of the benefits of free child care, received help with computer skills, attended classes including parenting and financial management, and participated in the Giving Back program. He connected with PIC and was able to stay long enough to work through the process of getting his VA housing voucher.

Independent once again, Bryan is staying close to God, working his program to maintain his drug-free lifestyle, and praying God will lead him to a career job that will sustain him and his children for the years to come.

"Operation Dinner Out"

dates to remember:

- ◆ July 18th from 5-8pm



- ◆ August 20th from 8-10am
Tickets are \$7.00, and available at Open House.



How Can I Help OHM?



Our supply of quarters for laundry \$\$ is running low. Would you be willing to check your piggy bank, your pockets, your couch cushions - possibly a sock, n' see if you can find some quarters to help??



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

THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US 25 YEARS OF CHANGED LIVES!

Thank you to *Liberty Bible Church of the Nazarene*
for hosting the event and preparing our celebration dinner.

This year's fun-filled evening included
a delicious meal, music, a silent auction,
and great door prizes.

By attending this event, you helped 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 you we were able to raise nearly

\$25,000!

~ THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED ~

*our hosts ~ our musicians ~ our volunteers
our guests ~ and our God*



(Rhianna and her daughters)

Little World Daycare's ...

Rhianna Carter! She loves our kids!

Rhianna Carter first came to Open House Ministries through the Partners In Careers (PIC) program – a six-month work experience program funded through

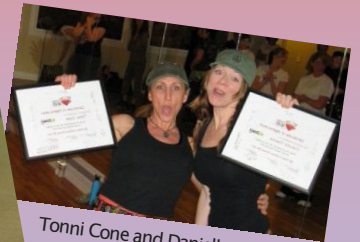
DSHS. She had been struggling as a single mother of two; working at a dead-end job, trying to support herself and her two young daughters.

When she was assigned to "Little World Daycare Center", Rhianna knew Open House Ministries was a Christian-based facility. She didn't believe in God or Jesus at the time, but wanted to get more work experience so she could qualify for a paying job in a local daycare center. However, as she was gaining work experience, she began asking questions about Jesus, wanting to know more about what it was like to live a Christian life. Day-by-day, her co-workers answered her questions and soon she gave her life to Jesus. Because of her new-found faith, she found hope for a better life for herself and her family.

In March of 2009, Rhianna was hired as a part-time teacher for "Little World Daycare Center" and within the year became full-time. She says "it is a blessing being here at Open House Ministries", and now, "with my belief in Jesus, my life is not a struggle anymore as long as I continue to trust in Jesus."

~ From our Community ~

A GREAT BIG THANKS goes out to "Zumba for the Joy of It" at Riverside Performing Arts, who sponsored an exercise fundraiser in March for Open House Ministries. They raised close to \$600 in cash! Plus they donated gift baskets, raffle prizes, and gathered clothes and toiletries for our donation room.



Tonni Cone and Danielle Slamka
Zumba Instructors

How are we doing?

"Second Hand Solutions" thrift store is doing well. We are blessed with generous donations to keep it stocked. "Wheel Deals", our bicycle Shop, is our newest adventure. It is housed right next to the thrift store. Both entities are not only providing a form of income, more importantly, they are on-the-job training sites to help build job readiness skills and a reliable work history for our residents.

Date: June 21st, 2011 Time: from 3 pm- 9 pm
Address: 7721 Ne Vancouver Plaza Dr, Vancouver WA
Invite all of your friends and family to dine with us, and Chuck E Cheese's will donate 15% of the proceeds to Open House Ministries. Be sure to bring this flyer or a coupon with you.



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Food Items

- Canned Meats Chicken & Tuna
- Fresh Meats Hamburger & Chicken
- Eggs
- Butter
- Soups/ Stews (all kinds)
- Chili
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta
- Ramen Noodles
- "Helper" Meals
- Pasta Sauces
- Spaghetti-O's
- Raviolis

School Supplies:

- Back Packs & HI-Lighters

Babies & Children

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly/Jam
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Dry Baking Products
- Cooking Oil
- Mayonnaise
- Ketchup

- Baby Food Formula
- Snacks (No Peanut Products)
- Diapers: Newborn & Sizes 3,4,5, 6
- Baby Wipes
- Crackers/Cookies

JUNE

Household/Personal Care:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Hair Brushes
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Dish Soap
- Shaving Cream
- Towels
- Shower Curtain Liners
- Wash Cloths
- Blankets
- Pots & Pans

Clothing

- Men's Pants (Sizes 40,50)
- Men's Shirts (Sizes 3XL,4XL)
- Women's Clothing (All types & sizes)
- Children's Clothing (All types & sizes including infants and toddlers)
- Shoes
- Socks
- Underwear (NEW)