

HELPING PEOPLE CLIMB

ISSUE NO. 18

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Kingdom Work

by Genevieve Kocourek

Effective neighborhood ministry sometimes means being involved in the challenges of other peoples' lives - precisely so we can walk with the person and invite Jesus into the situation, whether it be grief over a loss, financial hardship, homelessness, difficult living or family situations, or any number of other challenges.

Ananias is a Biblical example of someone who walked with another. At the word of the Lord, he met Paul right after his conversion and spoke the word of the Lord to him, that Paul would hear God's voice and be a witness to Jesus Christ (Acts 9:17-19, 22:14-21), so we too can walk with and build up our neighbors and others we meet.



FIRM FOUNDATIONS OF HOPE

February-March 2026

A neighbor whose family has been intertwined with FFH since our beginning is in need of assistance, and we are asking our supporters to walk with him. The recipient of the first wheelchair ramp we built ourselves, Shavonne Hayes, recently passed away at age 41. She and her grieving husband, Anton, had only their monthly disability payments. The family wants to honor her in what they see as the best way possible, a funeral and burial. They have done what they can to raise funds from family and friends, have applied for help from DHHS, and with their church and others continue to try to work out lower costs. For the rest, they are seeking help through a memorial fund. To contribute to support our dear Shavonne and her family, please click the link to donate:

<https://www.tmcfunding.com/funds/shavonne-hayes/15804/>

FFH is planning to build and donate a custom wooden casket, which will lower costs by about \$4,000. Will you join us in helping our brother Anton and he and Shavonne's children?



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Firm Foundations of Hope is committed to spiritual revival and neighborhood revitalization. We seek person-by-person transformation of residents by making known the fullness of life to which Jesus Christ invites us, by providing employment and mentoring to unemployed persons, and by doing home repairs for the poor.

Recent Projects



The longer-than-usual winter has delayed some of our outdoor work, but the work crew has completed our first wheelchair ramp of 2026, allowing an older Detroit man who uses a motorized scooter to safely enter and exit his home. We are now in progress on the second, which will allow a young man with cerebral palsy to safely enter and exit his family’s home in Highland Park to take part in programs and normal daily activities, as he is currently homebound without a ramp.



Andrew Kotlarz, FFH board member and construction advisor, led a project replacing uneven basement steps in a confined space. It was a sort of “train the trainer” day, as a project leader was able to learn a couple new tricks of the trade from Andrew. Thank you, Andrew, for sharing your expertise!



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To donate: bit.ly/giveffh or
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We are truly grateful to the businesses who have made a sponsorship donation so far in 2026, [Eastern Michigan Distributors](#) and [Whims Insurance](#).



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For a sponsorship information sheet, contact climb@firmfoundationsofhope.org. If you're ready to make a sponsorship donation, checks can be sent to Firm Foundations of Hope at 3920 Van Dyke St. Detroit, MI 48214, or visit firmfoundationsofhope.org/donate for online giving options.

At Long Last...

Some of you have been waiting for three and a half years, since our last picnic table sale ended. Aware of the great anticipation, we announce that the wait is...not over yet. But stay tuned - we plan to open picnic table orders in the coming weeks!



On Mission

Saturdays, 1-3pm Street Evangelization
Meet at the Mission House to join us to share the love of Jesus in our neighborhood.

With occasional weather, time or location changes, it's best to contact us ahead at climb@firmfoundationsofhope.org or (313) 650-8565 if you want to join us.

Join us for Prayer

- 7-8pm adoration by candlelight
- Side chapel at St. Anne's Church, 1000 St. Anne St. Detroit. The St. Anne's chapel will be our location at least through Lent.
- Monday, March 31, then every 4th Monday of the month beginning in April

Prayer Intentions

- For a committed participant and volunteer in FFH programs who recently lost his wife
- For healing and recovery from cancer for an FFH supporter who is undergoing cancer treatment
- For an end to the war in Iran
- In thanksgiving that a recently hired FFH employee is now housed after staying in shelters

+FFH

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