



Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ

We Are Proud to Announce Brent and Becky Hanson!

Why are we excited about joining the Hands of Compassion (HOC) ministry?

We first and foremost want to thank the board of HOC ministry for allowing us this opportunity to serve in this ministry. Brent and I have been personally touched by the HOC ministry and the church of Christ in Rochester, MN, which is an integral part of this ministry. When they say that this ministry was birthed out of the Rochester church of Christ, they were completely right. Our lives were personally touched by HOC as a ministry of the church.

My son and I first stayed at the "House of Compassion" while my husband was at Mayo in St Mary's hospital in 2015. The ministry that came through Chris and Cindy was incredible! One night, we came in after a hard night at the hospital. Brent's surgery, which was supposed to be 4 hours long, turned into a 12-hours. We then received the very hard news that my husband needed a heart transplant. Chris met me at the end of the stairs the next morning and prayed with me and extended a hug and cried with me. It was at that point that I truly saw the worth of the ministry. It is more than a house to stay in for free. It is a ministry, and this ministry is extended through the church. The chaplain, Phillip, proceeded to keep an eye on us at the hospital and truly made my husband's day when he and Chris met with my husband and 16 year-old son at the hospital and played my husband and son's favorite game. They not only met our spiritual needs, they also met our emotional and physical needs.

The night my husband came out of the hospital, we stayed in the older HOC house. At that time my husband and I reflected on the ministry that had touched our life so deeply and we both chatted about how we would LOVE to be a part of this ministry and this church.

At the next appointment we found out we needed to be near a facility that could handle my husband's health needs, or he could die. So, we made the decision to move to Rochester. We were so grateful to the Father in Heaven that we were able to do this. He supplied every one of our needs. We packed up and headed to Rochester and lived here for 1 1/2 years while attending the Rochester church of Christ. My husband, however, continued to get sicker and sicker. We weren't finding a match quick enough in MN as he has very popular blood. The one time in life it's not so swell to be popular! We discussed with our doctors about heading to Mayo in AZ. In October of 2016 we went to the AZ Mayo and got a transplant 6 months later. In April of 2017, we headed back home to Rochester, MN Mayo from AZ Mayo and finished up his health care. He was a miracle. He started his transplant journey with many things against him. He came back to the Mayo in MN with a feeding tube, did all the rehab he could, worked hard on the swallowing and was taken off the feeding tube in Aug 2017. A complete miracle, and he worked very hard!

In the beginning of the summer in 2017, we heard that the position was opening for HOC house parents. We recalled our journey with HOC. We determined that we felt called to come to Rochester because of many instances in our journey. We felt well equipped and called to this ministry as we saw our journey as patient and caregiver, and the journey of uprooting our family and coming to Rochester. God lined many things up for us to be here, and we believe he desires to use our journey and experiences to touch the lives of others.

Our hearts have been miraculously prepared for this ministry. We understand each person has their own journey. However, as patient and caregiver, we are excited to give all we can to this already beautiful and well-flowing ministry. Our hearts are overflowing with joy. We cannot believe how God can turn our troubles into ministry to others. Scripture says in 2

Corinthians 1:4, "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." We experienced this from HOC, and we are very excited to be a part of this incredible team and give the same to others.

Sincerely, Brent and Becky Hanson



No Act of Love Is Ever Wasted!

There are times in our lives that we seem to feel alone, afraid, and overwhelmed with concern. Yes, I know all the right answers . . . And yes, I do put my faith in the Lord. I know we're not supposed to worry if we're walking with our Lord. However, I guess that, because we're human, and in this case it involves my daughter, it's difficult not to worry. My daughter Natali has been chronically ill all her life. She was born with a diaphragmatic hernia, where most of her bowels, kidney, and spleen pushed up through a hole in the diaphragm. She also had one collapsed lung, and the other lung partially collapsed. We thought she had been repaired four hours after birth, but apparently that was not the case, according to her surgeon. So, here we are [at Mayo]—hoping and praying that at the age of 45 she will finally be well.



As I am writing this, I'm sitting in my daughter's room. The surgery, which pulled most of her insides; kidney, spleen, pancreas, and bowels back through a large 8" opening in her diaphragm, seems to have been successful. Thank the Lord for doctors who have the knowledge to repair an almost impossible mess inside her body. We will be forever grateful, and in debt to the surgeons and nurses, and for the Christian love shown to us at HOC and the Rochester church of Christ.

What a blessing the Hands of Compassion (HOC) has been. Flying into a strange town, and being able to stay in a lovely home, with brothers and sisters in Christ, has made our lives so much easier. We have been made to feel so comfortable, thanks to Cindy and Chris. They have made a very difficult time so much easier. Also, Phillip, your chaplain has been such a blessing. Our daughter went straight to the E.R. upon arriving and spent the next five days in the hospital, causing



Pictured above: Linda is serving HOC by washing windows.

her to miss her scheduled surgery. Phillip visited us numerous times, and brought a sense of calm upon us. Amid anguish and uncertainty, I thank the Lord for all his blessings, including HOC. What a wonderful work! Praise the Lord!

There's a cross stitch on the wall at HOC that reads: "No act of love, however small, is ever wasted." Thank you to those who send homemade gifts of love over to the Hands of Compassion ministry. I've enjoyed a slice of banana bread many mornings before I walked to St. Mary's. Thank You! Everyone has gone way beyond what I ever expected. We have wonderful memories that will remain in our hearts forever. God bless, and thank you!

In Christian Love,

Linda Lay

Funds Collected for New, Integrated, More Accessible HOC

How Can I Give?

There are a number of ways to give to the Hands of Compassion Ministry. You can donate by mail 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 parking cards for people who struggle with having money to park at the Mayo Clinic.



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!

We are underway! But to protect the HOC ministry, we will not start construction until all funds are raised.

— \$1,900,000

— \$418,047

Memorials and Honorariums September 30—February 1

Memorials

Edgar & Candaisy Brown

Thaddeus & Martha Williams

Lori Bufe

Harold & Linda Bufe

Jesse Bullock

Gladys Willis

Linda Busbee

Marilyn Ogier

Gary & Jamie Jordan

Bill Cagle

Ron & Linda Sandefer

Bonnie Cundiff

Ken & Jan Wright

Melvin H. Delaney

Ken & Janelle Wright & Family

Keith Dockery

Mary Alice Springer

Wayland Hardeman

Wendell & Marilyn Hardeman

Charlie & Jerladine Jones

Orvel & Ellen Adams

Gene Kinkel

Margaret Anderson

Matthew Hamm

Mr & Mrs. Dale White

Tom Harrison

Ken & Jan Wright

Patricia Lawson

Mike & Rebecca Lawson

David Maclin

Ron & Linda Sandefer

Mary May

Ken & Jan Wright

Joseph and Fern Martin

Jay and Betty Martin

Howard & Leona Merches

Arthur & Susanne Keller

Sue Orbison

Margaret Anderson

Jerry Dell Oswalt

Harold & Linda Bufe

Betty Peters

Melvin H. Peters

Roger Robertson

Inez Robertson

Morris Shelton

Ronald & Linda Sandefer

Lloyd Schuur

Rodger & Norma Chambers

Russell J. Baker II

William Simpson

Iva Taylor

Oscar Stretch

J David & Doris Davenport

Peter Thom

Peggy McCarty

Victor Turoski

Anita Turoski

Gerald Willis

Anita Gillespie

Marilyn Beckman

James & Karen Smelser

Keith Arterburn

Gladys Willis

Boots Young

James & Karen Smelser

Melvin H. Peters

Venton & Margaret Beach

Gladys Willis

Brenda Newberry

Honorariums

Don & Kathy McMillon

James & Karen Smelser

James Maples Steelman

Stacy Sikes

Venton & Margaret Beach

Jerry & Mildred Smelser

James & Karen Smelser

Andy & Pam Smithie

Dr. Valerie J. Turner

Daniel J. Patti, D.M.D.

Steven Clement, D.M.D

Gary & June Thorson

Crookston Church of Christ

Louise Underhill

Ashish & Rebekah Ashish

Gladys Willis

James & Karen Smelser



Hands of Compassion Ministry
A Ministry of the church of Christ
840 W. Center Street
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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 131
Rochester, MN 55902

Change Service Requested

Please email us at hocministry@gmail.com if you have any address changes.

Thank You, Commonweal Theatre Company

We would like to offer a special thanks to the Commonweal Theatre in Lanesboro, MN. In October of 2017, goods were collected for our ministry as the admission price for their play. Several cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenexes, and more were donated to the guests of the Hands of Compassion ministry. Thank you also to so many of you who have given in similar ways to our ministry. Your gifts of money, time, supplies, and so many things have made such a difference to so many people who have come through this ministry.

-Thank You so much, from the Hands of Compassion Ministry!



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Website: www.hocrochester.com



Come See us on Facebook at House of Compassion—Rochester, MN!

