



Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ



840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902



The Houseparent Calling

Have you ever been called by God to do something extraordinary? In Genesis 12, Abram is asked to do something extraordinary. God says to Abram, "Go from your country, your people, and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.^[a] I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (NIV) The very next verse says "so Abram went, just as God told him." It's amazing how simple that verse sounds.

When you really think about the journey of Abram, he would have followed the fertile crescent from Ur of the Chaldeans (in modern day Iraq) for 400 miles to reach the land of Canaan. He wouldn't be able to travel far every day, as he was also driving flocks of sheep and herds of livestock along the way. By leaving on this journey to Canaan, he was permanently leaving the life that he knew and was comfortable with, in order to go out into an unknown future. He had the faith to believe in God's calling and the blessings of that decision continue to influence the world today. God promised that all nations would be blessed through him renaming him Abraham which means, "Father of Many Nations." God's promise was fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah to this Earth.

Maybe God is calling you, just like He called Abraham. Have you ever felt called to serve others both spiritually and physically? Have you ever felt a call to host and minister to people in their greatest time of need? The job of houseparent is a job that will connect you spiritually with people in ways that few jobs will. Through this ministry, you will find friendship. You will laugh with people and share in their excitement. You will also help carry the burdens of others and cry with them when things aren't going well. You will be connected with people, because nothing brings people together better than going into battle alongside them. Through this connection, you will find that God can use you to grow His kingdom. Please prayerfully consider. Maybe God is calling you to this ministry!

I never audibly heard a voice from heaven telling me to go to Minnesota, I look back and see that I was called almost a decade ago to come to the Hands of Compassion. Fourteen years ago, my own family dealt with severe medical issues when my son was born. Without the support of our family in Nebraska, and our church family at the Bellevue, NE Church of Christ, I'm not sure how we could have made it through that time period. Three members of our congregation came at 6:00 in the morning to be with us while my son was in surgery. They bought us breakfast, prayed for us, and loved us through it all. We needed people during that time, and I now see those same needs in people who come to the Hands of Compassion houses to address their medical needs at the Mayo Clinic. They need emotional support, prayer, and companionship through their difficult times. Is God calling you to this ministry? Will you answer the call?

Phillip Quelle—Hands of Compassion Chaplain

If you are interested in applying to join this ministry, see the information on how to submit a resume on page 3 of this newsletter.



Mike & Sheila Jones—Current House Parents for the Original Hands of Compassion House



Phillip Quelle—Chaplain

Moving To The Next Stage

It's been a long road. When we first introduced to you the idea of building a new expansion on to our most recent Hands of Compassion house in the Spring of 2017, we had no idea the journey that it would take us on. We began our fundraising needing to collect almost \$1.9 million dollars.

Despite numerous setbacks, including Covid-19 and the hyper-inflation that followed, we are now finally close to the end of our fundraiser campaign. We have now raised over \$1.4 million of the money needed for this build. Although we are not quite at our goal yet, we have reached a point where it is time to move to the next stages of building.

On January 26, 2024, we had our first major kickoff meeting with the members of the team that will be involved in this building project. A few of the members of our Board of Directors met with the architects, civil engineers, and the builder to discuss the next stages of this project. On February 8, 2024, we had a pre-development meeting with the city to work out zoning and permitting issues. We are officially moving forward with this project in the hopes that we can begin building either in the Fall of 2024 or the Spring of 2025! As we go through 2024, we will be continuing the preparation work that needs to be done to move this building project forward. We will be doing surveys, finalizing architectural plans, working out permits and, and all the other work that needs to be done, so that we are ready to begin this build soon.

We are looking forward to the blessings that this new expansion will be to the guests of our ministry. Since COVID-19, the number of guests has been increasing. Last year we had more people come through our Hands of Compassion houses than we did in 2019 before COVID hit. In 2019, 682 guests stayed in our houses for a total of 1,336 night stays. In contrast, 2023 had 830 guests stay for 1,880 nights. The great news is that we have been so busy! The downside is that many more who wanted to stay, couldn't because there was not enough room. Still others couldn't stay because of our severe limitations in handicap accessibility.

This expansion will help us in many ways. It will provide an elevator that will bring our current handicap accessibility from 2 rooms to 12. More space for guests who are in need of long term stays. More public space to reinforce the culture of staff and guests ministering to one another. More rooms to provide accommodation week after week. The benefits of this build will be enormous to our ministry!

We still have more fundraising that has to be done, though. In the history of this ministry, we have never borrowed money, but have always waited for God to provide what was needed. We are continuing to seek out more fundraising & grants to close the gap on the funds needed to complete this project.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue this fundraising campaign so that we can be a blessing to the people who come to us in need. The board and our staff want to say thank you for the incredible gifts that you have given our ministry. We are able to move to the next stage of this project because of your wonderful support!



Digital rendering of our upcoming expansion house



The team hard at work during our first kickoff session at the Hands of Compassion.



Architects, civil engineers, builder, and Hands of Compassion board members present at our first kickoff meeting for the new expansion.

Memorials and Honorariums — Oct. 15 through Feb. 1

Memorials

Marjorie Boyd

Lois Russell

Lori Bufe

Harold & Linda Bufe

Kenneth Burgess

Susan Burgess

Carole Johnson

Steve Brunson

Rebecca Spencer

Donna Fincher

Frank & Judi Rogers

Jim & Carol Fincher

David Goins

Judy Goins

Bud Hammons

Melissa Emerson

Wendell Hardeman

Marilyn Hardeman

Gerald Harville

Don & Sharon Walker

Arlene Hengel

Judi Williams

Dee Lallathin

Janet Lallathin

Don & Kathy McMillon

Shirley Henson

Melissa Emerson

Orrin Nearhoof

Dan & Donna Bailey

Nathaniel & Annie Potts

Melissa Emerson

Jerry Smelser

James & Karen Smelser

Gerry & Gladys Willis

Melissa Emerson

Kenneth Wright

Janelle Wright

Boots Young

Virginia Blackburn

Linda Allen

Brenda Newberry

Melissa Emerson

Honorariums

Gary & Joanne Nading

Dr. Buster Herren

Steve & Patti Sikes

Russ & Felice Dudley

Robert & Marion Stinchfield

Troy & Linda Sheridan

Family of Sabine

Sabine Troster-Pierick

Odaleane Wyatt

Don & Sharon Walker

Hospitality Ministry House Parents

We are seeking individuals who are called to a life of ministry as house parents, to support our patients and families as they visit Mayo Clinic for their health care needs.

Please visit our website at www.hocrochester.com, and view our "house parents' opportunities" or email us at hocministry@gmail.com for more information

To apply, email us a resume, picture, and references to hocministry@gmail.com or mail it to us at

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Honor A Loved One

Honor a loved one by having a room in our new 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!

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.

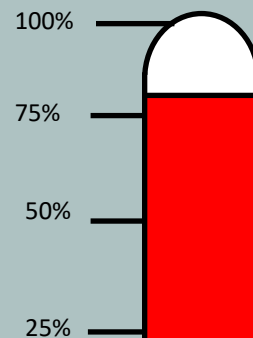
There are many other ways to give as well. Pray for our ministry! Donate supplies or HyVee gift cards that can be used for our guests. Also, parking cards for people who struggle with having money to park at Mayo.



Donate

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

Goal—\$1,900,000



Raised—\$1,451,173

Give With Employer Matching Through Benevity

This can be a great way to double your donations to the Hands of Compassion. To use Benevity, use the QR Code or go on the web to: <https://mygoodness.benevity.org/community/cause/840-411754278>



Use QR Code to learn more about expansion house!



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: _____

It Starts On The Inside

Dishwashers are some of the most amazing inventions. You put your dishes in dirty, you let it go through cycles and they come out clean. These days, you don't even have to rinse them off before putting dishes in the dishwasher. But recently, I opened up my dishwasher and found a container that was still closed. The outside of the container had gone through the full wash. All of the food, grease, and dirt had been cleaned off and the outside had been sterilized, so that the outside was clean and germ free. The problem was that the water did not get to the inside of the container. The result was that the inside had the leftover food, grease, and filth that was in the container before the wash. Would you put more food in this container? The truth was that even though the container had gone through the wash, it was completely unusable because of the filth that was on the inside.

Jesus deals with a similar problem when he says in Matthew 23:25-26, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."

I was recently at the Freed-Hardeman lectureship, and the keynote speaker made this statement, "Is it possible to do all the right things and still not please God?" The answer to that question is "yes." Doing the will of God starts on the inside. We are not capable of cleaning the inside of the cup and dish ourselves. We can do amazingly wonderful good deeds so that the whole world looks at us and sees righteousness. But inside we can be full of filth, greed, and self-indulgence. We look good on the outside, but the inside is not pleasing to God.

When we open up the sealed container of our hearts and let the cleansing water of Christ change us from the inside, God can use us in ways that we cannot even imagine. A great heart creates great deeds. Biblical baptism is about just that, the cleansing of our hearts toward God. Allow God to change you from the inside, and open yourself up to a whole new way of living in God! When Christians allow pleasing God to take center stage rather than just doing the right thing, we can truly make a difference, not just in the Hands of Compassion, but to the whole world.



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



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