



## Pie Auction 2015 Recap

As the point person for the Silent Auction, I was, of course, hyper-focused on that particular part of the event, but I would love to share some observations about this year's Pie Auction and Fundraiser.

The change of venue to the beautiful Mystique Ranch on the Sammamish Plateau has been nothing short of fabulous! We made this move for the 2014 auction, and I think that this year, we really figured out how to best use the space. Everything about it was just perfect. We are so grateful for our hosts: Jim & Jill Harding!

Speaking of Jim, along with several family members - and his Pastor's daughter - he provided live music! The song by Rascal Flats was dedicated to the women of Compassion House, and was meant to recognize them for their courage and determination.



And speaking of amazing these women, Virginia, a former resident (pictured left), gave a very moving testimony as to how Compassion House helped her change her life.

Together with her husband, she now owns a successful concrete company ... and has pledged financial support back to CH! Talk about a testimony!

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## An Interview with Mike Steele

*Mike Steele is a long-time supporter of Compassion House, a board member and Facilities Manager.*

Compassion House: How and when did your involvement with Compassion House begin? Please share about your involvement with Compassion House through the years.

Mike Steele: My first contact with Compassion House was through my church, shortly after Monti House was moved to its new location on Andrews Street. I was able to help with some labor-type needs during the reconstruction period. In 2009, I led a fund-raising project to help with the expense of the new duplex construction. That project was financially disappointing but provided a lot of exposure for CH to the community. I joined the board in 2010 and agreed to be the Facilities Manager, taking over from John Williams. This position entails routine maintenance of the buildings and landscaping and has involved major remodels of both buildings plus refurbishing the units when residents move away.

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## Message from the President

One of the marvelous things about Compassion House is the fact we are a volunteer organization that is donor-funded. We have very little organizational overhead (we're hiring an Executive Director; everyone else is a volunteer) and the rent our residents pay each month is not part of the funding stream for the organization. Rather, it is a teaching tool designed to help the residents budget for housing so that when they leave us, they will be prepared to cover their housing costs.

Another unique thing about Compassion House is our organizational philosophy. Most social service organizations are structured as an agency with a core of skilled professionals surrounded by a second layer of volunteers. This structure makes it very hard to replicate most agencies because the cost of funding that professional core is prohibitively high. Compassion House turns this traditional agency model on its ear: the heavy-lifting case working core is comprised totally of volunteers who are trained to walk alongside our residents as they get back on their feet. They are surrounded by a cadre of dedicated professionals who insert their expertise where needed. The goal is helping our residents establish a "new normal"—a new way of looking at life that is empowered and hopeful.

A third thing that astounds me about Compassion House is our volunteers and supporters. From the dedicated folks on our Resident Support Teams to our Board of Directors to those committed people who send us a donation each month—these people are our life blood. Because they care so deeply, they dig deeply in supporting this ministry, both with their time as well as with their checkbooks.

Recently, we held our annual Pie Auction fundraiser wherein we auction off thirty pies as well as numerous silent auction items. Roughly 130 people attended our Pie Auction this year. Compassion House raised over \$37,000 which will help us retire our mortgage on the three properties we operate. Thank you one and all!

Finally, I am most moved by our former residents who make our efforts worthwhile. By breaking the cycle of abuse, they have literally changed the course of history. You are our heroes!

Mark Miller, President ♥



Seeking a tech-savvy volunteer to help our residents with their computers. It will not involve repair, only answering occasional questions and troubleshooting.

We have a pressing need for support team volunteers. Put your time and talents to use!

We are in need of storage space. Have extra space in your garage or shed you are willing to donate?

Email us at [info@compassion-house.org](mailto:info@compassion-house.org), or call 425-395-4357 if you'd like to volunteer!

**"No one has ever become poor by giving."**  
— Anne Frank

## Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Now you can help Compassion House earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card to Compassion House at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). Search for us by name or by non-profit number **91674**. Then each time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Compassion House earn a donation! You can still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just like always. If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can pick one up at the Customer Service desk at any Fred Meyer store.



*(Pie Auction 2015 continued)*

As the event opened, guests were able to enjoy a glass of sparkling cider while perusing the display of Silent Auction items. We had a wide, wide range of contributions ... from pizza to paragliding, baby sweaters to boat trips, steampunk art to spa treatments, and movie nights to instruction time in an Alaska Airlines flight simulator! And while it's great fun to watch the "bidding wars," this year we added a "Buy Now" option ... and 9 bidders took advantage of this.

The pie tables are always simply amazing ... but this year ... the pies were absolutely beyond exquisite! Rob, our auctioneer, wangled not only several duplicate pies ... but managed to get one baker to agree to make THREE! Also this year – we set a new record for an individual pie: \$700.00!!!

A new twist for our annual fundraiser, was a "Raise the Paddle" which offered guests an opportunity to just give at various levels ... and that they did!!! It's an understatement to say that we were all totally overwhelmed by the generosity of our donors.

All the way around, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone involved. Please know that we could not continue the ministry of Compassion House without you ... and we are most grateful for your support!

Sam Peterson, Furnishings Manager & Silent Auction Chair ♥

*(Mike Steele interview continued)*

CH: What is your favorite memory involving Compassion House?

MS: My favorite memory of CH was the volunteer work I did before being involved with the board. When Monti House was first moved, I helped with the demolition of the old interior. It was very satisfying to see the results of the new construction to transform Monti House into a comfortable, modern residence.

CH: What lessons have you learned from your time with Compassion House?

MS: One lesson learned was to never remodel a 100-year old house. I am convinced starting from scratch would require less labor and probably less expense. But another lesson learned is how fast 2 years (the residency time limit) goes by. That fact must be impressed on the residents so they will do their part to be prepared to move on with their lives after CH.

CH: What is one thing that people might not know about Compassion House?

MS: One thing almost no one else knows about CH is the combination to the padlock on the door to the Monti House basement. And to those who are not on the board, people will never know the amount of effort expended by the board members, that I have seen in the last five years, to develop the formal program that is now in place to manage the ministry of CH.

CH: What would you like to see happen with Compassion House in the future?

MS: I am neither a prophet nor a psychic so I hesitate to predict where CH will be in the future. But even if it does not expand beyond its current location, it would be nice to think that the support network for CH could grow to the point of having professional staff for management and maintenance. It certainly can't hurt to dream big. ♥

## How You Can Help

**Volunteer.** We can use your time and special skills for building maintenance and repair, office assistance, car repairs, medical/dental/legal help, daycare, tutoring, or serving on a support team. Visit our website, email us at [info@compassion-house.org](mailto:info@compassion-house.org), or call 425-395-4357.

**Pray.** All that we do is guided by the good Lord above. Your prayer support for workers and for residents is priceless. You know the address.

**Donate.** Compassion House is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charity. Your donations are tax deductible. Mail in your checks, or look for the PayPal option on our website. Ask if your United Way contribution at work can be designated to Compassion House.

**Nominate.** Does your employer support community charities? Nominate us! ♥

