



Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ



840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902



God Will Make A Way!



This year we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our first house guest! This ministry is older than that, as it began in the homes of members of the Rochester church of Christ. On Memorial Day weekend in 1985, however, after our original house had been bought and renovated, we welcomed our first house guest. Since that day, and even before, God has blessed this ministry by providing what was needed. One of our former board members, a very godly man by the name of David Lynn, once told me, "If you take care of people, the finances will take care of themselves."

In this ministry, we believe that to be true, and God has always provided what was needed for the ministry. It's been incredible watching the finances throughout the 11 years that I

have been here. It didn't seem to matter if unforeseen circumstances came up and we had to replace a central air conditioner or appliances. The donations would always come. Even through COVID, God took care of this ministry and gave us everything we needed to continue. While other non-profits suffered, we thrived, ending in the black in operations, and raising almost \$600,000 for our expansion project in 2020 alone.

Trusting in God's provision does not mean that there will not be obstacles in our path. After our most recent budgetary estimate it seems that due to material costs and market fluctuations, we are now looking at a larger budget gap to fill. In faith, we are moving forward and we are calling for a Donation Day to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our first houseguest. We are requesting that 400 individuals and/or churches give \$1,000. This will enable us to bridge the financial gap. So please, tell your friends about this! We also understand that not everyone can give at that level, but even small gifts can add up to big ones. Our 40th Anniversary Donation Day will be on **Sunday, June 1**. You can make donations either through check to the HOC address at the top of the page, through our website at www.hocrochester.com, or by using this QR code. Please make a note to let us know that this is a "40th Anniversary Donation."



Our ministry has always been about hospitality, but even more than that, it has been about showing God to the people who come through our doors. That is something that will not change after this building project. This will just provide us the ability to show love to our guests in so many more ways. We will be able to house more people through the addition of nine additional guest rooms. We will have elevator access to all of our rooms in our newest house, so that people who cannot navigate stairs will no longer be turned away. Through this project we will be able to show Christ's love and compassion to even more patients and their caregivers. Our final plans have been submitted to the city and we are ready to move forward. Our first step in launching this project will be in hosting a groundbreaking ceremony on site, **May 31st at 5:00 PM**. We will be streaming our groundbreaking live through our Facebook page, but we also want to invite anyone who would like to come to Rochester to be a part of this ceremony! If you would like to join us for this ceremony, please RSVP by emailing us at hocministry@gmail.com.

Donate

As always, please keep us in your prayers as we look for God's provision in this wonderful new era for our ministry. Thank you all so much for the blessing that you have been to our ministry! Through you, God has always provided!

We hope to see you at our groundbreaking!

Phillip Quelle—HOC Chaplain

Peace in the Storm

When Jim and Diane walked into our houses at the Hands of Compassion Ministry, we had no idea what kind of amazing people we were getting. Their faith in God's love and compassion is contagious to everyone around them. Jim and Diane have used sickness for God's glory, reaching out to so many different people who were struggling with their own health. They are an open book about how God has worked through sickness and suffering in their lives so that they could be a living testament. Jim and Diane's journey has not been easy, but you would not know it when you meet them. Their hope is in a Savior who will not let them go. It comes out in the peace and joy that they show to everyone around them as well as their testimony that God is still working in the lives of His people. They know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God is faithful and that this life is not the end of the road. Thank you, Jim and Diane for the amazing way you ministered to the staff and guests of the Hands of Compassion.



The following articles were written by Jim as he was recovering from cancer.

I Have No Complaints

I was complaining one day about being sick and having to take such high quantities of chemotherapy. As I walked into the hospital, I saw a little four-year-old girl named Desiree. She was listening to a piano player in the entrance to the hospital. Desiree told me she wanted to play the piano someday. Desiree was waiting on a heart transplant, which she never got the opportunity to have. She died shortly after that and I am sure she is getting to play her piano in Heaven. I then saw Brandy, a twenty-five year old woman that just wanted to have children someday (she died in August). Then I came past J.D. and Joann, both were grandparents struggling for their lives. Jimmy was the next one I saw. He was a middle-age man that had won the fight with cancer, but it then invaded his body again (he died the same day as Brandy—Diane and I attended his funeral in Morrilton, Arkansas, in August when we were home).

I heard someone call my name and it was Barbara, a woman whose dad had been battling cancer for over seven years. She had the most positive attitude of anybody that I have ever seen. Her smile would radiate from her face (I just talked to her husband February 6, and he lost Barbara January 30). I then made it to where I was going to take chemotherapy and sat down by a man named Bill. Bill and I were the same age. He told me that he had to hang on for two more months, because he had to walk his daughter down the aisle. She was getting married and she wanted her daddy to give her away. Then on the way out, I saw David and Ashley, a young couple that were celebrating their first year of marriage in a hospital room.

I then realized that I did not have any room to complain about anything at all. God allowed me to meet so many people like these that truly touched me for the rest of my life. I then said a prayer to God and thanked him for giving me the opportunity to meet these lovely people. I also asked him to never again let me complain about one thing in life. Thank God each and every day for all of your blessings.

Why Did God Pick Me?

I have often wondered why God picked me. Was it because He knew that I would be okay and/or was it because he wanted me to help others through difficult situations in life? God let me experience three near-death experiences and allowed me to meet lost of people that I never would have come in touch with if I had not been sick. You see, God blessed me daily through my illness and is still doing so today. You have heard the saying, "God works in mysterious ways." I am one that really believes that statement. I have seen His work in a lot of people. People have inspired me and given me the strength to continue on.

I have not been able to attend the Lord's service as I would like to, but my health continues to improve. It may not be at the speed I want, but every day is a slight improvement. I have been lifted up by the inspiration and prayers of so many people over the last year. I changed my life forever, and it made me appreciate the little things in life that I once took for granted. God spared my life so that I can glorify His name and help others do the same. I pray that I can return the generosity, prayers, and care that were given to me and my family during my illness. I feel I am an example of the power of prayer and God's miraculous work.

Memorials and Honorariums — October 15—March 31

Memorials

- Rudolph Alvis**
Melissa Emerson
- Eleanor Anderson**
Lois Stevenson
- Joann Asmussen**
Neil & Victoria Martin
- William Compton Boyd**
Sheryl Curlee
Angela Jones
- Lori Bufe**
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bufe
- Ella Clingerman**
Bob & Barbara Oakleaf
- Cenell Davis**
Melissa Emerson
- David Goins**
Judy Goins
- Vera Martin**
Melissa Emerson

Joan Moody

- Steve & Patti Sikes
Pete Moody
- Ed Sanders**
Rebecca Staten
- Jerry Smelser**
Jim & Karen Smelser
- James Ronald Staten**
Rebecca Staten
- Carrie Lee Stracener**
Glenn & Shirley Jobe
- Gladys Willis**
Melissa Emerson
- Harold Yarbrough**
David & Kim DeHart

Honorarium

- Andrea-don Griffin**
Don & Sharon Walker
- Jamey & Doris Johns**
(In honor of their anniversary)
Don & Sharon Walker
- Ximena Sosa-Loya**
Belinda Esquinas
- Bob & Marion Stinchfield**
Barbara & Earl Pugh
- Daniel & Jennifer Walker**
(In Honor of 25th Anniversary)
Don & Sharon Walker
- Daunte & Taylor Walker**
Don & Sharon Walker
- Dallas Walker**
Don & Sharon Walker
- Daniel Walker**
Don & Sharon Walker

Hospitality Ministry House Parents

We are seeking individuals who are called to a life of ministry to support our house parents (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

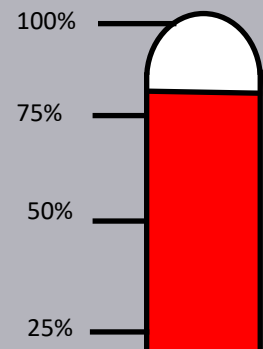
Honor a loved one by having a room in our new expansion house in their honor. This can be done with a \$50,000 donation toward the expansion house. This is a wonderful way to memorialize or honor someone that you love!

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 to the right or visit www.hocrochester.com to donate electronically. Please make a note how you would like the funds to be used. 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!

Funds Collected For New, Connected, Larger, More Accessible HOC Expansion!

Goal—\$2,300,000



Donate

Raised—\$1,695,197.94



Use QR Code to learn more about expansion house!

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>



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's an Anniversary!

It's our 40th anniversary! On Memorial Day weekend in 1985, our original House of Compassion received its first guest. Boots Young was our first houseparent and was instrumental in making sure the people who came here were taken care of. This ministry had already been around for several years prior to the purchasing of our original house, and it was being done through amazing people in the Rochester church of Christ. People who were willing to open their homes to strangers in order to care for them. God blessed the ministry by providing them with the funds to purchase and remodel that first house. He provided in 2006 when we were able to build our first expansion house. He will provide again, as we get ready to expand again. This is a ministry that cannot function without your support. But most importantly, it cannot function without a great God moving it forward. Please continue to pray for our ministry as we complete this project. Pray for our staff. Pray that God brings the right people to act as house parents here. Pray for the rest of the finances to come in. But most importantly, pray that this ministry continues to reach out and plant the seeds of a loving Father to people who struggle in their faith. Pray that this will continue to be a ministry where people are exposed to men and women of integrity and faith. Pray that this ministry is able to stand solid while a dark world around it crumbles and falls. James 5:16 says "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." Please let God hear your prayers for the Hands of Compassion Ministry!

- Phillip Quelle (Hands of Compassion Chaplain)

Contact Information for Donations and Reservations

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Come see us on Facebook at:

House of Compassion—Rochester, MN