

## A YEAR OF GENEROSITY

A year-end letter from CEO, Tim Brand

As I write this 2021 year-end letter, the past 12 months come flooding back. Haiti hasn't experienced a year like this quite possibly in the history of the country. The trauma was deep, with a president assassinated, earthquakes leveling a major city, and unprecedented gang violence as a result of unresolved systemic issues from the 2010 earthquake. Coming into 2021, the one-word God revealed to us was **generosity**. We had no idea how generous we would need to be in serving our community and the country around us. Through our generosity, we were able to demonstrate God's love to so many people from across the world. Because of our generosity, we had news stories and podcasts done about us from National Christian Foundation and Live Inspired. We were covered by Iowa news stations multiple times. We won awards from magazines. Most importantly, this allowed us to point back to Jesus, who was the most generous person to ever live. It is because of Jesus' generosity we can freely give and demonstrate God's unwavering love for us. It is the fuel that fires our generosity engines. Let me share some tangible ways this generosity cry manifested itself in 2021:



Many Hands campus in Pignon



Staff unite together for a time of prayer for Many Hands and Haiti

- Walked with **63 people** who gave their lives to Christ and 17 who recommitted
- Added another **40 families** to the First 1,000 Days Program
- Staffed jobs for **80 Haitian people** with Many Hands
- Provided **689,282** locally-sourced emergency meals for earthquake relief
- Purchased **\$10,000** worth of pots, pans, and tarps for earthquake relief
- Performed over **300 wellness health checks** for pregnant women and young children
- Expanded the school by adding 3rd grade, bringing our total student count to **124**
- Served over **225,000 plates of food** to pregnant mothers, babies, and school children
- Distributed over **220,000 pounds of food** to **19 different schools** in the Pignon area
- **Married 20 couples**, bringing our total marriage count to **124**
- Gifted **74 pregnant goats**, bringing the total count to **502 gifted goats**
- **29 PET carts** distributed, bringing our total to **511 total** distributed
- **240 major PET cart repairs** to keep existing carts operating
- Provided tuition assistance for **134 area school children**
- Built **13 homes**, bringing our total to **112 homes built**
- Built the new **Jean Buele campus** to be opened in January 2022
- Installed new **agriculture well**
- Opened a **new 37,000 sq ft thrift store** in Des Moines, IA
- Recycled and repurposed over **1.1 million items**
- Became **100% operationally supported** by our own thrift stores
- Blessed other Iowa-based non-profits with over **\$25,000 worth of resources**

We praise God for the generosity we received from so many donors allowing us to be generous in return. When a need arose, we moved forward without hesitation, to be His hands and feet. Bless God!

Moving into 2022, the one-word God is giving us is **strategic**. The Haiti of today is a very different Haiti than it was 10 years ago. At the same time, our call remains the same to transform together, to be love in action, in our broken world. The brokenness does look different, and we need to be strategic on how best to move forward into our calling.

Over this next year, we will continue to lean into and execute on our five-year strategy to generously grow impact. This includes igniting generosity by firing up more generosity engines through thrift stores. We will be actively looking to expand our thrift store presence through additional physical stores. We desire to grow community by expanding our programs' reach into new Haitian communities. This allows us to walk the love in action roadmap with 150 new families over a seven-year period. We also want to invite people on the IMPACT journey, taking steps of faith with their Heavenly Father into their God-given purpose. This has changed greatly as we are not able to bring people to Haiti because of travel restrictions. At the same time, we are strategically looking at what is possible in new areas to continue to invite people on this IMPACT journey.

All these moves need to be wrapped in God's wisdom as we desire for His Kingdom to come here on Earth as it is in Heaven. Time is precious as we prepare for King Jesus' return, and we have work to do! We are so thankful for partners like you, who give freely, love deeply, and pray earnestly for our work. Please know we love you and return the favor through prayer, obedience, and diligently stepping into dark places in the world to bring God's light. May this year be a strategic year for us as we look back and see the wisdom displayed in these trying years to bear much fruit in years to come.

Be blessed,

Tim J. Brand  
Founder and CEO

# LIFE CONTINUES ON



New ground being broken for the next Alpha Garden on campus



A cook prepares food for a school



Jean Rene visits a family in Pignon

Having faced political unrest, an earthquake, and a rising cost of living, the future of Haiti has never seemed more uncertain. Thankfully, by God's grace, Pignon has been able to weather much of the turmoil that is gripping the nation. Many continue living life simply trusting in God's faithfulness, hopeful no matter the circumstances they are facing. The following are some of the thoughts from our staff in Haiti as life continues on:



## Jean Rene, Construction Coordinator

"Many Hands is like a 'sous'. Sous would translate as a 'natural spring', an unending supply of water. A constant supply the community can count on. Just as a sous always has water, so Many Hands is a constant. Many communities benefit from Many Hands, even now when things are so hard.

"Many Hands has continued to build homes even in this time of crisis. So many find a benefit. People that harvest sand, people that break rock into gravel, the drivers transporting these materials, the merchants selling cement, rebar, wood, tin... they all appreciate Many Hands. People can 'find good cash' so they can buy and continue to sell. The workers find enough to pay for school, buy food, maybe even buy a goat or a pig. Continue to pray for Many Hands so that God will bless more people. Many Hands is a big 'sous'!"

Jean Rene says he is so thankful to be able to be a tool that God is using in his work with MH. When people are telling him thank you, he always says, "Thank God first! Second, thank Many Hands." He tells families, "God is at work when a person donates money for a house and they don't even know you. Only God's love could cause this to happen."



## Claudin, Head of Agronomy

"There is insecurity (in the south), life has become so expensive, gas is such a problem. In spite of all this, God provides for His children. In spite of this, we still have hope in God. By the grace of God, Pignon and areas like Cap Haitien have more security. In this area people mainly are providing for their families by selling. And even now they just have to keep trying."

Claudin has been hearing program participants express that they appreciate the programs even more at this time.

"With Power to the Parents garden program and goat program there is an even deeper commitment and higher level of participation. I have heard a lot of testimonies about how much families were being helped in this tremendously difficult time. Many Hands always sticks by us no matter what. People around Many Hands feel they are privileged. There are benefits to be found here.

"Additional challenges are here because of the drought that has been experienced this year. For Many Hands goat project, food must be purchased for the goats because there has been no rain. We must continue to pray for Haiti and the government."



## Christi, Director of Ministry and Benevolence

"We have been seeing more bicycles, people on foot, wheelbarrows, and of course, people carrying loads on their heads. Eight years ago, donkeys used to be a much more common mode of transport. With gas more accessible, that has slowly changed. But now, it seems this humble creature is making a comeback since it has no need for gas!

"Our staff continue supporting families as we 'walk alongside.' Our Spiritual Shepherds have supported families spiritually, attending funerals and visiting homes. Recently, there were four funerals on the same day and they had to 'divide and conquer.' We are thankful we are equipped to serve in this way. Many continue to be blessed by Many Hands.

"I feel Many Hands is always building. Always going beyond the 'easy' and the 'obvious' often taking the harder, and eventually better route. So we accept the battles that come. And know that God goes before. So we follow. And often follow down the path that is harder."

*We are thankful that our staff chooses to be 'love in action' each day. Please continue to lift them in prayer.*

To donate and support the work our team is doing in Haiti, please visit [mh4h.org/givejoy](https://mh4h.org/givejoy)



# 5 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



A bride-to-be sees her dress for the first time



Lumanès fitting rings for couples



A bride-to-be looking at dresses



Men's suits ready to be fitted

Many Hands is preparing to hold its fifth annual "Wedding Day." Conceived by the Many Hands Chaplains, this day has brought joy to couples and strengthened families. On December 18, another 20 couples will share their vows before God, celebrating with friends and family. This will bring the total number of marriages held through this ministry to 124. With 2021 having been one of the hardest years for Haiti in recent memory, our Chaplains consider this program essential during these tough times.

"Life is difficult right now. Even so, people want to be part of the Many Hands wedding ministry. The people that are getting married don't have any way to do this alone," shared Jean Ronel Joseph, Many Hands Chaplain.

Couples are still motivated to take this opportunity, even with fuel and food prices at extreme highs and day-to-day life harder to navigate. They have committed to meeting the expectations for their weddings. This has included travel and time for fittings and pre-marital counseling. Our staff continues to see the impact of this ministry, even after the wedding day. Some people may be married on Saturday and then have the privilege of being baptized at their church on Sunday. And more couples are hoping to celebrate their wedding soon.

As we talk with pastors in the area, we find even more couples who want to have a chance to be married in this way. The area pastors are saying even at this difficult time, the couples want even more to be living the life God has for them.

Please pray for all 20 couples as they prepare themselves for their joyous day!

For \$150 you can give the gift of marriage to these couples through Give Joy: [mh4h.org/givejoy](https://mh4h.org/givejoy)



## Pignon in Pella

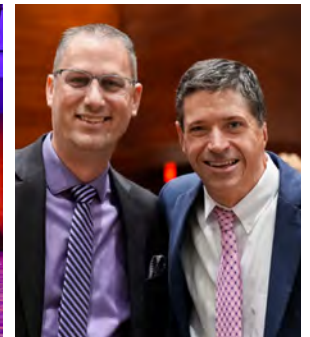


Our 3rd annual Pignon in Pella fundraiser dinner was an inspiring night, with over 150 people raising \$153,000+ for the expansion of our School of Light in Haiti. This generous support is going to impact many generations to come.

Tim Brand, CEO, shared the vision for the school and the future of Many Hands in Haiti. Tom Dent, Director of Agronomy, also shared his insights into our earthquake relief efforts.

Thank you to Many Hands board members Eric Recker, Kate Guess, Greg Ebeling, Tim Van Maanen, and Darin Wogen for leading and helping us tell the Many Hands Story. Thanks to our outstanding volunteers who made the night run smoothly. A huge thank you to the many businesses who donated items for our silent auction, Tamory Hall for the use of the beautiful space, B Fabulous BBQ for the delicious meal, and The Rolling Pin for the amazing desserts.

## Business Breakfast



On October 28, after being postponed in 2020, the third Many Hands Business Breakfast saw 265 attendees join together for an inspiring morning at the Iowa Events Center. This was one of the first in-person events many had been able to attend since the pandemic. Excitement filled the room as attendees met for the first time in almost two years.

Many Hands CEO, Tim Brand, and *New York Times* bestseller, John O'Leary, shared back-to-back keynotes. Speaking on "The Power of One" they explored the ways God works when we raise our hand and say, "I'll be the one." Chaplain Jean Ronel was able to share the story of his involvement in delivering 689,282 meals to Les Cayes via video. Their message was especially encouraging at a time when both Haiti and the U.S. are experiencing turmoil and uncertainty. Thank you to everyone who attended and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Watch the thank you video for this event here



# many hands

QUARTERLY



DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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## MERLE HAY THRIFT STORE OPENS



Front of the Merle Hay location



Customers check out on opening day



A view of the Housewares section

On November 17, Many Hands celebrated the opening of a new thrift store. Located at 4365 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa, this new location is the fourth in Iowa for the Many Hands Thrift Market. The store is 37,000 square feet with a sales space of over 23,000 square feet. The new location will deliver the same well-loved shopping experience the stores are known for in the Metro. In December, Many Hands Thrift Market was voted 'Best Local Retailer' in the 'Best of the West' awards for the second year running. Steve Lucas, District Manager, attributes the success of the stores to a hard-working team that cares about the customer and community.

"Many Hands Thrift has truly become a place where people are welcomed and cared for. We are a family of volunteers and staff that live life together. When you walk into this store, we want you to know that you matter and have value in this community," Lucas explained.

The proceeds from the store will go towards local and global needs. In Haiti, funds raised by the store will support feeding and development programs for over 400 families. The stores helped fund the recent construction of a new Love in Action center in Haiti, which will add another 150 families in 2022. The stores also donate to Des Moines-based nonprofits through their Local Impact Programs. Since opening our first store in 2013, Many Hands has raised over \$60,000 benefitting local Iowan nonprofits and over \$15,000 worth of vouchers for families in need.

To find out more, or to find directions to any of our locations, visit [manyhandsthift.com](http://manyhandsthift.com)

