

# many hands

QUARTERLY

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

SEPTEMBER 2021 - THIS ISSUE

- 2 PIGNON IN PELLA - BUY YOUR TICKETS!
- 2 FIRST 1000 DAYS CELEBRATION
- 4 LOVE IN ACTION PROGRAM GRADUATION



MANY HANDS

P.O. Box 204 Pella, IA, 50219  
www.mh4h.org | 641.629.6633



## LOVE IN ACTION IN LES CAYES



Following the Saturday, August 14th, magnitude 7.2 earthquake in south Haiti, Many Hands mobilized to help our friends and family affected by this disaster. Right away, we released 47,645 pounds of food (312,120 meals) that we had on hand for our school feeding programs. This was all distributed within 5 days of the earthquake, through a network of 500 pastors in 20 zones across Les Cayes and Jeremie. We have since purchased back over 11,000 lbs of Haitian rice and 5,000 lbs of Haitian beans, which should get us through the starting month of school. We will continue to acquire the needed food for school through local cooperatives and farmers and are confident we will acquire 50,000 lbs in the next month or two.

Because of the outpouring of generosity, we were able to do a second run of relief with food purchases. This time, we acquired 2,000 bags equaling 55,000 lbs (377,142 meals) from local vendors in Pignon. At 2:15 AM Thursday, August 26, the trucks came to load up the food and were rolling by 5:00 AM. Pastor Jean Ronel and Agronomy Tech Kely accompanied the food to provide feedback for us and an understanding of additional needs.

Overall, in less than 2 weeks, we have been able to locally source 689,262 meals (102,645 pounds) and distribute them through local pastors to the most affected areas. What a blessing and what a great work the Lord has done to make this possible!

According to the Miami Herald, as of August 18th, the death toll reached over 1,900 people, with an additional 9,000 injured, and at least 684,000 needing urgent humanitarian assistance. These numbers have only continued to rise.

This earthquake comes on the heels of a difficult time for Haiti after months of political unrest, followed by the assassination of Haiti's president on July 7th and increased turmoil and lack of resources as the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, Tropical Storm Grace hit Haiti late Monday into Tuesday, leaving streets flooded and at least 150 mudslides and rockslides as reported to the United States Geological Service.

"Everything we had is underneath the rubble," said Elize Civil, 30, to the Miami Herald. "We don't have anything," he said. "All of the houses have been destroyed. There are no houses...We need a lot of help."

Pastor Ronel commented, after spending time in Les Cayes on the second food distribution, "I saw some strong sacrificial leaders doing right by their communities. And those leaders themselves are more than likely living in the same temporary tents as the people they are serving."

Pignon and all our staff in Haiti are safe, with staff on the ground sharing that they felt the tremors, but sustained no damage. Denise Dent, Director of Education, shared, "It [the earthquake] shook things gently for about a minute [in Pignon]- really weird sensation, but no damage. I was in the apartment upstairs and just watched things shake and sway back and forth."

We've seen a tremendous amount of generosity, as over \$65,000 has been given directly for earthquake relief. Young and old alike have given, as an amazing group of kids in Pella raised over \$270 at their lemonade stand! Every dollar matters, and this donation will go far in getting food to those who need it.

Our partners at El Shaddai Ministries International (ESMI) are on the ground in Haiti, distributing food and needed resources. However they need more food, tarps, tools, and other supplies. "I was impressed and encouraged by what I saw in ESMI. We have many of the same philosophies," noted Ronel.



We have seen mothers stand with their children through the First 1,000 Days program. We have seen the progress our early elementary school children have made through education. Now it is time to expand their classrooms to add grades 4th through 9th, so these students can continue on a better path for their life. We aim to raise \$150,000 to add the needed classroom pods to the Sylvain Christian School of Light.

This fundraising event will be held at Tamory Hall in Pella on September 18th starting at 6pm. Purchase your tickets now! Individual tickets are \$125 or a table of 8 is \$800. During the event, experience a walk through Haiti with a virtual reality tour of our community and enjoy a delicious dinner while listening to our CEO, Tim Brand, share an update on the continued progress in Haiti. Round out the night participating in a silent auction with items that cannot be purchased in a store.

For a full schedule and to book your spot today, visit [www.mh4h.org/pip2021/](http://www.mh4h.org/pip2021/) or call our main office at 641-629-6633. We can't wait to see you there!

## FIRST 1,000 DAYS CELEBRATION

*Written by Liz Clarke, Director of First 1,000 Days*

Between both of our First 1,000 Days centers, last week we celebrated 54 mothers (and one father) who successfully participated in all three years of the program! Traditionally, there has always been an end-of-the-year party followed by a few weeks' break, but this year we decided to take it up a notch. In an attempt to increase the value of the program, we will now offer a certificate of completion to each family that walks with us through all three years of First 1,000 Days. Participants continually earn a grade based on attendance in four categories; daily feedings, weekly classes, regular "volunteer" service, and monthly health checks. Families show us willingness, responsibility, and consistency by simply showing up to the program. However, those who don't just "show up" but who truly engage in what's going on will always stand out. (And they will be rewarded.)

Each year at our Sylvain campus, we offer scholarships to 25 families with the highest participation grades. For those who won't qualify for the scholarship, this year-end party gives a reason to celebrate and a sense of closure to the time spent in First 1,000 Days. Also, the moms who are moving up and out of the program are the ones responsible to prepare the program for the party. There were songs, dances, skits, testimonies, and many thanks to Many Hands for all that was done for the children. (Mothers whose children had been gravely sick but were able to receive medical care due to resources supplied through Many Hands. All participating families, who are were eligible, received a concrete floor and a number of families also received a new home through this relationship with Many Hands.)

Each year-end we hope to continue sharing the successes these families achieved during their time in First 1,000 Days! Thank you to everyone who supports this program!





# JOIN US AT THE BUSINESS BREAKFAST!

MANY HANDS  
**BUSINESS  
BREAKFAST**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021 | 7AM TO 9AM  
WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**JOHN O'LEARY**  
IOWA EVENTS CENTER | DES MOINES



Join us for a morning of leadership inspiration at our third annual Business Breakfast! This breakfast event will be held October 29, 2021 from 7am-9am at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Our keynote speaker for the morning is John O'Leary. John will tell his story of accidentally igniting a gasoline fire in his house when he was nine years old, burning 100% of his body and with less than a 1% chance of survival. John is consistently described as “the best speaker we’ve ever had,” and his emotional story-telling, unexpected humor, and authenticity make each of his presentations truly transformational.

“John’s engaging storytelling, along with the insights from local guest speakers, will make this year’s Business Breakfast another transforming experience,” said Tim Brand, CEO of Many Hands.

Michele Brown will be hosting the morning. Michele is the founder of REMake.life and host on the TV station CW 23 morning show and Iowa Live. She has created and hosted several national how-to lifestyle programs from her Iowa-based studios, such as B. Original, and Courage to Create, showing on PBS, DIY Network, HGTV, and FOX. Michele has been to Haiti twice with Many Hands and loved hearing the stories from the artisans and creators.

“Great leaders are authentic individuals and meet people where they are. There is something that moves people when a leader can stand up and own the adversities they have walked through,” said O’Leary. “What great leaders know is this: You can’t always choose the path you walk in life, but you can always choose the manner in which you walk.”

This is going to be a truly inspiring event and we want to make sure everyone can attend. This will have a virtual option, so anyone can attend across the country. Pricing-wise, we are offering the code “bless,” reducing the individual tickets to \$25 (normally \$125) and tables to \$250 (normally \$1,500). This discount code also applies to virtual tickets.

Book your in-person or virtual tickets today using the discount code! Visit [www.mh4h.org/bb2021](http://www.mh4h.org/bb2021) for more information and to reserve your spot. We hope to see you October 29, 2021!

To get a preview of John’s speaking and hear Tim’s story with Many Hands, scan the QR code to the Live Inspired podcast.



## SUMMER SCHOOL



This summer, Denise Dent, our Director of Education, hosted our very first summer school on our campus for our students. Students got the opportunity to participate in fun activities while continuing their learning. It was a great way to spend summer days!

## THRIFT STORE ANNIVERSARY



It is hard to believe it has already been 5 years since our Grimes store opened and 8 years since our Spencer store opened! We praise God for the ways He provides and leads us in the midst of many different seasons over the years. We are so thankful for all the amazing staff, volunteers, customers, donors, and supporters who helped us get to this point!



# many hands

QUARTERLY

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



MANY HANDS

709 Main St, Pella, IA, 50219  
www.mh4h.org | 641.629.6633



Return Service Requested



**SIGN UP FOR TIM  
BRAND'S WEEKLY  
NEWSLETTER**



## LOVE IN ACTION PROGRAM GRADUATION

*Written by Bev Brand, Education Lead & Sponsorship Coordinator*



It was a beautiful June day as 17 excited students, along with teachers and parents, filled the Equipping Center in Sylvain, Haiti, to celebrate the completion of pre-school and the end of formal participation in the Love in Action Program at the Many Hands for Haiti campus. All of these students started as newborns and with their primary caregiver, usually the mother. Now they have completed six years of training, classes, nutrition program, pre-school, and the Power to the Parents program. They are ready to move on to supporting their families, providing for the education of their children, and have been equipped to provide for a better life.

The day began on June 18, with guests and students arriving at 9:30 am. The teachers had decorated the center with balloons and greenery and the other students in the program provided songs, skits, dialogues in English and French, dances, and even a hula-hoop contest! They had practiced for months and did an amazing job!

All the students received a gift for their last day of school, graduation photos were taken, and there was a special luncheon for all the guests and teachers after the ceremony. It was truly a day of accomplishment and celebration.