

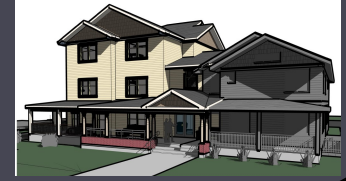


# Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ



840 W. Center Street  
Rochester, MN 55902



## Hands of Compassion Groundbreaking!

On May 31, 2025, we officially held our groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new addition. Speakers at our groundbreaking ceremony included: Kim Norton, Rochester Mayor; Gary Byram, HOC President; Steve Willis, Board Member; Jim Smelser, Board Member; Teresa McCormack, Architect; and Dave Reynolds, General Contractor. Our groundbreaking was streamed live on our Facebook page, and while that video was active on Facebook, over 500 people saw the groundbreaking! We even had a few of our guests come join us! It was an awesome community event and well attended. If you missed our groundbreaking ceremony and would like to view it, use the QR code or go to <https://hocrochester.org/groundbreaking-ceremony-pictures/>. There you will find both our groundbreaking ceremony as well as construction pictures.



Ceremony & Pictures

The week after the ceremony, construction fencing was put up around our main house and within two weeks, the excavator was delivered and truly broke the ground on the new build, digging into the dirt just in front of our main house by the sidewalk. This has been an incredibly awesome journey and we're excited to see what God does with this new addition!



# Construction Is Moving!



As you can see from these pictures, there has been a whirlwind of activity around here this summer. Our construction project is officially underway! The first picture you see here was the first breaking of ground to lay the new foundation, and since then, this project has been moving quickly. The picture to your right is where the construction project is at the time of this writing. Even through all of this, we have been able to house guests in our original house while the construction has been ongoing.



It truly is amazing to think about how this build will change people's lives. When this is done, we will be the only hospitality house in Rochester that doesn't have fees, but also has an elevator to offer full access to people who cannot navigate stairs. It is amazing to see what God has done with a ministry that started in the houses of members of the Rochester church of Christ. When our builder found out that this ministry has raised over \$2 Million simply by reaching out to individuals and churches in the United States, he was absolutely amazed at how God had brought this about. God can work wonders through His people, and we have seen Him working through you throughout the history of this ministry!



We still need your help to finish closing the gap by the end of the year. In our May newsletter, we reported that we were looking for four hundred \$100,000 donations. Since that time, you have helped us by raising almost \$140,000. One of those donations was a large memorial for a loved one. Several people throughout our fundraising time have donated \$50,000 or more to have a room dedicated to a loved one. If you wish to honor a loved one with a room, contact our Chaplain, Phillip, at 507-216-8993 or email him at [ministry@hocrochester.org](mailto:ministry@hocrochester.org) and he will help you set that up.



We are also wanting to honor all of the people who donated to this expansion house with this new build by creating a donation tree, to thank you for your contributions to this project. This will be on one of the walls in the new build. We are planning to put the names of anyone who has donated \$500 or more toward our expansion project on this tree to thank you for your donation. Some donations have requested to remain anonymous and we will of course honor that. If you wish for your donations to remain anonymous, simply email our chaplain at [ministry@hocrochester.org](mailto:ministry@hocrochester.org) to let him know. We will also be including those of you who donated smaller donations over a long period of time for the expansion project, if those donations add up to \$500 or more. We will have 3 different colors of leaves on the tree which will represent different giving tiers. We will also have bigger "rocks" at the base of the tree that will represent those with donations of \$25,000 or more. Here is the tiered system we will be using.



Tier 1—\$500-\$1000 in accumulated expansion house donations

Tier 2—\$1000-\$5000

Tier 3—\$5000-\$10,000

Tier 4—\$25,000 and up



Finally, we are currently finalizing details on the new appliances that will be needed in this new build. Our plan is to create a registry soon where you can donate to purchase an appliance. When the registry is ready, we will be reaching out to you through our email contact list as well as by postcard to let you know. We cannot thank you enough for the incredible generosity that you all have had in making this build happen. God can do amazing things through His people! Thank you so much for being the hands and feet of Jesus. This



ministry has grown through generations of incredible people, allowing God to move in their lives and create something special!

# Memorials and Honorariums — April 1 to Aug. 31

**Memorials**

**Ken Burgess**

Susan Burgess

**Keith Dockery**

Thomas & Mary Alice Springer

**Jim & Donna Fincher**

Jim & Carol Fincher

**Melissa King**

Jim & Diane Griffin

**Don & Cathy McMillon**

John Denney

**Howard & Leona Merches**

Susanne Keller

**Frank & Jane Pehrson**

Franklin Pehrson Jr.

**Lou Shireman**

Bill Shireman

**Jessica Sikes**

Bill Shireman  
Pittman Church of Christ

**Jerry Smelser**

John Denney

**Randy Smith**

Leola Smith

**Toni Vaughn**

Bill Shireman

**Karen Watson**

Bill Shireman

**Gerry & Gladys Willis**

John Denney

**Tina Yoder**

Jim & Diane Griffin

**Boots Young**

Brenda Newberry

John Denney

**Honorarium**

**John Denney**

Idova Lewis

**Sarah Diane Griffin**

**(In honor of 19th Birthday)**

Don & Sharon Walker

**Doris Haas**

**(In honor of 91st Birthday)**

Bryan & Ann Reeves

**Mike & Sheila Jones**

Don & Sharon Walker

**Natalie McBroom**

Don & Sharon Walker

**Allayah Walker**

Don & Sharon Walker

**Daunte & Taylor Walker**

Don & Sharon Walker

## Crowdfunding

At the end of August, we launched a crowdfunding page on Facebook, X, and Instagram. Since then, those posts have generated 5,700 views as of the time of this writing. Please help us by sharing this page with others on your own social media accounts. You can find it at <https://hocrochester.org/expansion-house-2> or use this QR Code.



### Finish The Build!

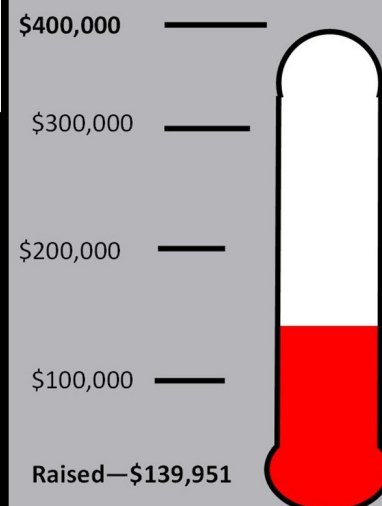
Four Hundred—\$1000 Donations Challenge

Goal #1—\$400,000

Make sure that the bills are paid as construction comes to an end.

Goal #2—Additional \$100,000

Six months of operating expenses to pay future bills.



### 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!



Donate

### 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.org](http://www.hocrochester.org), and view our “house parents’ opportunities” or email us at [ministry@hocrochester.org](mailto:ministry@hocrochester.org) for more information

To apply, email us a resume, picture, and references to [hocministry@gmail.com](mailto:hocministry@gmail.com) or mail it to us at

Hands of Compassion Ministry

840 W. Center Street

Rochester, MN 55902



House Parent

### 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.org/donate](http://www.hocrochester.org/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 Time To Kneel!

This sign that was above the door in the kitchen of our main house has been my favorite piece of décor since I first came here in 2014. Multiple guests have commented on how it was a source of encouragement when they came back from appointments.



One of the things I found interesting about this sign is the fact that it was above our very heavy fire door leading into the kitchen. I can't tell you how many times either myself, or the house parents have had to straighten this sign. The fire door closing would create vibrations that frequently would make the sign tilt. But even through that, it was always firm on the wall, never falling off. What a lesson for life! Many times in life, we find that the world seems to be trying to knock us off the wall. Stress, frustration, and busyness, are all things that can make us feel like we just can't do it anymore. Sometimes we forget the one thing that is most important: Kneel! Take your troubles to God, and despite the turmoil, He will keep you from falling.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." It was a surreal moment when I had to take the sign off the wall and put it in storage, in order to make room for construction. You can bet it will be back! With prayer, God can always provide the strength!

Phillip—Chaplain



### Contact Information for Donations and Reservations

Email: [ministry@hocrochester.org](mailto:ministry@hocrochester.org)

Address: 840 W. Center Street  
Rochester, MN 55902

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

Website: [www.hocrochester.org](http://www.hocrochester.org)



Come see us on Facebook at:

House of Compassion—Rochester, MN