

Spring 2023



many hands

Quarterly

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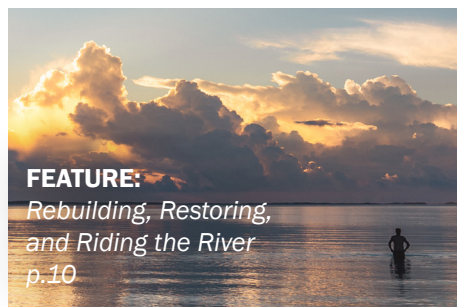
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MANY HANDS

Board of Directors

President of Board.....Eric Recker
Vice President of Board...Tim Van Maanen
Secretary of Board.....Kate Guess
Treasurer of Board.....Greg Ebeling
Director.....Jim Loggins
Director.....Kendra Meyer
Director.....Jenny Sorheim

“

It is clear that God has led this organization to bring light into darkness in ways only He can do. The growth that I can see is transformational, not just in numbers, but in lives changed. The future is exciting for what God can continue to do through the work of Many Hands!

-Jenny Sorheim

visit us at mh4h.org



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NEW FACES

Many Hands is excited to announce the addition of two new members to its board. Jenny Sorheim and Jim Loggins will start on the Many Hands board in February.



Jenny Sorheim
New Board Member

Jenny Sorheim joins the board with a wide range of experience. In 2003, Jenny helped found Lean Technologies with her husband, Scott. Her role at Lean has seen her share vision-casting for the company, manage finances, and lead HR and marketing efforts. With previous roles as an elementary teacher, youth and children's church leader, and homeschooling mom, Jenny believes she is called to use her experience in this position.

"I believe I am at a unique season in my life. God has given me the opportunity to be invited in to work alongside others in this mission in this tangible way. I feel humbled and honored to serve this amazing ministry of Many Hands as a board member."



Jim Loggins
New Board Member

Jim is a market and client partner executive with Ernst and Young's financial services practice. He is responsible for leading relationships with select global financial organizations and helping executives identify innovative solutions to today's most pressing issues. With over 20 years of experience in sales and leadership positions, Jim has a sincere passion for helping organizations in the financial services and insurance sector.

Jim first became exposed to Many Hands in 2016 by way of a short-term mission trip to Haiti through his home church, Lutheran Church of Hope.

"I connected deeply with the people of Haiti and the work God was doing through Many Hands. Since 2016, I have participated in and led many trips to Haiti. Back in the US, we are frequent supporters of Many Hands Thrift Markets and events such as the Business Breakfast," shares Jim. "The heart of Many Hands stands out to me the most and is one of the reasons I believe deeply in the organization. From the leadership to the volunteers, being love in action is on display. Many organizations have mission/purpose statements; I feel Many Hands lives it."



WELCOMING A NEW GENEROSITY ENGINE

Many Hands Thrift to Open Fifth Thrift Location

Many Hands Thrift Market is excited to announce the opening of their new location in Indianola, IA. Located at 1801 West 2nd Avenue, next to Dollar General, the store will open in Spring 2023.

The store will be packed with options for every kind of shopper, from secondhand clothes and accessories to home décor pieces, kitchenware, toys, and more. The store will also offer specialty items like fair trade and Haitian-made products, sure to appeal to shoppers looking for something unique. Tim Brand, CEO of Many Hands, says he is excited about the chance to serve in Indianola.

“Indianola has been on our hearts since 2013 when we first evaluated different communities for potential stores. It shouldn’t surprise anyone this door opened, as this is a place where people care about their neighbor, both near and far. We are honored to be invited into this community,” stated Brand.

Local support for the store has been strong from the beginning. While exploring Indianola as a location, Many Hands was welcomed into the community by Jeff Rabe, Pastor of Lighthouse Community Church, where they’ve been holding community meetings. Rabe shared his thoughts with the Indianola Advocate: “It’s been really cool to get to know them a little bit. But more importantly, the ministry and their heart for the people.”

The proceeds from the store will go towards global and local needs. Globally, funds raised by the store will support feeding and development programs for over

400 families in the Caribbean. Recent profits helped fund the construction of a new Love-in-Action center in Haiti, which added another 150 families to the organization’s programs in 2022.

Locally, the Thrift Markets aim to impact the communities they serve. The goal will be to ignite generosity in the community through local donation events, volunteer activities, and resourcing local nonprofits. Through their in-store programs, they have raised over \$70,000 for Iowa charities and provided more than \$15K worth of vouchers to families facing tough times.

“We believe these stores can be the engines that ignite generosity in our communities through the donations received, the volunteer hours given, and the prices paid for the merchandise,” stated Brand. “This store will change lives in Indianola through the relationships built, items repurposed, and resources generated.”

Many Hands Thrift Market relies on the generosity of donors in the community to fulfill its mission. The Market will be asking for donations to fill the store leading up to the opening in spring. There are also opportunities to serve, with a team of employees and volunteers needed to run the store each week. Anyone interested in either of these opportunities can contact Many Hands Thrift via their website at www.manyhandsthrift.com.

VOTED BEST THRIFT STORE IN DES MOINES THIRD YEAR RUNNING

Our hard-working staff and volunteers have been recognized for their tireless efforts in making our stores the best in Iowa. In 2023 our stores have been recognized in the prestigious CityView DSM BEST as “Best Local Thrift Store” for the third year running.

“Receiving this award means the world to us because it’s our customers that cast the votes. We build our stores to be Love In Action for people in need and receiving this award confirms that we are making a positive impact. Go team,” said Steve Lucas, Many Hands Thrift Market District Manager.

We are humbled by these awards and thankful for the high level of excellence our staff and volunteers strive for daily. Thank you for choosing to shop with us. We are proud to serve you!



We believe that these stores can be the engines that ignite generosity in our communities.

-Tim Brand

CEO and Founder of Many Hands



Jean Ronel, Many Hands Chaplain and Leadership Development Officer, speaks at a community meeting in Mé Bel Mé

FIRST 1,000 DAYS TO BEGIN IN MÉ BEL MÉ

Many Hands is preparing for a fourth Love-in-Action Center in Haiti in Mé Bel Mé (pronounced Mer Bel Mare), three miles southwest of the main Sylvain campus. The zone will be the newest location where Many Hands plans to establish its First 1,000 Days program.

Mé Bel Mé is a geographically isolated zone. Kethlin Vilbon, the First 1,000 Days Program Manager, has been working in the community throughout 2022. Alongside our Chaplains, he has been assessing the community and its needs. Poor road conditions make life difficult for residents, with little access to clinics, markets, and resources.

"Mé Bel Mé is a poor area. We have many, many people living there. They are very strong. They

want to work. They want people around them; they love people. But the situation in their lives is very bad," shared Vilbon. "So they need hope. They need someone to tell them more about Jesus and even their life. So Mé Bel Mé, like all zones, is waiting for someone representing Jesus to come there."

Many Hands has purchased land within the community, installed a deepwater well, and built a meeting gazebo making a commitment to the zone. The aim is to build a Love-in-Action Center there in late 2023, allowing us to offer the First 1,000 Days program to mothers and children. The program will provide families with consistent meals, education opportunities, and health check-ups.



Seeing what Many Hands is doing in Sylvain, Maliarette, and also Jean Boule, [this] would make a big impact in the lives of those kids in Mé Bel Mé.

"As we were able to assess that zone, we could see how difficult it is for the parents to take care of the children. There are many kids," explained Ronel Joseph, Lead Chaplain. "We can see with our own eyes how difficult it is for people to live where kids are malnourished. And moms, especially pregnant moms, have difficulty even having a meal per day. We would be able to save many lives as we are doing in other zones."

Many Hands hopes to provide life-transforming programs to 90 families in the first year. Once fully resourced, the center can support 150 families each year. The goal is to build trusting relationships while listening to the community's needs. After spending time in Mé Bel Mé, Joseph knows that Many Hands can work with the community to create transformation.

"We have some leaders over there that are really welcoming. They want Many Hands to come in," shared Joseph. "Seeing what Many Hands is doing in Sylvain, Maliarette, and also Jean Boule, [this] would make a big impact in the lives of those kids in Mé Bel Mé."

FIRST 1,000 DAYS CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

By Liz Clark-Aldonza, Family Advocate



A mother receives gifts at the First 1,000 Days Christmas Party

In December, we held our annual Christmas celebration with our First 1,000 Days families. Across our three Love-In-Action Centers, mothers and children enjoyed a Christmas meal – followed by worship, games, and the Project Christmas Love distribution at each location. We are humbled by the many generous churches that send Christmas gifts every year for both our mothers and children.

"Parties have an ambiance that helps create a sense of togetherness, so it's important for each center to have its own community-building party, PMJ Spiritual Mother Inondane said. "It brings joy, ambiance and puts smiles on the women's faces. They all take care to come dressed up and with their hair done." In addition to gifts and prayer, women celebrated with song and dance or participated in games.

"But the most important reason to celebrate Christmas is to share with the moms how Jesus was born and the significance of his birth," shares Pastor Wilna. "He was a King, but he made himself poor [a pauper] so that he could save humanity. It's a beautiful reason we celebrate [Christmas], and it's a sign of appreciation!"

"Celebrating of any kind is important because it brings joy to people's hearts!"

-Inondane
PMJ Spiritual Mother



Claudin leading an agriculture class for adults in Sylvain

THE AGRICULTURE FIELD

By Claudin Augustin, Head of Agriculture, Haiti

During 2022, Haiti went through many problems like insecurity, economic issues, fuel problems, etc. But by the power of God, Many Hands got the chance to impact many community members' lives through its programs.

Our recent work in agriculture has significantly impacted the communities with many critical activities. This includes training 20 farmers about the importance of hybrid corn, implementing our corn seed project in three communities, and planting more than 4,000 trees. We realized that it was important for agriculture to be in harmony with the school of light, develop the spirit, and make a goal to communicate generosity so we can support our communities in a better way.

God has truly blessed our gardens: We harvested 14,037 lbs of produce from MH4H gardens, planted 1,500 plantain trees during 2022, and have impacted parents' lives through the goat program. We distributed goats in the Sylvain and Maliarette areas.

So, we can give thanks to God because, despite all the difficulties that Haiti was going through during the year 2022, we can realize that God's hands guided Many Hands for Haiti. We hope that God continues to guide Many Hands' life and help us recognize extraordinary things in the communities during 2023.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Through a partnership with UCCC college, Many Hands is taking some of their agriculture students to gain practical experience in the agronomy field. They are integrated as part of the agronomy team to help families from PMJ with their garden plots, planting vegetables for the Many Hands gardens, fertilizing, cleaning, and watering plants. While on campus, the students also assist with staff training and work in the shade house nurseries to take seeds to seedlings. In addition, they are learning about goats through the monthly goat health checks for the PMJ families.

We had three interns for four months at the beginning of 2022 and three more to close out the year. Claudin, our Head of Agronomy, has excellent teaching skills; they are all learning so much about agriculture practices and the Many Hands mission. During this internship, each individual receives a small stipend each month for their work, for which they are very grateful. At the end of the internship, they all expressed interest in joining the Many Hands team and starting their careers with us; four of our current agronomy staff are former interns with Many Hands.

A NEW COLLABORATION

Many Hands has eight Bible studies being offered in the zones in which we work. In addition to scripture teaching, there was a desire from the participants to know more about gardening techniques to provide food for their families.

Our team loves collaborating, so Jean-Ronel and Claudin got together to create a plan to meet this need. Now, once a month, Claudin and his team will teach agriculture to the Bible study participants. Our agricultural staff is blessed to have seven trained professionals who divide their time to teach the Bible study participants.

TEACHER INITIATIVE

Jocethène Decius, one of our third-grade teachers, completed the Lead Like Jesus class in 2022. Because of this training, he created an action plan that proposed having a time of devotion for teachers before beginning work in the morning. He wanted to do this for the team since teachers cannot attend the 8:00 am staff devotions. Jocethène created a monthly schedule to meet for a short time at 7:00 am in the gazebo by the preschool building. They open in prayer, sing a song, share a meditation on a Bible verse, and finish with a group prayer. What a fantastic initiative and way to start the day!

ART PROJECTS

Students and children in our School of Light and First 1,000 Days Program are diligently working on an art project to send back to sponsors. The School of Light did a coloring project – preschoolers colored a page with Mickey Mouse (much to their delight!), and grade 4 drew their designs. Toddlers and moms in First 1,000 Days will be drawing an original picture for sponsors of the program. Sponsors can expect a pleasant surprise in their April mailing.

NEW SCHOOL KITCHEN

Every day, our school cooks prepare a nutritious breakfast and noon meal for approximately 150 children in preschool through 4th grade for the School of Light on our Sylvain campus. Recently we completed a new school kitchen with a cement floor and plenty of room for meal prep and equipment. What a blessing these cooks are!

IMPACT TAKES FLIGHT

REBUILDING, RESTORING, AND RIDING THE RIVER

By Shelley Salton, Spencer IMPACT Team

On past trips – mostly to sunny vacation destinations – this Iowa girl is always impressed with the beautiful palms trees and green vegetation in the middle of January. However, landing in the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas was a little different story. Even before landing, I was struck by the snapped off trees that had been stripped bare of all leaves. I've seen the path of a tornado after it has ripped through a town and / or farm, but this was a different kind of animal. Hurricane Dorian left miles and miles of devastation as I have never seen. Another team member said it reminded them of the aftermath of a forest fire, with only the blackened tree trunks remaining. Driving through the towns and seeing the businesses and homes also

proved to be a very sobering sight. Neighborhood after neighborhood we saw buildings and homes with no roof, only to find out that originally most had another floor beneath that missing roof. Broken glass, broken concrete, and broken dreams seemed to fill the streets. But praise the Lord, this is not the end of the story!

We have this amazing promise in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away and the new has come." As Believers, we have experienced that, and know that through Jesus Christ, we have hope for new life and a better future. We know that our God is a God of restoration and nothing

is beyond His reach. So we put on our work gloves and asked the Lord to use us for His glory. Being only the second team on location here at Camp Abaco, I feel that we are the ones helping to prepare the ground for seeds to be planted throughout the island later. Our work so far has been to repair, clean, sort, and organize areas of this camp, so the future teams and full-time missionaries here can better do their jobs.

I am amazed at our team and the incredible variety of gifts and talents – all of which have been beneficial for our to-do list. In this blog I'll highlight one area. Monica Peterson and Donna Krogman are two very talented ladies whom we call the "linen ladies." They both volunteer at the Many Hands Market in Spencer, specializing in the linen department. The first task on our list was to clean and organize a packed room that was full of donated sheets, blankets, towels and a variety of other things. I wouldn't know where to begin figuring out the difference between a full or queen size sheet. And don't count on me for folding anything that is fitted! But by Monday morning, everything was sorted, shelves were labeled, and there was space to get around in that room. Laundry room project... Check!

After the construction and plumbing tools are put away, and the cleaning rags are hung to dry overnight, we have all enjoyed the fellowship time, as we get to know each other a little better. I've learned a new card game called, "Up and Down the River." And although I hold the record for coming in dead last, I treasure this time of laughter and comradery, after a day where Many Hands make light work.



The "linen ladies" from The Way's team work to clean bedsheets for the campus in Abaco.



A church in Marsh Harbour with left-over damage from Hurricane Dorian



The Way IMPACT Team at Kirk of the Pines Church



Third Church, Pella IA
February 14-21 | People: 8



Pella Christian 2023 Winterim Team, Pella IA
January 3-9 | People: 20



The Way Church, Pella IA
February 5-11 | People: 15



Spencer Team, Spencer IA
January 14-21 | People: 12

IMPACT LAUNCHES IN ABACO

The Impact Journey is growing and evolving as Many Hands continues to dream of what is possible for this branch of the organization. On this journey, we invite trip participants to experience God's love in action through community, embracing culture, and learning about the core values of relationships. As an action-oriented program, we challenge, transform, and step with intentionality while walking alongside others in their respective journeys. IMPACT is a local and global transformative experience that fosters a deeper relationship with oneself, God, and one's community.

Each team has been actively serving the community of Abaco, and already we are seeing radical changes, not only on the island but – most importantly – in the hearts of our teams. From taking on beautification projects like painting churches or assisting in beach cleanup to leading Vacation Bible School lessons with the ARK (Academic Recovery for Kids) Center, these teams have taken this new adventure in stride, fully stepping into each experience.

In addition to these projects, the teams have also aided in developing local relationships by participating in a workday at the Agape Christian school and visiting Driftwood Farm to learn about hydroponics and help harvest produce. They have also visited neighboring Cays to learn more about the history of The Great Abaco Islands and The Bahamas.

"It has been incredible to see God working with the people of Abaco and preparing the way for Many Hands to walk in relationship with them," states Laura Nicholson, IMPACT Manager. "Through the several trips this past year, it is clear that God has big plans for Many Hands and our future as we expand into Abaco. I am eager to welcome more IMPACT teams to Abaco and begin to embrace the story that God is already weaving together for Many Hands."

Relationships continue to be made on the island, making the future of IMPACT very bright. We look forward to welcoming our next round of teams soon.



Are you interested in being a part of an IMPACT trip? Visit our website at ManyHandsImpact.com, or email Impact@mh4h.org to learn about upcoming trips.

SAM AND LISA BERG JOIN MANY HANDS TEAM IN ABACO

Sam and Lisa Berg have joined the Many Hands team, serving as missionaries in Abaco, the Bahamas. Lisa is the Education and Early Childhood Development Lead, establishing education programs while supporting students. Sam is the Ministry and Benevolence Lead, working in the community and establishing community-focused programs. Their roles will support Many Hands' long-term efforts to establish a Love-in-Action center on the island.

Sam and Lisa bring strong experience as educators and missionaries. Both retired from teaching in 2018 and served as missionaries in Haiti for three years. They lived in the Pignon area, working in agriculture, education, and with mission teams. However, God led them to Abaco in 2022, unable to get back into Haiti due to unrest.

"Haiti just kept getting worse and worse," shared Lisa. "So we came to the Bahamas knowing there was a Haitian population here, knowing they were recovering from a horrific hurricane that destroyed the island. While we were here, God just laid in our hearts that the Bahamas is where he wants us."

As Many Hands explored Abaco as an expansion opportunity, it became clear that there were overlooked needs in the Bahamian community. Learning this led Many Hands to see how the organization's model could impact communities outside Haiti.

"If you see the hurricane's destruction, it just wiped out this community," shared Lisa. "Housing and jobs blew away. Still, three years later, the island can't sustain itself agriculturally, and the education system is way behind. The people have a lot of physical needs, educational needs, and emotional and spiritual needs here; a lot of it due to that hurricane."

As Lisa and Sam work to establish programs, they acknowledge the hard work that needs to be done. But they look forward to seeing what God will do in the community.

"We want to see this impact that can happen in this community, to see them come together and grow and develop. It's going to take a lot of people, a lot of resources, and a lot of supplies to make it happen. And maybe 20 years from now, we'll look back, and other people will be building on what we were part of."



HOTCAKES for Haiti

SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH
7:30AM - 1PM
THIRD FELLOWSHIP HALL
THIRD CHURCH, PELLA, IA.



\$80,038

RAISED FOR GIVE JOY

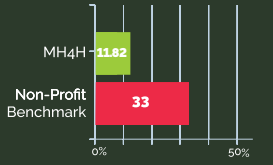
**THANK YOU FOR CHANGING
LIVES THROUGH YOUR
END-OF-YEAR GIFTS IN 2022!**

We are Accountable



■ Program Expenses

■ Management/Fundraising



2022 Admin Cost %

(Based on 990, compared to other nonprofits)

With financial accreditation, including GuideStar Platinum accreditation, you can trust we steward your gift wisely for its intended purpose.



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