



# Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of The Rochester Church Of Christ



840 W. Center Street  
Rochester, MN 55902



## We Will Miss You, Debra!

Debra Lawrence has retired as a houseparent with the Hands of Compassion ministry since 2006. We will miss her as she transitions to her new home in North Carolina. She first found out about the ministry when she was visiting the House of Compassion with her mother-in-law, who came to the Mayo Clinic for treatment. At the time, the new house was being built and the ministry was looking for a new houseparent to staff the new house. Debra moved up here to Rochester and has been here ever since. Throughout her 11 years in this ministry, Debra has been there to ask people about how their appointments went. She has stood with people who have lost loved ones, and been an encouragement to people who have come in. Many of Debra's closest friends are people who have stayed at the Hands of Compassion Houses. Thank you, Debra, for your dedication to this ministry. We will miss you so much.



## Silver and Gold I Have Not . . .

Thank You. This may be an odd way to start a letter, however, we are so very appreciative. Our names are Tim and Cheryl Stevens. I'll try to do the short version of Cheryl's medical problem, as the long version is a nightmare. Cheryl has a very rare birth defect called Ebstein's Anomaly. In her case, one of the 3 lobes of the tricuspid valve was attached to the side of her heart from birth and one was long and one was short. We didn't know about the hole in her heart between the right and left chambers until after she had a massive stroke. To lower the risk of another stroke, we were told her heart needed surgery. We asked to go to the Mayo Clinic and in December of 2015 we spent about a week in a hotel while under going tests. We were told in Cheryl's condition she would not survive the surgery. Through much therapy, weight loss and learning to walk better, surgery was scheduled for August 2016. We were told to plan on being in the hospital between 3 ½ to 4 weeks due to her condition. My parents gave us money, but I knew it would never be enough. I had to ask area churches for financial help, which just crushed me. You see, I was caught in a cave-in at the coal mine that I worked in and was crushed from the shoulders down in 1985. In 2014, while sitting at a red light, I was hit 4 times. I have not worked since the mine accident. Money is "tight". As we planned for the trip, we continued therapy. The day before we left, we stopped at our local McDonald's after therapy and saw a woman with her friend and her granddaughter. I had seen this woman just after we came home from the hospital and started therapy. I had not seen her again until the day before we left. After hearing that we were leaving for Mayo Clinic, her friend asked if we were going to stay at The House of Compassion. We explained that we had never heard of it. She asked for my cell phone number and said she would call me with the phone number. I received that call while driving through Wisconsin and was told to call immediately, as it normally took several weeks to get a room. A quick call, giving some information and I was told they would call back, as they were not sure if anything was available. I was trying to figure out where I could park the van and sleep in it after Cheryl was out of ICU. I knew we didn't have enough money to stay that long in a hotel and eat 3 meals a day. God blessed me numerous ways. He slowed me down enough and put me with people at the hospital that had it so much worse than I had it. I did receive the call from the House and had a wonderful room to stay in. I met people there that showed me Christ's love. A type of miracle happened as Cheryl was able to get out of the hospital in 9 days. Each time we come back, it's like coming home again.

With Chaplain Phillip's permission, I took pictures and started getting help from my daughter putting a power point presentation together. Numerous local churches in our area want to have the power point shown, and they are taking up free will offerings to send for the building project. Perhaps God has placed you where you are to help with this in your own special way, that only you can do. Silver and Gold I have not..... Would you take time to pray for the House of Compassion, Rochester Church of Christ and everyone involved, and do what only you can to help with the building project, so the House of Compassion can continue to help others?

God Bless,  
Tim and Cheryl Stevens





# Memorials and Honorariums May 17– September 30

## Memorials

### **Wilford Bufe**

Adaline Bufe  
Rodney & Vickie Gardner  
Linda Gaither & Emily Ratcliff

### **Linda Busbee**

Gary & Jamie Jordan

### **Bill & Mary Carlton**

Michael Carlton  
Shala Peterson

### **Sue Corey**

Harold & Linda Bufe

### **Marilyn Dickie**

Bill & Donna Knadel

### **Carol Forest**

Jerry & Judy Swicegood

### **Deby Jones**

Vera Staffy

### **Gordan Kranz**

Bill and Donna Knadel

### **Andrew & Gertrude Krupa**

Willie & Janet Taylor

### **John Gay**

Melissa Tomlinson

### **Larry Houtz**

Ralph & Bonnie Sitter

### **Tony Pierce**

Ronald & Linda Sandefer

### **Frank & Bethel Robinson**

Harold & Linda Bufe

### **Linda Robrock**

Dwight & Joan Berry

### **Oscar Stoetch**

Robbie Sikes

### **Everett Tate**

Robbie Sikes

### **Gerry Willis**

Marilyn Beckman

### **Brian Wilson**

Jimmie & Shelia Wheatley

### **Boots Young**

Janice Smith

### **Linda VanProoien**

Lois Stevenson

### **Ray Vetter**

Jeff & Dawn Adcock

## Honorariums

### **Debra Lawrence**

Sonny & Shirly Bryant



## **Come Join Our Ministry!!!**



Would you like to be a part of this great ministry? We are currently looking for a compassionate person or couple who is a member of the churches of Christ to be a caregiver at the House of Compassion. The applicant must have people skills and a great eye for detail. Responsibilities include administrative duties, cleaning the house, checking in guests, and seeing to guest satisfaction. If you would like to be a part of this amazing ministry, please send your resume, picture, and reference list to [hocministry@gmail.com](mailto:hocministry@gmail.com) or mail it to us at: 840 W. Center Street, Rochester MN 55902. **We would love to have you at the House of Compassion!**

## **Funds Collected for New, Integrated, More Accessible HOC**

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

— \$1,900,000

— \$349,730.44



## **Dollar Day Drive**

It's time once again for this year's Dollar Day Drive. One dollar per person can make such a tremendous difference in ministering to people here at the Hands of Compassion. Our Dollar Day Drive will be held on **Sunday December 3rd**. Please get your church involved in helping us raise \$1 per person. Thank you for your compassion.

## **How Can I Give?**

There are a number of ways to give to the Hands of Compassion Ministry. Please visit [www.hocrochester.com](http://www.hocrochester.com) to donate electronically or by mail. Other ways to give to this ministry include putting the Hands of Compassion in your will or donating stocks to the ministry.



**Hands of Compassion**  
A Ministry of the church of Christ  
P.O. Box 7266  
Rochester, MN 55903

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U.S. Postage Paid  
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Rochester, MN 55902

## Change Service Requested

Please email us at [hocministry@gmail.com](mailto:hocministry@gmail.com) if you have any address changes.

## Thank You, House of Compassion

We started coming to Mayo in 2014. That was our first experience with the House of Compassion. We are very pleased with our stay here. We have met so many people from all over the United States and became friends quickly. We shared information about our illness and found many symptoms and ailments in common. It was so nice to hear that we were not alone in our journey. We are very grateful for the House of Compassion and the people that run the house. The first person we met was Debra and she quickly became our friend. She made us feel welcome and secure in the home. We also enjoyed meeting and spending time with Phillip and his family. On our second visit we got a chance to meet Chris and Cindy as well. All of these people have

been a Godsend as they are incredibly compassionate people. We would also like to say thank you to Steve, the preacher at the Rochester church of Christ. All of the people we met were God-loving people who helped make our stay comfortable. May God bless you all!

Alex and Mary Jane Barajas

Sterling Illinois



### Contact Information for Donations and Reservations

Email: [hocministry@gmail.com](mailto:hocministry@gmail.com)

Address: 840 W. Center Street

Rochester, MN 55902

Phone: 507-289-6025 (Chris, and Cindy) Housing

402-637-6900 (Phillip Quelle) Chaplain

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

