

# many hands

QUARTERLY

Transforming together, to be love in action, in a broken world.

DECEMBER 2019 - THIS ISSUE

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## STEADFAST IN MULTIPLICATION

Tim Brand, Executive Leader

Coming into this year, the word God brought forth to our organization was MULTIPLY. Looking back over the past twelve months, God was faithful in seeing this to fruition, even in spite of unrest and hardships in Haiti. Here are some of the things God multiplied through us this year:



### LAUNCHED a new First 1,000 Days Program

In January 2019, we successfully launched the new program in Molière, reaching an entirely new set of communities. We now have 177 families participating in this program in Molière and Molière, feeding 98,880 plates this year.



### OPENED the Sylvain Christian School of Light

In September 2019, we opened the Sylvain Christian School of Light Fundamental School. We now have 78 children in total in our School of Light system, adding a new class for the next eight years.



### DISTRIBUTED 145 pregnant goats to families

Through the Husbandry Economic Program, we have distributed 145 pregnant goats, given birth to an estimated 115 additional goats, and performed over 1,000 goat health checks for families, creating a viable income for parents to pay for school.



### GRADUATED 125 community leaders

This is a two-year program, representing 20 communities, with 125 adults completing our Servant-Hearted Leadership Program.

Walked with **87 PEOPLE**, who gave their lives to Christ, bringing the total to **424 SINCE 2016**.

Built or repaired **20 HOMES** and installed **30 CEMENT FLOORS** to create safer living conditions for **260 individuals**.

Provided over **570,240 MEALS** at partner schools in the greater-Pignon area.

Gave **97 physically handicapped individuals** their mobility back by providing them a Personal Energy Transportation (PET) cart.

Fought and arranged for 5 people to have **intensive life and death MEDICAL TREATMENTS**, all which have provided positive outcomes to date.

Impacted **198 TRIP PARTICIPANTS** from the U.S., helping people understand their story in God's grand story.

As we enter into 2020, the unknowns in Haiti are great. The country has been in turmoil for some time, causing incredible devastation to many throughout the nation. Given this backdrop, the word I am sensing for 2020 is STEADFAST, meaning resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering. God has been steadfast to us and we remain steadfast for the families we serve in order to see how God transforms their lives. I ask you to prayerfully consider financially supporting our work in 2020. Children need to be sponsored, families need to be strengthened, and the life-giving Truth needs to be shared in hard-to-reach places. We are seeing lives be changed, and it is amazing. Thank you for your steadfast support through the years of ministry. We are transforming together, to be love in action, in our broken world.

# SCHOOL YEAR OFF TO GREAT START

Bev Brand, Education Lead



Sylvain Christian class celebrating the Haitian Holiday, "Dessalines Day"



The morning flag raising ceremony for students at the School of Light

It was an exciting start of a new school year in a brand new building as 19 students entered Sylvain Christian School of Light for the first time on September 9. Teacher, Nicole Millien, and helper, Wilnide Joseph started the day with breakfast and the flag ceremony and immediately guided their students into the school day, which runs from 8:00 am to 1:15 pm. This year first-grade students will be studying the Bible, reading, writing, math, social sciences, science, French, Creole, and English.

Across campus, another group of preschool students was also starting their school year at Yellow Iron School of Light. The five-year-olds were returning with great excitement while the new three years olds were a bit more apprehensive, clinging to moms and not sure what was happening. To alleviate some fears, the teaching staff has initiated a time for whole school group activities after breakfast, where students participate in calisthenics, dancing, and singing. It has worked and now all students are happily coming to school! Preschool starts at 8:00 am and ends with lunch at 12:30 pm.

Liz Clark, Lerosane (our staff nurse), and Pastor Wilna have led the fall curriculum, teaching classes about child development (social, emotional, spiritual), health issues (intestinal worms, vaccines, and vitamins) and spiritual development (a four week unit on Holy living). Pastor Wilna, one of our MH4H pastors, has also recently started a new class for young moms who are single or still in high school, to walk with them, reinforce Biblical principles, and help them see themselves as valued children of God. Hopefully, this class will help these young women believe in themselves and eventually return to school.

Darryl De Ruiter, school staff leader commented, "We are off to a terrific start this year and extremely excited as we opened our new Sylvain Christian School of Light. Our instructional staff is wonderful and these teachers and helpers are hard-working and dedicated to bringing their best so that students can learn well."

## Saying Farewell

It is with full hearts that we say farewell to one of our own. September 27 was Linda Grandia's last day with Many Hands. She has been "officially" volunteering with Many Hands from our beginning stages in 2007, where she was part of the first board as Vice-President and Secretary. She has volunteered all the way through to 2019, serving in our financial team.



## Shade House Built

Ron Lusk, Joe Perkins, and Sam Bockhorst from Sustainable Food Production helped our staff install a new shade house on the Sylvain Campus. Our new vegetable shade house is already growing spinach, tomatoes, and peppers! To provide a nutritious meal for our Love In Action families, our agronomy department started growing more vegetables that will go straight from the ground to the kitchen.



## Business Breakfast Success

Thank you to each leader who joined us for another engaging Many Hands Business Breakfast. Held at the Embassy Suites, Des Moines, on October 4, the event provided the opportunity for attendees to network over a plated breakfast, while receiving specialized training. Jon Gordon, *Wall Street Journal* bestseller, shared an uplifting keynote on "The Power of Positive Influence", providing useful tools to embolden and encourage each leader in attendance. The event included a special panel discussion with Jon Sefton, Jennifer Browne, Michele Brown, and Tim Brand.

This year we had 275 in attendance, nearly doubling last year's number. The Many Hands Business Breakfast was able to raise over \$40,000 which will be used to support our Love in Action programs in Haiti.





# SERVING TOGETHER

Emily Van Gent, Events and Volunteer Coordinator



Generations of families volunteering together



Preparing for Christmas, Spencer, Iowa



Volunteer and staff Halloween party, Grimes, Iowa



During a break at the back of the store in Spencer, Iowa



Volunteers and staff together, Spencer, Iowa

It has been a great year full of many exciting events and activities for Many Hands. We are thankful for the many people who serve as volunteers stateside for our organization and allow us to accomplish all that we do. So far this year, we have had 903 individuals collectively volunteer for 17,970 hours. Praise God that so many people are willing to give their time, energy and resources to help further our mission both in the U.S. and in Haiti!

One of Many Hands' core values is that we are transforming together. It has been really fun to watch this core value manifest in our volunteers, specifically at our thrift stores. Each person who volunteers brings their unique giftings and skills to the table. One volunteer can't quite sweep the floor with the same enthusiasm as Zach, have the eye for kids' clothes like Myrna, and fix electronics like Jim. It takes the whole team, both staff and volunteers, to accomplish our goals. There are many reasons why people volunteer. Some have a genuine interest in thrift stores and find it enjoyable, others have a connection to Haiti, our staff and our mission. Many of our volunteers serve out of the overflow of all God has blessed them with and some volunteer because they are looking to get connected. No matter the reason why they choose to volunteer, the result is almost always the same: volunteers find community and connection.

This fall, Kim Seidman, started volunteering at the thrift store in Grimes out of a desire to meet new people and serve with her time. Kim moved to Adel this past year to be closer to her daughter after spending many years in Omaha. Since August, Kim has volunteered for almost 100 hours and has worked to transform and maintain our book section. Kim shares that she is "so grateful for this volunteer experience; I work with amazing people while supporting our local community, and overseas missions!" There is something special when a group comes together for a greater purpose. Through volunteering and serving Many Hands, Kim has been connected with a community of other volunteers and staff.

Karmen Brown, manager of our Spencer store, has similar feelings about volunteers. She says, "This is a family here - when one hurts - we all hurt - we walk alongside each other when there is a struggle and we celebrate together when there is something to cheer about. What is so cool - we pray for each other. I love each one of our volunteers."

God has blessed us with volunteers who are generous, kind and loving. It is an honor to have people on our team, serving alongside us daily, who are passionate about what we do. Thank you, volunteers, for all the ways you have served this year!

## Teacher Training in Haiti

Many Hands for Haiti provides teacher training for the staff two times each year. This fall, Multi-sensory Learning was reinforced along with strategies to increase Active Learning. The two-day training included hands-on experiences and opportunities to practice new skills, including team-building activities. This year the theme was "Better Together" using scripture from I Corinthians 12:12-18 (one body, many parts).



## Pignon in Pella Fundraiser

On Saturday, September 7, Many Hands hosted a unique fundraising dinner event in Pella, Iowa. "Pignon in Pella" shared a unique perspective of Haiti through interactive displays and a presentation by Tim Brand, Executive Leader. Through the generosity of 280 guests, we were able to raise \$46,500!

"Without support from the people of Pella in the last 10 years, Many Hands would not be working with the 325 families whose lives we are now touching daily," Brand shared.





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DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



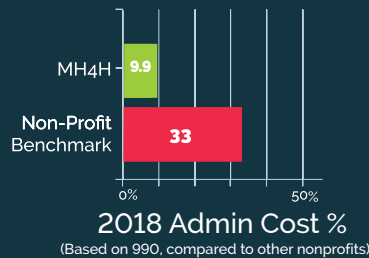
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## We are Accountable



■ Program Expenses ■ Trip Expenses  
■ Management/Fundraising



## ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR GIVING CATALOG OUT NOW!

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- feed a family \$35
- train a farmer \$200
- equip a student \$75

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**[www.mh4h.org/give-joy](http://www.mh4h.org/give-joy)**