



Save the Date: Saturday, November 7, 2015

## Compassion House Annual

### Pie Auction

at Mystique Ranch in Issaquah

A fun, fantastic, fundraising evening including a silent auction, pie auction, catered dinner and more! You won't want to miss it! Details coming soon.

#### An Interview with John Williams

*John Williams is one of the founding board members of Compassion House and has been part of the Compassion House family for nearly two decades.*

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

John Williams: Pastor Mark Miller of Mountain Creek Christian Fellowship had real concern and compassion for the people coming to him for help with housing and associated problems. Because of my work in the community with the Food Bank and other projects, he consulted me and we began collaborating as the needs developed. His frustration grew as there were few tangible solutions to offer folks. The temporary stays in a motel the church provided were expensive and limited. Mark's burden for the need grew and he began formulating the concept of a house or building (every idea was considered) owned by the church that could be used for the housing needed. As the concept began to get traction, Mark enlisted several of us as a committee and we soon became a board of trustees in a new venture, which was originally a part of MCCF. We immediately began an earnest search for a house. One of our board members, Mark Roberts, was a developer with a house on the Plateau that we could borrow for a year, and we were in business with our first family. I served as the liaison with the family and began developing forms and procedures. Then came the Rainier house and then the Monte House, and the rest is history, as they say.

*(Continued on next page)*

#### 2015 Run With Faith 5k and 10k

Presented by Issaquah Christian Church

ICC inaugurated the "Run with Faith 5k" in 2013 as a fund raiser for Compassion House.

This year's race was held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, and \$1,350 was raised. All of the proceeds from the Run with Faith race support Compassion House.

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated and donated. We appreciate your support! ♥

#### Message from the President

A while back, I read a book wherein the author suggested that "God doesn't waste pain." His thesis was rooted in the idea that God redeems our painful situations for His glory and for our blessing. Nowhere is that more apparent than in this ministry we call Compassion House.

Years ago, as a new pastor in Issaquah, I started Compassion House as a means of helping folks on the margins. Over the years, as we have become more focused, our ministry has zeroed in on one of the most marginalized segments of our society—single moms recovering from abuse.

As we have, increasingly, ministered to these women and their children, I have frequently found myself in awe of them. Many of them fled their abusive environments with nothing more than their children and the clothes on their backs. Such is the desperation of domestic abuse.

As you probably know, domestic abuse tends to be a generational scourge. Many abused women had mothers who were also abused. As a result, this is the only framework for life many of them have ever known. This makes it even more amazing when, in spite of the odds, they stand up and say, "No more! It stops with me. My children are going to know something different!"

Their efforts at forging a better life for themselves and for their children have inspired me to the point I literally see these women as heroes. I marvel at their determination and secretly wonder if, in the face of such seemingly insurmountable odds, I would have such courage.

It is in the breaking of this cycle of abuse that we see evidence of the miracle I mentioned earlier—the miracle of redeemed pain. It is a miracle wherein God takes something that could have been, ultimately, destructive and, instead, uses it to accomplish something wonderful. For as these women embrace a changed life, they are literally changing history. Because of their courage, their children and their children's children and all who come after them will know a different life. And it all starts when one brave woman stands up to abuse and says, "Enough!"

Their metamorphosis is possible only through the investment of our many Compassion House volunteers, supporters, and donors who commit to helping these heroes reach their God-given potential. You may never see their faces, but you can know that you are truly making a difference. Thank you! Mark Miller, President ♥

**"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." — Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## Becoming a Volunteer Team Member

Are you feeling the call to help in a personal way? Do you know others at church or elsewhere who could join a support team for a future Compassion House resident? We are eager to expand our support network, to assure an abundant supply of support team workers for future residents. A team is comprised of 4 to 6 individuals eager to mentor a resident by "doing life" together. We also need individuals who can contribute their special skill as the need arises, apart from the teams. From carpenters to counselors, all are needed. Check our website, or send an email to [info@compassion-house.org](mailto:info@compassion-house.org) ♥

### What Your Donations Pay For



Thank you for your financial support! The Board of Directors takes seriously the obligation to steward your gifts carefully.

Operating expenses include maintaining and insuring the properties; financial aid to residents as needed for utilities, rent, medical and legal fees; training of volunteer staff; and administrative expenses. This year we hired a part-time administrative assistant to keep records in order and make all our volunteer processes work smoothly.

These operating expenses range from \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually. In addition, we are striving to pay off our remaining mortgage of about \$50,000.

All of our services to residents are provided by volunteers, at no cost. Thank you to all our 30+ regular volunteers! Your combined efforts over a year's time are the equivalent of 1.5 full-time employees. ♥



Newcastle Storage recently called and offered a 10x10 storage space, in exchange for simply displaying their logo on our website and newsletter. Nice people! Check them out if you need a place to store your extra stuff.



Craig Walker, owner of Coho Computer in Issaquah, is assisting our residents with technical support free of charge. Thanks Craig for partnering with us!

*(John Williams interview continued)*

CH: What is your favorite memory involving Compassion House?

JW: While it would be easy to focus on the facilities we have put on line over the past few years, my fondest and most exciting memory has to be witnessing the miracle of our second family, the family of five in the Rainier house. I truly knew their transformation was an act of God. They came to us so on the bottom of their life. I mean, overwhelming debt, warrant for their arrest, broken relationships, addiction and so forth. We could very reasonably have refused them, but we could see their potential and felt God's nudge. Working with our team, especially Mark, in two years they had resolved all their issues and bought a house. Mark had to convince a judge of their turn-around. This was truly a God event, and I was thrilled to be a part.

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

JW: I guess one lesson is to not underestimate God. Another is to not expect success on my terms. About people, I think I have learned that no change can happen in their lives until they get truly humble and open themselves up and accept help.

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

JW: Did you know that the 100 year old Monte house was moved three blocks and set on a new foundation without cracking or breaking a single window or door. I repaired one window in the Rainier house with Elmer's glue! The bottom of the Monte house was very irregular due to several additions over the year. This meant the new foundation had to be made to match and it fit almost perfectly. A sledge hammer had to be use on one corner to make it fit.

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

JW: I would like to see CH expand a little, maybe one more unit, but I believe CH could be an agent to replicate to other communities. I would like to see CH build its data base of resources for clients and develop more community partners, as in housing agencies, counseling sources, and church groups. In other words, more and better. ♥

### 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! ♥