



Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ



840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902



God's Blessings on the Hands of Compassion



Blessing #1— Mike and Sheila Jone's Arrival

Mike and Sheila Jones arrived as houseparents for our ministry and we are so blessed! One of things that is really special about getting new houseparents is that each new couple that comes in brings with them a new perspective on how to make the Hands of Compassion a home for our guests. Mike and Sheila immediately went to work after they arrived, building, and organizing the house to make it better. We pray that those of you who will be staying in that house will enjoy the warmth and comfort that is present there.

Blessing #2—God takes care of this place

One of the most amazing things about the Hands of Compassion houses is how God has always blessed our houses by giving us exactly what we need, when we need it. When most non-profits were suffering in the past few years, our Hands of Compassion houses stayed strong. As many of you know, the last year has been rough in a different kind of way. Inflation has been everywhere in this country and it has definitely made things more difficult for our houses as well. At the same time inflation has been going up, appliances have been breaking down, forcing repairs or replacements that we normally wouldn't need. Even with all of that, we know that through you, God will provide.

If you feel called, please help us make up some of those expenses with your donations. God has always used you to bless these houses and we know that He will continue to do so. Help us continue to make this place a comfortable haven for people going through the storms of life. Thank you for all that you have done throughout the years to bless this ministry.

If you are able, donate by sending a check to the address on the top of this page or visit our website at www.hocrochester.com/donate. You can also use the QR Code Below.



Extended Countertop Over Trash Can



New Pantry And Refrigerator in Kitchen



Reorganized Living Area



Donate

Walking Through The Valley

Those of us “walking through the valley” of chronic illnesses discover many spiritual and emotional dimensions of our diagnosis. I found myself sandwiched between two new stark realities: A new found rejection from unexpected sources on one hand, and my own rejection of my now sick body that, after 50 years, could no longer lift hand weights or do daily aerobics. I also wrestled with the rejection of my “new reality” from those closest to me. Their silent rejection behind a mask pretending to understand became torturous. The rejection of those I love both hurt and angered me, until I turned to Scripture and considered the rejection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In John 4:44, Jesus testified that “a prophet hath no honor in his own country.” The son of God himself was initially rejected by his own family and neighbors.

When I first arrived at the Hands of Compassion house, I began speaking with other guests. I wondered how they managed their illness and the changed reactions of those around them. Did their friends now keep their distance, or feed them with a long handled spoon? Did their friends now seem to be at a loss for words? Were roles now reversed with their children becoming the parents and often speaking to them in baby talk or making infantile gestures? Worse, are they daunted by the rejection of their own soul, which is now carefully and methodically planning their own funeral?

When Jesus was rejected, God sent him to people who DID receive him with open arms. John 4:45 says “Then when he came unto Galilee, the Galileans received him.” Hundreds of years before this, Isaiah the prophet wrote: “Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. He will honor Galilee of the nations, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan.” Isaiah 9:1.

The Hands of Compassion has served as my ‘Galilee’ during the most difficult season of my life. Just as the Galileans received Jesus, the Hands of Compassion served as a huge conduit of Christ’s light and divine intentionality. Upon arriving at the house, I began listening to the heroic testimonies from other guests, some of whom had been making the trek to Mayo for years. As they unloaded their painful narratives, I sensed a symbiosis occur. Former walls of division began crumbling. Walls such as race, gender, age, and class began dissolving as the isolation and rejection of the infirmed began to lose its grip. From the house parents, to the chaplain. From patients gathering from the east coast to the west, I listened to their sagas of burying their dead; cancer feasting on their organs, and horror stories of medical maltreatment from family doctors. All of these stories were recanted with the Shalom (Peace) of Jesus Christ. After several weeks of prayer and fellowship, my eureka moment had finally arrived. It was packaged within the iridescence of revelation regarding a Scripture which had evaded my understanding for years. That Scripture is Philippians 3:10. In it Paul wrote: “That I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.” Until coming to the Hands of Compassion houses, my illness had shown me only the pain and rejection of Christ’s sufferings. I bemoaned him, “Why me, Lord? Why Me.”

The Christian cadence in the atmosphere gently conjured up by guests and staff testimonies, along with prayer, began saturating my doubts and fears. It positioned me for the morning sojourn to Mayo the next day. Soon, despite myself, “a fellowship of Christ’s sufferings” had been planted in my heart. In this sense, the Hands of Compassion served as my “Galileans” when no one else could “speak my language” of suffering and when the weariness of my illness left me speechless and exhausted. Divine Jesus was born in the flesh, enabling Him to experience exhaustion as well. In Mark 1, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan by his cousin John, he ensued “toe to toe” warfare with Satan in the wilderness, learned of his cousin John’s imprisonment, recruited the core group of disciples, delivered a demon possessed man in the synagogue, and preached and taught in the temple. Perhaps he went to Simon’s house to rest. Mark 1:29 tells us, however, that after he entered the home of Simon, he found his mother-in-law sick of a fever. Forgetting about his own weariness, v. 31 says; “and he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her and she ministered unto them.”

In the same way, through the Hands of Compassion, Jesus “took me by the hand and lifted me up,” utilizing people I may never see again, others forging lifetime friendships—but all “lifting me up” using the fellowship of His (and all of our) sufferings. Just as the fever left Simon’s mother-in-law immediately, so my own self-pity, anguish and resentment left, as I allowed myself to be anchored onto the remnant of God’s people who were drawing their strength from an invisible fellowship spearheaded by Christ Himself. I learned that realizing the fellowship of His suffering is not merely sitting and crying with the afflicted. It is actualized in the words of Jesus when he said, “Pick up your cross and follow me.” Action is birthed from the heaviness of suffering. It is a recurring theme woven throughout Scripture. Some examples are Nehemiah, who weeps over the utter destruction of Jerusalem and is moved into action to rebuild. Or the multitudes, weeping as the tortured, bloody Christ stumbled over the cross’s heavy weight. But Simon of Cyrene was moved to take the cross and carry it to Golgotha. The Bible is inundated with the fellowship of sharing in the suffering with God’s heart. This creates enablement, allowing others to connect to human suffering which leads to purpose and destiny. I love the esteemed Mayo Clinic and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be treated by some of the finest doctors in the world. However, despite their international acclaim, they are unable to heal the parts of my soul unseen by x-rays, cat-scans, and ultrasounds. The Hands of Compassion (my Galilee) ‘saw’ the condition of my soul due to chronic illness, enabling me “to know him and the fellowship of his sufferings!” For this, I will remain eternally grateful!



Azaniah on right with her friend Aquellah

Memorials and Honorariums— June 1 through September 30

Memorials

Margaret Anderson

William & Roberta Damberg
 Allen Dimick
 Rose Frazier
 Duane & Joyce Leitch
 Ron & Joan Mansmith
 Marcia Martin
 Deanna Murray
 Margaret Sourile
 Richard & Ruth Vogt
 Diane Bury
 Gladys of Summerhill
 Marilyn & Leroy Johnson
 Brian Johnson
 Kathy & Daryl Krutzig
 Betty Leholme
 Rose Martin
 Jennifer Pinner
 Joel & Lynn Richard
 Andrea & John Perendy
 Penny Sourille
 Dan & Pamela Rivera
 Ken & Sandy Brandt
 South Twin Cities church of Christ
 Jean & Bill Pociengal
 Todd & Sue Frazier

Margaret Anderson cont.

Kevin & Sue Mielke
 Verda Bodni
 Ron Olson
 Dick & Lois LeSavage
 Barb & Mel Johnson
 Dale & Vicky Schramm
 Dave & Gerry Mussetter

Erwin Greenwalt

William & Donna Knadel

John Kerres

Gladys Willis

Dan Mooney

Stanley Green

Jeffrey O'Neal

Jim & Diane Griffin

Matthew Sheppard

Harold King
 Paul & Lee Ann Sheppard

Victor Turoski

Julianna Turoski

Honorariums

Gary & Joanne Nading

Buster Herren

Trevor Hesson & Tina Young

Lynda Michelle White
 Belinda Francies
 Mary Pulley
 Lori McGill
 Dianne Higgins

Dollar Day

It is time once again for our annual **Dollar Day** fundraising event. During this fundraiser, we challenge everyone to donate \$1 to the Hands of Compassion. If you are able to, please involve your church. God uses people in so many ways and even the “widows mite” can make a tremendous difference on God’s kingdom! Our Dollar Day fundraiser will take place on **Sunday, December 4th**. Thank you!

Share with your Church

We are constantly looking for churches to share in this ministry with us. If you believe that your church might be interested in hearing more about the Hands of Compassion ministry, please contact us at 507-216-8993. We would love to come visit your church and share about the work here in Rochester.

How Can I Help?

There are a number of ways to give to the Hands of Compassion Ministry. You can donate by mail to the return address of this newsletter. You can also use the QR code below 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.

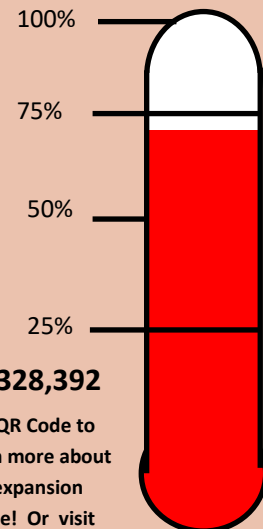


Donate

Also, parking cards for people who struggle with having money to park at Mayo.

Funds Collected For New, Integrated, More Accessible HOC Expansion!

Goal—\$1,900,000



Raised—\$1,328,392



Use QR Code to learn more about our expansion house! Or visit www.hocrochester.com/house



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!



Partners in Compassion

For monthly or one time donations go to
www.hocrochester.com/donate or use the QR code provided.
You can also tear this off and mail your donation to:

Hands of Compassion Ministry
840 W. Center Street,
Rochester, MN 55902



Donate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

When Things Are No Longer The Same

Many of you who have been at our houses will recognize the giant ash tree that has been sitting in the front yard of these houses since the very beginning of our ministry. Some of you will even remember our first houseparent, Boots Young, shoveling snow underneath its branches. As with all things in life, all good things must come to an end. The tree died, and for people's safety, it had to be taken down. As Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted." The tree that so many have enjoyed for so many years will no longer be here. God's promises to us, however, are quite different. God promises His people that death is not an end for us. It is only a beginning. Whereas the tree will die and rot away, God's people will rise again to receive new life on the last day. Revelation 21:3-4 says: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be among them, and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."



Contact Information for Donations and Reservations

Email: hocministry@gmail.com

Address: 840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902

Phone: 507-289-6025 Housing
507-216-8993 (Phillip Quelle) Chaplain

Website: www.hocrochester.com



Come see us on Facebook at:
House of Compassion—Rochester, MN

