



HEARTS OF PALM CENTER

A Capital Campaign
of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

HOPC News & Notes, October 13, 2024

Donor Spotlight

Helen and Paul Corry have shared a profound faith since their wedding 57 years ago at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, NC. Their spiritual journey has led them through various Episcopal churches both in the U.S. and abroad, and their involvement with the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, introduced by the late Deacon Mimi Howard, deepened their dedication to service. As members of the SOSJ Board of Trustees, with Paul serving as Secretary, they actively support local charities associated with Hearts of Palm. After learning about the campaign for the center, they pledged financial support and sought to inspire others within their Commandery to contribute, honoring both the Order and Deacon Mimi's legacy.



Do you remember the moment you heard about the Hearts of Palm Mission?

Mimi's influence on our lives here was and still is significant, like waves that fully immersed us in the community.
Helen Corry

Helen: We were visiting our son during the holidays and contemplating whether to move here. We attended church on Christmas Day, and while we were sitting in the congregation, I heard comments about something called Hearts of Palm. After we moved here in 2017, we began to ask more questions about it. By the time they announced plans for the center, we were fully on board.

Can you share some of your past experiences with charitable work?

Paul: Prior to my retirement we moved around quite a bit so we were involved with many churches, from mission churches to cathedrals. Each one had a strong outreach component. That provided us a lot of satisfaction, so after I retired, we began to get more active with those programs.

I understand you have successfully organized a matching campaign for your HOPC gift through SOSJ, honoring Mimi Howard's memory.

Helen: Initially, we didn't know many people at St. Mark's, but Mimi made a big impact. She invited us to be Eucharistic visitors and engaged us in various activities. It felt like she reeled us in. Mimi's influence on our lives here was and still is significant, like waves that fully immersed us in the community.

Paul: Like us, she was an SOSJ member - so it was fitting that once we committed to supporting HOPC, we could use that pledge as a challenge to honor Mimi. Jim and Karen were kind enough to attend our annual meeting and speak directly with the members about Hearts of Palm. That really helped rouse interest.

It's inspiring how you fostered support within SOSJ through the work being done at St. Mark's.

Helen: The SOSJ core mission has always been about caring for others.

Continued.

See the HOPC
video online



Interview Cont'd

Paul: Yes, it's an international organization, focused on faith and service. Through this challenge I've begun to hear more from the members who are eager to be hands-on, not just financially supportive. They want to volunteer, and I see this project as an opportunity to connect directly and locally with the community's needs.

Is there anything more you would like to share about Mimi for those who didn't have the opportunity to know her?

Helen: She was warm, smart, and strong. She was gentle but resolute in her beliefs. I know the Center will be a safe and secure place that will provide a welcoming environment. That's something that would have made Mimi proud.

Paul: Anyone who knew her loved her; that's just who she was. We couldn't think of a better way to honor Mimi's memory. Karen's work with the Hearts of Palm Mission shares the same traits as those we respected so deeply with Mimi. I encourage our fellow parishioners to contribute - whether directly to the campaign or through our match with SOSJ to honor Mimi's memory and inspire others.

If you would like to contribute to the memorial for Mimi Howard, please send a check to: The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, PO Box 2063, Palm Beach, FL 23480, and include the notation "HOPC - Mimi." St. Mark's will be notified of your name and donation amount to include in the donor list.

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Let's join together as a beacon of faith, hope and light within Riviera Beach.

Would you join these HOPC donors today?

Please contact Charlotte Pelton,
 charlotte@charlottepelton.com,
 561-329-3686

church.stmarkspb.org/hearts-of-palm-center-campaign