



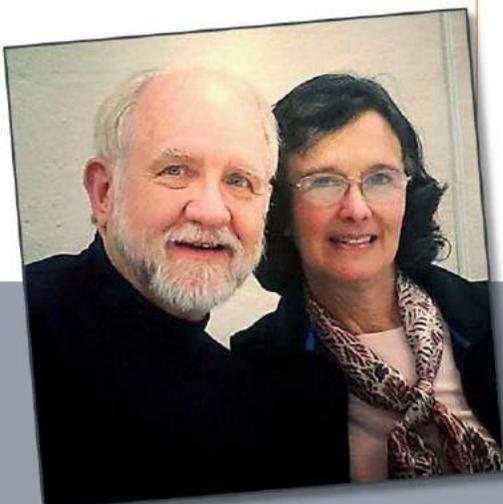
The Grapevine

The Latest News from His Branches

Bringing hope, healing and restoration
to individuals, families, and entire neighborhoods.

Upcoming Events

- April 7**
6:30 – 9 PM
**His Branches
Banquet of Blessing**
Diplomat Banquet Center
- April 30**
11 AM - 3 PM
**Neighborhood
Celebration**
350 Arnett Boulevard
- May 21**
1 - 4 PM
Bike Clinic
350 Arnett Boulevard
R Community Bikes
- May 8 -
June 19**
Baby Bottle Drive
Rochester Area Churches
Embracing Options
- June 28**
5:30 – 7 PM
Meet with RPD Chief
350 Arnett Boulevard
Arnett Block Association
- August 6**
12 - 4 PM
Arnett Block Party
350 Arnett Boulevard
HB Community



What Love Looks Like

We often talk about love and serving others in the Christian community, but what does that actually mean in real life? This is a question we deal with every day at His Branches as we seek to reach out to our neighbors in need with His compassionate and life-changing love.

Often it's just a matter of being there with people when they're facing difficult challenges in their lives. Part of "being there" is strategic and physical, being located near where people with overwhelming needs live, being accessible to those without personal transportation, and being available around the clock when people are stricken and need to talk with someone.

Another part is being emotionally and spiritually present, being open and trustworthy to receive people as they are, affirm their dignity, and respond gracefully, honestly, and knowledgeably to their circumstances and specific concerns.

This issue of *The Grapevine* contains not only updates about our ministries but stories of love in action. We appreciate your ongoing support as we seek to make Christ visible to those we serve. Please join our journey in prayer as we reach out in faith, learning to lean more on Him every day.

God bless you!

Bill + Susan

Visit our website for ongoing updates
& highlights

www.HisBranches.org



His Branches Community

www.hb-community.org



This has been a full year for neighbors and friends in the His Branches Community. Our Arnett Bird and Butterfly Garden won the city's Community Enhancement Award! We also had an Easter Egg Hunt (bigger every year), co-hosted a Bike Clinic with R Community Bikes, had another wonderful Block Party, put up a 15-foot Christmas tree that was decorated by School #29 (where we also donated jackets, mittens and hats

to needy children), and caroled with neighbors around the tree.

The Front Row video (www.rocfrow.com), which debuted in March, has been a huge success with over 1,000 copies distributed in Rochester, major cities all over the USA, and even to the UN and cities around the world. We have recently made another 1,000 copies and are planning to make a sequel.

We would also like to share a very practical story of how your

generosity helps us give a “hand up” to the people on the Southwest side of Rochester. During a recent windstorm, a large tree branch fell and took the electric service right off the side of the home of two elderly sisters. After a week without heat or lights, a neighbor contacted us on their behalf. We were able with donated funds to help them get their power back. McGurk Electric also gave us a discount so that it was affordable. The sisters, who had been praying for help, clearly saw the hand of God answering their prayers.



www.hb-health.org

His Branches Health Services

With each passing year we all learn that love must be **patient, tender, compassionate...** and that love must also be **tough**. If either side of love lags, God's true heart is not expressed through our own as fully as it needs to be. This past year we have seen both sides of love grow more deeply rooted in the ways we bring Christ to our many patients.

Last year we added a nurse care manager, John Scruton, who has exemplified many sides of love. John has allowed our healthcare team to commit so much more time and energy to our sickest patients. John is whole-heartedly devoted to the patients he takes care of and has faithfully followed up with the most depressed patients, calling them repeatedly.

I have heard him use the words:

**“You are not alone.
We care about you.”**

Simple words, but vulnerable to say. And it makes a huge difference to the patients John cares for.

John has been able to connect with patients through home visits which have allowed him to discover why some patients were not taking their medications and find creative ways to help empower them to do so. John's presence in an isolated patient's home helps heal loneliness, and it is so evident later in the clinic how much John's care has meant.



~ Dr. Matthew Mack

I have also witnessed the growth of courage in providers showing real tough love to patients when it is needed. “Eric” is a patient of ours who abused heroin and opiates for years. In his past, Eric would receive opiates from primary care providers for various aches and pains. These providers prevented Eric from getting the help he *really* needed – inpatient drug detox and rehabilitation.

(continued on back page)

YES, I would like to help support His Branches and its community outreach ministries.

Amount of Donation:

- Crisis Pregnancy
- Medical Care
- Where you need it

One Time

Monthly

\$ _____	\$ _____
\$ _____	\$ _____
\$ _____	\$ _____
\$ _____	\$ _____

Total



Enhancing Trust

Method of Payment:

- Credit Card: _____ VISA _____ MC
- Check payable to "His Branches"

Cardholder's Name: _____

Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Your Email Address

Please enclose this slip along with your donation and mail to His Branches, Inc.,
342 Arnett Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14619. All donations are 100% tax-deductible.



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**embracing
OPTIONS**

www.embracingoptions.org



Embracing Options is privileged to be a "branch" at His Branches, Inc. Our mission is to reach the culture of today with positive life-affirming choices relating to pregnancy and sexual activity. Our offices on Arnett Boulevard in the city and Curtice Park in Webster offer free services to men and women. Pregnancy classes, material assistance, and free 1st trimester ultrasounds give us an opportunity to impact and influence the lifestyle choices of many people in Rochester. In every situation, we share the good news of Jesus Christ. This is the most effective thing we can do, as the Lord is the one who changes lives, breaks chains, opens eyes and restores lives with a living

hope that can bring our clients out of the darkness in their lives into an abundant Life in Christ.

A 40 year old woman, "Angela" came to us for a free pregnancy test. Having separated from her husband, Angela was quite nervous about the positive result.

You too can be involved in life-changing decisions like Angela's by volunteering at Embracing Options. We have excellent training, and there are many different things you can put your hand to.

The following week she returned for a free ultrasound and shared with our counselor that she had had two previous abortions and was considering one again. When Angela saw the 11week-old baby in her womb with a strong heartbeat and little moving arms and legs, she was amazed! She firmly decided right then and there that she would carry this child to term!

Here are a few ideas: Abstinence trainer, Baby Boutique helpers, Fundraising, Special event coordinator, Bible study teacher, Data entry, Hospitality, Office cleaning, Peer Counselor, Church Liaison and Church Ambassadors. There is so much to do!

She is interested in attending our parenting classes and left with a handmade quilt for the baby and a beautiful smile on her face!

Please give us a call at EO Arnett (585) 235-0690 or EO Webster (585) 545-4690. We would love to have you visit and see if this is a ministry our Lord is calling you to.



His Branches, Inc.
 342 Arnett Boulevard
 Rochester, New York 14619
www.HisBranches.org
 585.235.9000

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 your employer to His Branches this year!*

LIVE UNITED™  **Donor #2480**

Call 585-235-9000 to find out about volunteer opportunities, or
 visit us online at www.hbgive.org to see other options.



His Branches Health Services (continued)

Jessica, one of our former providers at HBHS, started seeing Eric and had the courage to not prescribe opiates for him. Despite his initial anger and ranting, Jessica stuck to her guns repeating to him that he *must* seek drug detox and rehab. Her un-enabling love finally broke Eric, in the best way possible, and he embraced a whole-hearted drug detox/rehab program. I saw him a few months ago and his words resounded:

“Jess saved my life.”

Tough love is often the language through which dignity is spoken to a patient, when we say “I believe you CAN work harder,” or “here is how you advocate for yourself,” or “we really need to discuss this issue of disability and unemployment.”

By fighting for our patients’ capacities to accept responsibility and take difficult steps of faith forward in becoming productive, we speak to their self-worth – we say “I love you and all that you can become. My love is really the love of God and we KNOW you can do this.” But it only works if we also come alongside patiently and with the willingness to sacrifice ourselves vulnerably and persistently in the life of each patient.

