



Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ



840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902



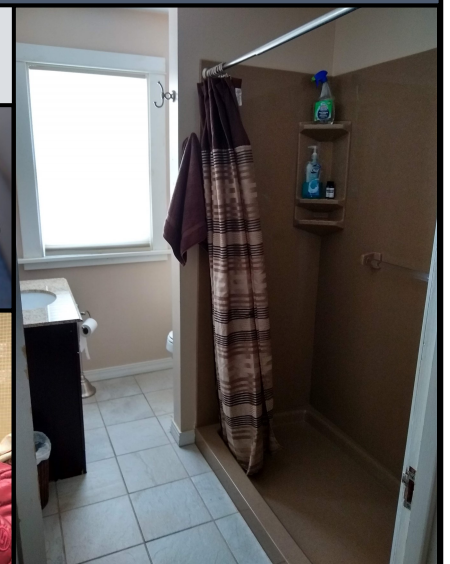
Thank You Don!!

On February 2, of this year, The Hands of Compassion lost a warrior as Don McMillon went home to be with God. Don has been a major part of the Hands of Compassion ministry, almost since it was founded. He has been the minister of the Rochester church of Christ as well as the president, chaplain, and member of the board for the Hands of Compassion. He has also been involved in this ministry in so many other ways. Throughout the past 30 years, you could see Don at the Hands of Compassion houses doing work projects, talking with guests, and being directly involved with the ministry.

Don was a man of humor and you could always count on him to tell a joke. His life was dedicated to God, through this ministry, and he always had a desire to see this ministry grow. You could always count on Don for encouragement and a kind word. He was a major part of the development of the house built in 2006 and wanted to see the next house built as well. Don's legacy will be a part of this ministry for a long time. He was one of God's warriors, and he will be missed by many, not only in Rochester, but by many people who have come through the Rochester church of Christ and the Hands of Compassion ministry.



Don and his wife Kathy McMillon



This bathroom on the second floor of the original house was remodeled by Don.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

On November 2, 2018, my life as I knew it changed. I was told I had cancer. The crazy thing is I had no idea. This is my story.

In October 2018, I went to North Oaks Walk-In clinic for a sinus infection. While there I asked Dr. Foster to refer me to a gastroenterologist for a routine colonoscopy. I mentioned I had been having pain under my ribs that felt like gall bladder pains, but since I didn't have a gall bladder I knew it wasn't that. He referred me to Dr. Reina, and he performed a colonoscopy and endoscopy. The results were that the colonoscopy was fine, and the endoscopy showed an ulcer that he would treat with medication.

I went in for the follow-up appointment. Dr. Reina said he would never have thought it possible that the biopsy of the ulcer would come back positive for stomach cancer. I never heard a word he said after the word, 'CANCER'. I sat there trying to understand what he just said. I then stopped him and asked if I could call my husband David. He stepped out and I called David. I just said, 'I have cancer'. Of course, you can imagine what this did to him.

While I was sitting there by myself, I went through a million questions: Why me? Am I going to die? I got angry, then a light went off, and I realized, hey you are being put on a path by God, this is His plan for you. Then I prayed to God. "God, I understand this is the journey You have planned for me to travel. I put all my trust in You to see me through it, but please give me the strength and peace to get through whatever You put before me. After this prayer, an inner peace came over me. It has been with me ever since. David and I asked what the next step would be. He referred me to Dr. Oubre, my oncologist. His plan was for four rounds of chemo (FLOT-5), surgery, and four more rounds of chemo after surgery.

Dr. Oubre referred me to Dr. Bolton who had the cancer staged. It was stage 2-3. Dr. Oubre said I was lucky because most stomach cancer isn't found until it has already become stage 4.

When I went to Tennessee for Thanksgiving, I told my parents. In December I started treatments, so I wasn't able to get home during Christmas. Dad was diagnosed with colon cancer and had to have a foot and a half of his colon removed. Mom passed away in January 2019. I had surgery in February, and they removed two thirds of my stomach and seven of the 21 lymph nodes tested positive for cancer. Eight weeks later, the last four treatments of chemo were done.

In May after my last treatment, I was let go from my job. My first CAT Scan after treatment: **CANCER FREE!!!**

The week after my good news, I got a call that my dad was not doing well. I was able to see him and tell him my good news. He was happy! He passed away on Father's Day. There have been a lot of obstacles thrown my way, but I truly believe faith will get you through anything.

Gail Keller

This article was originally published in You Night magazine in 2019 and is being used with permission.

The article above was written in October of 2019. Gail came to Rochester this past December where I met David and Gail at St. Mary's hospital here in Rochester. In my first conversation with Gail, I saw the faith that came across in the article above. Her cancer had returned and she knew the situation was not good. I spoke with her for almost an hour when she told me that if God was going to take her this time, she was ready. There was a great deal of peace about Gail as she said this. I knew Gail for about 2 weeks while she was at St. Mary's hospital, and the whole time she was there, that quiet peace was present. On the day the Mayo doctors told her husband David that there was nothing more that they could do for her, he struggled with how he was going to tell her. She woke up while he was on the phone and her sister came to her and gave her the news. She couldn't say much because of ventilators but she wrote on a white board "Tell David it's ok. I'm ready. Please take care of him for me." Within a few days she had passed away. It's at the end of life that one can truly see how real one's faith is. It's truly incredible to witness that kind of faith.

—Phillip Quelle

Chaplain of the Hands of Compassion



Memorials and Honorariums— October 1 to February 28

Memorials

Boots Young

Alan & Joni Leigh Beach
Brenda Newberry
Donald & Shirley Patterson
Gladys Willis
James & Karen Smelser
Melissa Emerson
Minnie Williams

Brian Wilson

Sheila & Jimmie Wheatley

Cameron James Bauman

William Boyd

Cameron Maynards

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wright

Carol Beardsley

Gladys Willis

Charles Eakes

Plainview church of Christ

Christian “Bill” Vanderburg

Bill & Donna Knadel

Connie Doyle

Gladys Willis

David Capps

Bill & Donna Knadel

Dick Achey

Kim Youngblut
Beth Pals
Nira Achey

Don McMillon

James & Karen Smelser
Teresa Beers
Joe & Areva Chesser
7th & Mueller church of Christ
Lester Craven
John & Jean Denney
Brent & Becky Hanson
Thomas Hargett
Sherri Imoehl
Kevin & Kimberly Lau
Joseph & Elaine Lawrence
Liberty church of Christ

Don McMillon Cont. . .

Juanita & Joe Loftin
Clay & Jade Matson
Angela McBride
Peggy McCarty
Steve & Patti Sikes
Curtis McMillon
Jackie & Beverly McMillon
J.R. & Gloria McMillon
Pete & Joan Moody
Steve & Michelle Nesteby
Jenny & Todd Newman
Linda Overton
Claire & Marilyn Pecinovsky
Roger & Dee Roseke
Nick & Lora Lynne Saunders
Eileen Schneider
Marlene Schrader
Stacy & Carol Sikes
Evelyn Smith
Kerry Smith

Ed Yeary

Sherry Yeary

Gerry Willis

Melissa Emerson
Gladys Willis
James & Karen Smelser

Gertrud Dugger

Peerless Chain
Peggy McCarty

Glenda Smith

Gladys Willis

Howard Bundy

Gladys Willis

Jeanne Shelton

Ronda & Linda Sandefer

Juanita Brandt

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wright

Karen Hall

William Boyd

Ken Pendleton

Ronald & Linda Sandefer

Lis Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Pritchett

Marjorie Davenport

William Boyd

Mary Armstrong

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wright

Nathaniel & Annie Potts

Melissa Emerson

Ralph Sitter

Bonnie Sitter

Rick Swenson

Joyce Swenson

Robert C. McKinley

Ellen McKinley

Steve Brunson

Rebecca Spencer

Travis Hunt

Dale & Dorothy White

Vernon & Mary Stinchfeld & Sons— George, Robert, Duane, and Lyle

Lois Stevenson

Honorariums

Gladys Willis

Janet Philpott
Jerry & Karen Smelser

Jerry & Mildred Smelser

James & Karen Smelser

Kathy McMillon

James & Karen Smelser

Steve & Patti Sikes

Barney & Mary Blue

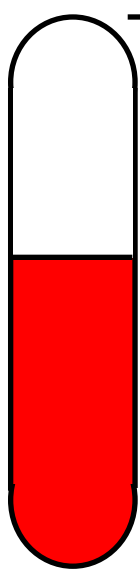




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Electronic Service Requested

Please email us at hocministry@gmail.com if you have any address changes.

How Can I Help?	
<p>Funds Collected For New, Integrated, More Accessible HOC Expansion!</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">Goal—\$1,900,000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Raised—\$950,000</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Donate to HOC anytime you make purchases through Amazon. Simply type in smile.amazon.com and select Hands of Compassion Ministry Rochester, MN as your charity!</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>There are a number of ways to give to the Hands of Compassion Ministry. You can donate by mail or visit www.hocrochester.com to donate electronically. Also use the website to find information on donating through a Will. There are many other ways to give as well. Pray for our ministry! Donate supplies or HyVee gift cards that can be used for our guests. Donate parking cards for people who struggle with having money to park at the Mayo Clinic.</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; padding-left: 20px;"> <p>Contact Information for Donations and Reservations</p> <p>Email: hocministry@gmail.com</p> <p>Address: 840 W. Center Street Rochester, MN 55902</p> <p>Phone: 507-289-6025 (Chris and Cindy) Housing 507-216-8993 (Phillip Quelle) Chaplain</p> <p>Website: www.hocrochester.com</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>Come see us on Facebook at: House of Compassion—Rochester, MN</p> </div> </div> </div>