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All the proceeds from the sales made at the Many Hands Thrift Market will go towards supporting the development programs in Haiti. Additionally, Many Hands Thrift Market will be giving back locally through the Local Impact Program. This program allows community members to designate their donations to a local church or organization. Community members will bring in their donations and based on the value of their items, Many Hands Thrift Market will then distribute gift cards to the church or organization. The gift cards will then be distributed based on people’s needs within the church or organization. In addition to the Local Impact Program, we will be partnering with a local furniture ministry by providing furniture to over 200 families that are coming out of homelessness and rebuilding their lives.

“My hands Thrift Market will provide the opportunity for people to participate in local and global missions through volunteering, donating, and shopping,” said Tim Brand, Executive Leader of Many Hands for Haiti. “With our Local Impact Programs, we want to give back to the communities that will be supporting us in our work. As Americans, we tend to have an abundance of possessions. We provide a way for people to clear out clutter and generate dollars for a good cause.”

We are excited to announce that we will be opening a new thrift store in Grimes, Iowa. Many Hands Thrift Market will be located in a new 22,500 square foot building located at 2900 SE Grimes Blvd, right off of Highway 141.

Many Hands Thrift Market is set to open in early August and will serve the local community with new or gently used secondhand goods including clothing, furniture, home decor, and kitchen cookware. It will also have Haitian products such as metal art, jewelry, and coffee which will provide some much needed economic development for the people in Haiti.

We need various types of volunteers to run the store. We need clothing sorters, cashiers, cleaners, and hands-on types of people, which provides jobs for every sort of skill set. We believe that this is a great volunteer opportunity for people who are looking for a purposeful experience and a way to give back to the community.

“Volunteers and donations are essential to what we are trying to do. We want to work with the community for both local and global causes. We believe in the idea of ‘transforming together’. By working together, we become stronger,” shared Brand.

In March, Cumberland University sent a team down to serve for a week in Haiti to put on a Leadership Development Conference. Starting at the beginning of their semester, this group of undergrad and graduate students met for a few hours per week for a class that would prepare them for this trip. In this Cultural Leadership class, they focused on understanding the Haitian culture, how to develop leaders, and to prepare them as a group to lead the conference. They were put into groups and each group developed a topic to teach on while in Haiti. The topics that were covered were trusting God, ourselves, and others; how to resolve conflicts; and self-reflection as a leader.

Brandon Olin, a Cumberland student, was part of the conflict resolution group. “We wanted to teach them that conflict is not a scary and difficult topic. It can be easily resolved when approached properly,” he stated. The Cumberland students put the participants into small groups. One of the teaching techniques used when learning about conflict resolution was that each participant group had to resolve a conflict together.

A few students shared their favorite parts of their trip. There was a common theme of the comments. Olin said, “I was surprised at getting to see how expressive they are with their worship. I was also surprised to hear them singing songs we know from America.” Jessica Roper, a graduate student at Cumberland, also shared, “I saw love, generosity and worship that had no limit.”

At the end of the conference, the small groups were able to share feedback about the conference and what they learned. Roper said one of her favorite parts was their capstone paper, which was written after returning from Haiti. “The best part was being able to write a research paper that pertained to your field of study. I was able to research the educational system in Haiti, and why it is the way it is. I was also able to research ways to improve upon the old way of doing things, and suggest ideas of how leadership could do just that,” Roper stated.

Overall, the conference that Cumberland students put on was rewarding for both groups of people involved. It furthered the education on leadership for the participants in Haiti, and it helped the Cumberland students gain an understanding of cultural leadership through first-hand experiences. “I believe that this trip, and any trips that meet this standard will forever change me as an educator. I will be able to share things with students that may not be able to experience other cultures and open their minds to more than what surrounds them. I will be able to excite them about the idea of missions and traveling for a purpose much bigger than yourself,” shared Roper. Olin also said, “I came back with a more humble outlook on life and a greater image of myself and who I aspire to be.”

In March, M4HH broke ground for the new preschool on the Sylvian land. The construction on the school building is finished and painting will be done this summer. With the building nearly complete, the focus has turned to the curriculum and the teachers for the preschool.

Currently, there is a team of educators that are working together to collect and create curriculum for the preschool. They are gathering content based on research, the culturally relative learning objectives, and focusing on the sequence in which these objectives will be taught. These educators will also be gathering biblical curriculum which will be incorporated into daily teaching as well. Once these pieces are figured out, they will put them all together so the teachers in Haiti can then implement the curriculum, both academic and biblical.

Something the school leadership have been focusing on is creating an effective spiritual, emotional, and social learning environment. Within the curriculum, there will be numerous opportunities for small group interactions which will stimulate the emotional, social, and spiritual growth. These daily interactions will equip students to become better problem solvers and learn to relate to others. Classes will run in the mornings and in addition to academic and biblical curriculum, each student will receive a meal and medical attention each day.

“I think as we bring quality, creative education focused on the Lord and the truth of the Bible, the community will continue to be impacted as children and parents learn together,” said Heidi Schulte, Educational Development Coordinator. “As we teach and instill the skills of problem solving and learning how to learn and discover, I can see not just these kids, but their parents growing and developing too!”

The school is set to open this fall, with the first class starting in September.
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The Cumberland team with leaders from the conference.

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“DO SOMETHING CONCRETE”
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
BY LIZ CLARKE (Hospitality Coordinator - Haiti)

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This is only one of at least a dozen stories of people who have accepted Christ since the onset of the Do Something Concrete project. This project is not just about cement floors. This project is about people. Serving them, rejoicing with them, weeping with them, advocating for them, loving them, as He loved us. And we praise Our Father in Heaven for the works that He created in advance for us to do.

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Stay in touch on the progress of this project at our new website, www ManyHandsThrift.com, or our Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/ManyHandsThriftGrimes.