

# HANDS OF COMPASSION

A Ministry of the Rochester Church of Christ

840 W. Center Street  
Rochester, MN 55902



## Goals

What do the companies Amazon, Apple, Disney, and Google have in common? Answer: They all began in people's garages. They eventually grew to be some of the biggest companies in the world. Interestingly enough, the Hands of Compassion (HOC) ministries also started in people's houses. Before the first HOC house was purchased in 1985, people were housed in the homes of those from the Rochester church of Christ. When people were coming to Rochester, they would call the church and would find housing in people's guest rooms, basements, or wherever there was a space for them. The people of the Rochester church of Christ were living the Scripture found in Acts 2:44-45 which says, "And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need." NIV

Over the course of the last 31 years, Hands of Compassion has grown through the ministries of Boots Young, Don McMillon, Stacy Sikes, and others. Last year alone the Hands of Compassion housed nearly 2,800 people! With each year that passes, more and more people who come to Mayo receive a room at HOC as well as the support they need. We want the Hands of Compassion ministry to continue to be a place where people get spiritual support and comfort.

Our goals for the Hands of Compassion will always be to show Christ to the people who come through our doors, offer spiritual and physical support, give comfort, and whatever else can be provided while people face difficult times at the Mayo clinic. If the Lord wills, and the ministry continues to grow, we will hopefully be building a third house so that we can provide better handicap services, offer more housing, and provide more opportunities to minister to families with children. Thank you so much for making the Hands of Compassion what it is today.





**Compassion:** Responding to the needs of others. In Mark 2:3, we are told of Jesus healing a paralyzed man. The paralytic's need moved his four friends to action, and they brought him to Jesus. Many people have physical and spiritual needs which we can meet, either by ourselves or with others who are also concerned.

It wasn't the paralytic's faith that impressed Jesus, but the faith of his friends. Jesus responded to their faith and healed the man. In better or worse, our faith affects others. We cannot make another person a Christian, but we can do much through our words, actions, and love to give him or her a chance to respond. Look for opportunities to bring your friends to the living Christ.

Among the first words Jesus said to the paralyzed man were, "Your sins are forgiven you."

Then he healed the man. We must be careful not to concentrate on God's power to heal physical sickness more than on his power to forgive spiritual sickness in the form of sin. Jesus

saw that even more than physical health, this man needed spiritual health. Spiritual health comes only from Jesus' healing touch.

The Hands of Compassion's true identity is revealed by what is done, not necessarily by what is said. This mission of the Rochester Church of Christ reaches out to those seeking medical needs and answers. We provide a safe place, a haven of rest, as well as spiritual health food if so desired. Jesus is on the move in Rochester, so please, let us help you and your friends. Human need moved the four men. Let it also move you to compassionate action.

Ross Hoopes

In September 2014, I was diagnosed with inoperable colon cancer. The second opinion I sought informed me that I could expect to have ongoing chemotherapy to "treat" the condition. It was a small chance at best that I would be able to have surgery to remove the cancer that was now also in my liver. At only 37, with no family history, a 6 year-old and a husband, one can imagine how devastating the diagnosis was. I turned my face to the Lord and asked Him to make a way out for me. I went for a third consultation and this doctor acknowledged from day one that God was in control and said that faith was just as important if not more important as the medication I would receive to shrink the tumors. This was in the hopes that I could become a surgical candidate. So through prayer, solely leaning on GOD for strength, I began chemotherapy. It took 23 rounds in total to get the condition managed for surgery. It was the recommendation of my oncologist in Michigan that caused me to travel to Minnesota for help. Because of God, I became a candidate for surgery. In October 2015, I underwent the surgery that would offer me the best chance at cure and a new lease on life.

Even though I had to have so much chemotherapy, I was not sick or weak---Glory be to God! My battle was mental and it was and is tough. I cry when I need to, turn to the Lord in prayer when I am afraid and speak His word out loud when the enemy of my soul attacks my mind. A few scriptures I stand on are the following: Exodus 14:14, Jeremiah 29:11, Jeremiah 33:6, Matthew 14:14 and finally, Psalm 118:17. I am convinced and know that God hears my cry, loves me and fights for me. I look expectantly to Him for all I am in need of and He has not failed, forgotten or forsaken me. I still have a long road of recovery ahead of me, and I do battle in my mind at times. But I get alone with God, worship, praise, and pour my heart out before Him, knowing that His compassion does not fail. God gives me strength to go on and have hope for my future. I pray that each of you reading my story will be encouraged. I thank the Lord for the Rochester Church of Christ, the House of Compassion, all of the staff and their dedication to this ministry. May the Lord bless us all! All the praise belongs to the Most High! Whatever you need this hour, take it to the Master. He's listening. There is no doubt He heard my cry and made a way.

~Jami M. Willingham

Lincoln Park Church of Christ, Lincoln Park, MI

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you!

Jami Willingham



# Honoring Your Loved One With Your Gift of Compassion

## Honorarium and Memorial Donations to the Hands of Compassion: October—January

### Honorarium

**Mr. and Mrs. Lanny Paul**

Marilyn Finley

**Jerry and Mildred Smelser**

James and Karen Smelser

**Gladys Willis**

Fern Schenck

**Brien and Renee Wilson**

Jim & Sheila Wheetley

**Boots Young**

Gladys Willis

Bob & Doris Haas

Janet Tarrant

Jon & Penny Davis

### Memorial

**Mary Arterburn**

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**Louise Brown**

Ken & Jan Wright

**Steve Brunson**

Rebecca Roark

**Lori Bufe**

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**Richard Calhoun**

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**Keith Dockery**

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**Roberta Edwards**

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**Bill Fielder**

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### Memorial Cont.

**Duane R. Stinchfield**

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Lois Stevenson

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Ken & Jan Wright

**Toni Rolison Vaughan**

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Melissa Tomlinson

**Murrell Wallace**

Ron & Linda Sandefer

**Gerald Willis**

Patrick & Anita Gillespie

Fern Schenck

Keith Arterburn

Gladys Willis

## HANDS OF COMPASSION ONLINE

The Hands of Compassion Ministry now has its own website. Come check it out! You can find info. about the House of Compassion, how to set up a stay, donate using Paypal, and more. You can find us at [www.hocrochester.com](http://www.hocrochester.com)



You can also find us on Facebook at Hands of Compassion—Rochester, MN



The Hands of Compassion Ministries is going green! We are now offering the opportunity for you to receive your newsletter through email. The paper version will still be available to those who prefer the normal newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the email version, simply sign up by e-mailing [hocministry@gmail.com](mailto:hocministry@gmail.com). You may cancel and resubscribe to the paper version any time.

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# So Help Me, God!

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1789 George Washington was sworn in as our first President of the United States. Placing his hand on the Bible, he gave the following oath: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." To the surprise of everyone, at the end of his oath, he added the words, "So help me God" and kissed the Bible. Those words established a tradition that has been repeated by every president since. The United States had begun a system of government that had never been tried before. It was an experiment that many believed would not work. George Washington knew that the fate of this nation rested upon how well he executed the office of president, and that it could only be done with the help of God.

We all have roles that we follow. We are wives, husbands, sons, daughters, volunteers, and workers. Sometimes it seems that there is not enough of us to go around. We stretch ourselves to the limit and find ourselves exhausted from our efforts. Where do we find our strength? If we find strength in ourselves, we will eventually be tapped out. If we look for that strength and help in our God, we will be successful.

After asking the question, "Shall trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or the sword separate us from the love of Christ?" Paul says in Romans 8:37; "No, in all these we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (NIV). It's when we put that hope in God that we can conquer over the stress that is present in our lives. We will always have trouble, but we have someone we can turn to.

The message is simple; put your hope in the strength of God. When trouble comes, ask for His help. George Washington asked for God's help and was able to set the stage for what a president should be. More importantly, he was able to keep this new nation from falling apart and gave it strength to last for over 200 years. Ask of God for strength when you are tapped out. He will help you through those rough times, and help you establish a legacy that will last forever.

### Contact Information for Donations and Reservations

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