



# Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ



840 W. Center Street  
Rochester, MN 55902



## Thank you Gladys for Your Legacy!



Gladys Willis was a warrior for the Hands of Compassion Ministry. She was one of the original founders of the ministry, and countless people stayed in her home before the original "House of Compassion" was purchased in 1985.

Gladys was a true born Minnesotan. She was born in Lewisville, Minnesota on November 16, 1923, and moved to Mankato in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade where she stayed through high school. After college, she married Gerry Willis and they moved to Rochester, MN where Gerry worked for the Mayo Clinic as an electrical engineer. One of his many tasks was to help develop the first heart-lung machine.

Gerry and Gladys were a huge part of the beginnings of the Hands of Compassion Ministry. As many of you know, the early days of this ministry took place in the homes of members of the Rochester church of Christ. Gladys was among those in the congregation who frequently allowed strangers into her home. When the church decided it was time to buy the first house, Gladys was busy writing letters to all the people who had stayed in her home, asking for financial help. With her networking abilities and her sweet spirit, she was able to help the

Rochester church of Christ fundraise \$60,000 out of the \$80,000 needed to purchase that house. Gerry and Gladys were also heavily involved in bringing in Boots Young as the first houseparent for the Hands of Compassion, and when guests began coming to the houses, Gladys would meet them whenever she could. She was an avid card writer and would frequently write cards to former guests as well as people who had donated to the ministry to let them know that their gifts were appreciated. She would always tell anyone she met about the house.

Even after she moved to Bettendorf, IA she would keep in touch with people who had been through these houses. In an interview that is currently posted on our website, she mentioned that every Christmas she would send out over 400 Christmas Cards to people. She always asked for multiple newsletters when they came out, because she wanted to hand them to friends and spread the word about this ministry.

Gladys was a friend to everyone she met and her legacy lives on through the ministry she started. Thank you, Gladys, for all you have done for our ministry!

In 2015, Gladys stayed at our Hands of Compassion houses for her own appointments. While she was here, Chris Frazier (one of our house parents at the time) asked if he could film her telling her story of the beginning of the "House of Compassion." Use the QR code below to access the video on our website. You can also find it on our website at this address: <https://hocrochester.com/gladys-willis-memorial>.



Gladys Willis

Gladys passed away at the age of 98 on October 19, 2022, but she has left an incredible legacy behind and we will miss her greatly.

Gladys being presented A plaque in her honor from the HOC Board of Directors. July 2022



# Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Psalm127:1

For the past 37 years, the Lord has used you to build up this house. You have been with us through all of the highs and lows of the last 37 years, and God has always been there to keep this ministry going. From the purchasing of our original house, the fundraising and building of our new house built in 2006, all the way through the Covid 19 pandemic, God has continued to bless this ministry through you. In the past few years, however, inflation has begun to effect the whole economy, and the Hands of Compassion has not been immune to this. New estimates on the new build that we have been saving up for the last several years has shown that the price of building is now much higher than our initial estimates. We are targeting to begin building in 2024, so that we can better serve your needs, when you or those you love come to our Hands of Compassion houses. We have a long way to go yet and will need your help in getting there. We will be sending out a letter in the next few weeks from the members of our board of directors to everyone on this mailing list giving you greater detail on how you can help us reach a 2024 goal. Thank you again for all that you do to bless our ministry!



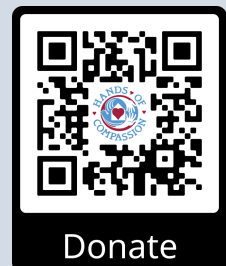
Expansion House



## Other Ways To Help

There are many ways that you can be a part of the Hands of Compassion Ministry. You can help deliver a comfortable, safe, Christian environment to these houses through these different ways as well.

1. Pray for our ministry!
2. Give a Uber or Lift Gift Card for guests who struggle with finances in getting to the clinic.
3. Gift Cards To HyVee to help guests who don't have the needed funds for food.
4. Tax deductible donations: \$30, \$60, \$90 or more. Donations can be made online at [www.hocrochester.com](http://www.hocrochester.com), you can use the QR code at the bottom of this page, or you can mail a donation to: Hands of Compassion, 840 W. Center Street, Rochester, MN 55902. Checks need to be made out to the "Hands of Compassion Ministry"
5. Visit our Facebook page and tell us about your Hands of Compassion experience.
6. Set up a trust account to give to the Hands of Compassion.
7. Do a fund-raising event with your church.
8. Pray again for this ministry!
9. Donate shares of stock
10. Donate postage
11. Donate **High Quality** paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper, etc. (Please no Styrofoam)
12. Donate **unscented** soap products such as hand soap, dish soap, etc.
13. Donate individually packaged snack items or cereal for guests
14. Donate Mayo parking passes for guests with limited funds
15. Give regular contributions to the ministry
16. Write notes to encourage our staff.
17. Give in your own way!



# Memorials and Honorariums — October 1 through February 14

## Memorials

### Margaret Anderson

Dennis & Nancy Baugh  
Elizabeth Dahline

### Donna Boens

Janet Philpott

### Gene Cash

Jim & Carol Fincher

### Betty Eickenloff

Andy and Pam Smithie

### Derell Ellerbe

Meagan Justus

### Carol Forrest

C.B. Wyatt

### David Goins

Judy Goins

### Jerry Hess

Burke & Audrey Hess

### Annie Jobe

Glenn Jobe

### Liz Kerres

Lynn & Tammy Kerres

### Mary Rediske

Kenneth & Sharon Duce  
Randall & Ruth Tryggestad

### John Sartori

Barney & Mary Fons Blue

### George "Mike" Snider

Tawana Holton  
Jerri Ridley  
Huies & McGraws  
Clifton Dreiling  
Sharon Lovett  
La Rue Williamson  
E.A. and C.D. Outlaw  
Nancy McGavock  
Frank & Carrie Bournon

### Gladys Willis

Peter & Connie Brunson  
James & Angie Mercer  
Steve Willis  
Vincent & Hildasue Honts  
Peggy Hinderliter  
Blake & Patricia Adams

### Vicky Swartzendruber

Ronald & Sally Morrow  
Janet Philpott  
Deborah Ducey  
Shawn & Mary Roskop  
Bill & Judy Candler  
Charlotte Boyer  
Julie Goodwin  
Jo Frenek  
Dorothy Fonger  
Roger Miller  
Norma Thomas  
Gregory & Teresa Bowles  
Meagan Justus  
Lori Pedersen  
Robert & Debra Lofgren  
Andrew & Diane Woods  
Charles & Susan Johnson  
Kevin & Cathy Wiseman  
Esther Schenck  
Brian & Jennifer Reynolds  
Gary & Joanne Nading  
Ted & Sue Karlix  
Vernon & Patti Perfetti

### Gerry & Gladys Willis

James & Karen Smelser

### Boots Young

C.B. Wyatt

## Honorariums

### Jerry & Mildred Smelser

James & Karen Smelser

### Robert & Tina Melott

Luraine Kinkel

### Rosemary Stone

Fred & Phyllis Herschelmann

## Honor A Loved One

Honor a loved one by sponsoring a room in our upcoming expansion house in their honor. This can be done with a \$50,000 donation toward the expansion house. This is a wonderful way to memorialize or honor someone you love!

## Benevity

Would you like your employer to match donations? You can now do that through Benevity. This can be a great way to double your donations and therefore double your impact. To use Benevity, go to <https://mygoodness.benevity.org/community/cause/840-411754278> or use the QR code.

Thank you for all that you do for our ministry!

Hands of Compassion Ministry

ID: 840-411754278



## 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](http://www.hocrochester.com) to donate electronically. Also use the website to find information on donating through a Will.

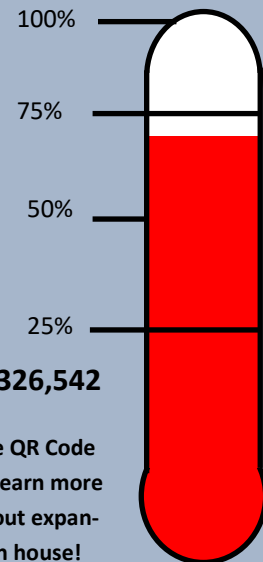
There are many other ways to give as well. Pray for our ministry! Donate supplies or HyVee gift cards that can be used for our guests. Also, parking cards for people who struggle with having money to park at Mayo.



Donate

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

Goal—\$1,900,000



Raised—\$1,326,542



Use QR Code to learn more about expansion house!



Unfortunately, Amazon Smile is discontinuing their program. Thank you so much for all of you who have donated to our ministry through this program!



## Partners in Compassion

For monthly or one time donations go to [www.hocrochester.com/donate](http://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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Making It Fit

I have been enthralled with the story of Apollo 13 ever since I first heard about it. Jim Lovell, Jack Swigert, and Fred Haise were on their way to the moon when an oxygen tank exploded in the service module, causing the three men to have to retreat into the lunar module of the space craft for essential life support functions. Unfortunately, the lunar module filter was only built to support two astronauts rather than three. The service module filters were big enough for three, but they were square, whereas the lunar module filters were round. In order to save these astronauts, hundreds of engineers were working around the clock trying to figure out how to fit a square filter in a round hole using only the materials found on the craft. They were able to find a way and three men's lives were saved as a result.

Our relationship with the Father was also a broken mess. God wants a relationship with His creation, but we were mired in rebellion and sin with no way for us to earn our way back into the loving grace of the Father. Genesis 3:15 shows that God's plan for redeeming His people was always present. God says to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." God's plan for putting things back together was to send His Son in to the world to be struck by the serpent. The irony is that, the serpent's strike allowed for the Son of God to crush the head of the serpent and redeem His lost people, repairing the damage of God's relationship with humanity. Thanks to this daring plan, the almighty God was able to take a relationship that didn't fit, and make it one that would last for an eternity!



### Contact Information for Donations and Reservations

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507-216-8993 (Phillip Quelle) Chaplain

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Come see us on Facebook at:

House of Compassion—Rochester, MN