



*generosity*  
REPORT



# 2023

*generosity*  
REPORT

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# A YEAR OF IMPACT

Impact. It's a big word with lots of implications. I know of no organization that exemplifies this word more in the fabric of its DNA than Many Hands. We are here on this earth to make an impact for the Kingdom of Heaven. And I have seen countless instances of real-life impact throughout my seven years as a board member of this amazing organization. In true form, 2023 was a year of – you guessed it – impact.

Impact is seen in the tried and true, God-blessed operations in Haiti, a country that does not have the ability to govern itself. Chaos reigns. Gangs proliferate. And lives continue to be impacted in the Central Plateau and beyond. God is working through Many Hands to impact an area that is short on hope but clinging to the faith and community that is not only continuing but expanding. Many NGOs have pulled out of the country, but Many Hands remains. And impact remains and is growing.

Impact is seen in Abaco as we are already putting down deep roots in a country we began exploring one year ago. The community is rallying around what God is up to on this island that was very short on hope following Hurricane Dorian. Momentum is growing. And teams now have a safe place to grow in their Impact Journey. I spoke with someone from the Pella Christian Winterim trip. Her words– "I just love how Many Hands does Impact. The whole experience. The curriculum. Life-changing."

How is that for impact? I truly believe the best is yet to come, and I can't wait to see what God does in 2024!



**Eric Recker**  
President of Board  
Many Hands

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President of Board**.....*Eric Recker*
- Vice President of Board**.....*Tim Van Maanen*
- Secretary**.....*Kate Guess*
- Treasurer**.....*Greg Ebeling*
- Director**.....*Jennifer Douma*
- Director**.....*Kendra Meyer*
- Director**.....*Jenny Sorheim*

# STRETCHING OUT OUR HANDS



**Tim J. Brand**  
CEO and Founder  
Many Hands

Each November, I spend time in prayer asking the Lord to review the one-word spoken over the organization to help prepare, guide, and direct our paths for the upcoming year. For 2023, that one-word was stretch, embodying the concept of extending in breadth; expanding; spreading. God was faithful with His prophetic word, as 2023 was a year of incredible expansion, one not possible with human strength alone.

At the beginning of the year, our staff in Haiti lamented about the inability of American Impact Teams to travel because of the unrest in the country. As we turned to scripture for answers, God revealed Matthew 12, Mark 3, and Luke 6, where Jesus healed a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath. Jesus asked the man to stretch out his hand, and Jesus completely restored him. In doing so, Jesus did more than anyone thought was possible - both in physical healing and the day he did it on, the Sabbath. We knew God was asking us to stretch out our hand in some very difficult situations in ways no one thought possible. Donations poured in for our Stretch Out Your Hand Campaign, and our Haitian staff delivered the needed assistance to their neighbors and communities. It not only empowered our Haitian staff, but it showcased the Body of Christ fully at work together. It was a beautiful start to the year.

This stretching was not contained within Haiti; we also relaunched our Impact Teams in a new location: Abaco, Bahamas. God's hand has been guiding us for years to this location as He has been prompting us to expand outside of Haiti. The right people took leaps of faith to see God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven, with teams from around the country saying yes to an Impact Trip. The blessing of community was evident, and we've started to restore the brokenness inside ourselves, with others, our communities, and God's creation post the COVID-19 pandemic. It is good to serve with one another again!

Right here in Central Iowa, we followed our strategic plan and opened another Generosity Engine in Indianola, IA. This stretched our thrift store team as they stepped into the unknown of a new community while still supporting the

existing four locations. The people of Indianola have been welcoming, inviting, and hungry for more of God in their community. It is a beautiful store, standing as a beacon of light to ignite generosity in the local community.

The stretching continued when we opened two new Love in Action Centers, one in Mè Bel Mè, Haiti, and the other in Murphy Town, Bahamas. Each has a unique story of being rebuilt from brokenness, much like Nehemiah did when he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Mè Bel Mè was built from the brokenness of losing my father, Denny Brand, after a five-year battle with cancer. This was an area of Haiti he loved, and it was from his memorial we were able to fund this center. It was a beautiful day when my mom, brother, sister, and I could travel to Haiti and dedicate this center to my dad in front of the entire community.

The Love in Action Center in Murphy Town, Bahamas, was rebuilt after the destruction of Hurricane Dorian. For over 4 years, this community center sat destroyed, a daily reminder to the community of all they had lost to that devastating hurricane. In November 2022, we made a vow to restore this center for the community, and one year later, it was accomplished. Not only did we rebuild it, but we rebuilt it better. It is now a hurricane shelter with all the needed amenities to assist the community when the next storm hits. We expanded the center, adding a playground, a commercial kitchen, an educational resource center, and offices. Both of these centers have renewed the communities, providing daily hope for a better tomorrow.

We asked you, our donors, to stretch with us and you did! Your support gave us the courage to step into unknown territory to shine a light in the darkness for those who needed a new path. We are incredibly thankful for the steadfast generosity in prayers, volunteer time, and financial resources. This is important work as you will read in the rest of this annual report. May the Lord move you to deeper and deeper levels of relationship with Him and His creation as we transform together to be love in action in our broken world.

Many Hands team members pray over a woman in Abaco, Bahamas





**GENEROUSLY  
GROWING  
IMPACT**

**We are called to transform together, to be love in action, in our broken world. Through a comprehensive strategy, we can ignite generosity, grow community, and take people on IMPACT journeys to carve a new, better path to live in right relationships with God and others.**



## **GENEROSITY** *Engine*

As it states in John 3:16, God first loved us and out of this love, He gave His one and only son, Jesus. God is the most generous giver of all-time. This generosity leads to faith and faith leads to life eternal. This is something we want all to experience! For us to sustainably be love in action, we need to ignite generosity in others.

The engine that turns our cogs of transformation is generosity through meaningful thrift stores. By 2027, we will have seven stores, igniting the generosity reservoir in over 200,000 people in Iowa. This generosity culture will fire up churches, businesses, schools, and communities to give and serve with open hands to see local and global greater good.



## **GROW** *Community*

To create fertile soil for life-transformation in Christ to take root, we will strengthen and develop families, communities, and individuals for long-term sustainability. Like a tree planted by water, we provide the resources for the community to grow.

By 2027, Many Hands will expand its physical presence by planting two more love-in-action equipping centers, growing reciprocal relationships to rebuild, restore, and renew broken communities. With intentionality, we will strengthen families, particularly women and children, through our First 1,000 Days program.

Within a five-kilometer area, we will pour resources-through-relationships on a weekly basis into 2,000 children and caretakers, resulting in changed lives physically, emotionally, economically, and spiritually.



## **IMPACT** *Journey*

Through our IMPACT Journey, we will invite 1,500 people out of the safety of the welcome center to actually climb the mountain with their Heavenly Father.

Through IMPACT trips, we experience God's love in action through community. We will ask people to reflect on their journeys to identify the passion already residing within them, look to the future with expectancy for how God can use them, connect with others in love and encouragement, and commit to being love in action in their daily lives. By living an intentional life, they will take the next step up the mountain in obedience to the One that created them, to live a life of impact.



# The Legacy of MANY HANDS

*2023 was a historic year for Many Hands. Fifteen years ago, Many Hands for Haiti was established as an organization. Over the past decade and a half, it has grown from a small group of compassionate individuals to a strong organization committed to transforming lives and communities in Haiti, The Bahamas, and our backyard. The organization Generously Grows Impact through its thrift markets in the United States, sustainable development efforts in Haiti, and Impact events and trips to Abaco, The Bahamas.*

# f HANDS



Denny Brand during his first trip to the rural area of Pignon, Haiti in 1986



An aerial photo of the Many Hands campus in Sylvain, Haiti

## **Foundation for the Vision**

**D**enny Brand, Many Hands CEO Tim Brand's father, took his first trip to the small, rural community in Haiti's Central Plateau called Pignon in 1986. This significant trip was the beginning of a strong bond between not only the Brand family but the whole community of Pella. Members of the Brand family would make many more trips over the coming decades. In 1989, Pella's Mayor, Johnny Menninga, signed Resolution 1948, adopting Pignon as Pella's official sister city.

Following in his father's footsteps, Tim, a recent grad of Pella High School in Iowa, joined a church group to help build a new school for the Christian Mission of Pignon in 1998. Not only did this trip change Tim's

perspective on God's global heart, it also changed his life trajectory.

Tim's mind and heart kept returning to Haiti throughout his college career. One night, he was praying about the direction of his life, and he heard God's voice say to go back to Haiti. The next morning, Tim received an email from a mission team leader, asking him to be a college mentor on an upcoming trip. He agreed, and at the end of that trip, Tim made a covenant with God to be involved in Haiti in some way for the rest of his life. In 2002, Tim traveled with his fiancée, Catie, taking their first trip to Haiti together as a couple, affirming their call to serve the country and the people of Haiti.

In 2005, Tim and his wife Catie attended the Global



“

**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

Leadership Summit, hearing a combination of speakers share about holy discontents. This led to Tim grabbing a piece of paper and scribbling concepts for a different way to do ministry in Haiti. Over the next two years, these scribbles transformed into the foundation of Many Hands for Haiti.

### ***The Vision Begins***

While continuing to visit Pignon, Tim sought the necessary paperwork to establish Many Hands for Haiti as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2008. Day by day, God provided the needed people, resources, and direction for the organization, establishing the beginning vision for the Growing Community efforts in Haiti. Many Hands became an official 501(c)3 in 2009. The organization grew, sending its first missionaries, Jared and Stacey Nikkel, in 2009 and Tim beginning full-time in 2011. The following year, 2012, the Pella Christian School of Pignon was opened.

Many Hands was growing statewide as well, with the next pivotal moment of the journey launching in 2013 with the opening of Many Hands Market in Spencer, Iowa, the first thrift store. Many

generosity. Just over ten months after opening the Spencer store, the Gabharts moved to Pignon to become full-time missionaries with Many Hands.

Amidst success in the U.S., things in Haiti took a negative turn. A local mob incited by lies forcibly took Many Hands' campus in Savanette. This was a difficult time and a waiting period for the organization as we prayed through the next move.

“Although we never want to walk through something like this again, God's hand was upon us, guiding us each step of the way. It also served as a testament to the work we were doing, as we didn't leave but stayed in the hard times. And because of this, we gained the trust of the area as they witnessed our level of commitment,” states Tim.

### ***The Vision Re-Ignites***

After much prayer and conversation with Haitian leaders, a campus was established in Sylvain in October 2015 with a Love-in-Action Center and living quarters for staff and teams.

“Given this unique opportunity to restart, we looked for signs of community peace and an understanding of truth, both being firm foundations to build upon. It was amazing to see the community of Sylvain rise to the top, stepping forward to welcome us in. They were willing to jump into the fire with us, guiding us to fantastic land and amazing people. God not only answered our prayers, but He did more than we could have imagined during this time,” comments Tim.

After opening this campus, programs hit the ground running, with the First 1,000 Days program launching and the Yel-

### ***-Galatians 6:9 NIV***

volunteers and staff, including Craig and Christi Gabhart, spent countless hours building, opening, and operating the store. This store built the foundation for the trajectory of Many Hands for the decade to come, becoming the first of five Generosity Engines that ignited local and global

Tim Brand holds a child during his first trip to Haiti in 1998



School of Light students smile for the camera, Many Hands Sylvain Campus, Haiti

low Iron School of Light Preschool being built and opening in the fall of 2016. These programs would lay the foundations for hundreds of families to receive support in the years to come.

Many Hands Thrift continued to grow as we opened the second market in Grimes, Iowa. It started our presence in the Des Moines metro area, leading to a growth of staff and volunteers.

**Love in Action Begins**

In November 2017, Many Hands launched the Love in Action initiative. This became the defining strategy for the next decade of ministry in Haiti. This initiative is a comprehensive strategy designed to strengthen families and

foster community growth, signifying a bold new chapter in our ongoing commitment to transforming lives and communities.

Growth continued to multiply with a second Love-in-Action Center in Malierette opening in January 2019 and the Sylvain Christian School of Light opening on the Sylvain campus in September of that year. This school provided education for 78 children, with the capacity to add a new class every year for the next eight years.

**Unrest and Hardship Hits Haiti**

2019 also marked a time of great difficulty for the country of Haiti, with a prolonged state of civil unrest in February. Many Hands made the difficult decision to cancel Impact mis-

sion teams into March. It was not even a year later that the COVID-19 pandemic forced Many Hands to shut down its stores and programming and cancel Impact trips to Haiti.

The staff throughout the organization remained resilient and continued operations. Despite challenges, the third Many Hands Thrift Market opened in Clive in June of 2020 with the largest opening sales to date.

Many Hands continued to grow through the prolonged difficulty caused by the pandemic and continued unrest in Haiti. July 2021 marked a dark period for Haiti with the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. This tragedy compounded the existing political instability.

**First School of Light Class 2016 – 2023**





Just a month later, the southern tip of Haiti was hit with a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. The following week, Tropical Storm Grace hit Haiti, leaving streets flooded and contributing to mudslides and rockslides. This combination of political unrest and natural disasters added a layer of complexity to the already challenging circumstances facing the nation.

Despite these challenges, Many Hands could continue operating programs with minimal interruption. We were in a strong enough position to mobilize emergency relief, working with Haitian leaders in southern Haiti to distribute

689,262 meals through local pastors to the affected areas.

**The Vision Expands**

Again, growth marked the organization. The fourth and largest Many Hands Thrift Market opened in November 2021 in Des Moines, and the third Love-in-Action Center opened in Jean Boule in March 2022. By the end of 2022, Many Hands supported 400 caregivers and children under the age of two through its centers in Haiti and welcomed 302,172 customers through the doors at stores.

2022 also brought growth as Many Hands met with Bahamian government officials to explore the opportunity to establish programs in Abaco, The Bahamas. Operations officially launched in January 2023 to serve Haitian refugees and low-income Bahamian communities.

Expanding into Abaco opened up the opportunity to relaunch the international Impact Trips for the first time since 2019. These trips are one step of the larger Impact Journey, which consists of local and global transformative experiences that foster deeper relationships with oneself, God, and the community.



A part of the foundational story came full circle in June of 2023. Many Hands opened the fifth Love-in-Action Center in Mè Bel Mè dedicated to Denny Brand, who passed away in December 2021.

“Back in 2004, our family raised money to build a school in Haiti. It was in a very rural part of the Pignon area, and we were not able to maintain work in the area for various reasons. Because of the growth of Many Hands and the memorial money raised through my father’s death, we were able to go back to this original area and now do full-lifecycle programming. This was always what my father wanted, but it was not possible 20 years ago. Now it is. God’s faithfulness to bring life from death is evident,” explains Tim.

**God’s Vision Continues**

As Many Hands embarks on the 15th year of Love in Action through Generously Growing Impact, there is so much to reflect on. The organization has faced challenges and uncertainties, but through them all, the mission has remained steadfast. Many Hands’ commitment to fostering community growth and strengthening families has allowed the organization to continuously expand its reach, impacting countless lives in Haiti and beyond.

“We’ve learned so much over these past 15 years, and so many different people have played various roles. Only God can orchestrate that. Because of what we’ve seen in the past 15 years, we look toward the next 15 years with great anticipation. There is a strong foundation to build upon to reach the nations, as God continues to give us a grander vision,” states Tim.



**Tim J. Brand**  
CEO and Founder  
Many Hands



**Scan the QR Code to learn more about the legacy of Many Hands**



### LOCATION

IOWA,  
UNITED STATES

### THRIFT STORES

SPENCER  
GRIMES  
CLIVE  
MERLE HAY  
INDIANOLA

**32,042**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**7,664**

VOLUNTEERS

**35,141**

DONATION DROP-OFFS

**256,151**

INDIVIDUAL RINGS AT THE REGISTER

**503,257**

POUNDS RECYCLED AT STORES

**\$25,000**

GIVEN TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

**VOTED BEST THRIFT STORE 2023**  
4 AWARDS, FOUR YEARS RUNNING

## PARTNERS

Many Hands Thrift Market serves community organizations by providing resources, support, and donations. When nonprofits support each other, they become stronger. Since 2015 we have donated \$70,000 to various nonprofits and \$15,000 in store vouchers. In 2023 some of our partners included:



# GENEROSITY *Engine*



**I**n 2023, the word of the year was stretch. We didn't know at the time how much we would be stretched, but we knew it would be a challenging year for our stores, with expense costs rising drastically across the board.

One of the most exciting challenges that we faced in 2023 was the opening of our fifth thrift store in Indianola, IA. We had always wanted to be in Indianola, and we were fortunate that a good building was available. After substantial renovations to the building, we were able to open successfully in June. Through our community meetings, we were given a lead for a possible store manager. We met with Carla and knew right away that she was the right person to lead the Indianola store. Carla has built an incredible team, and the Indianola store is off to a great start.

We hired a new store manager for our Grimes location. Store Manager Krisha Foreman has been outstanding at building relationships with her staff and delivering a beautiful store. Since the Grimes location is the original store in the Metro, we have plans to update the fixtures and banners in 2024. We are very excited to get a fresh look for our Grimes store that matches our newer stores. The new fixtures will bring more capacity and a more inviting shopping experience for our customers with unobstructed sight lines from the front of the store to the back of the store.

The Merle Hay store is going through a big change that started in 2023. Since Merle Hay is the largest square footage store we have, we will be reducing the sales

floor space and adding a new processing area. The new processing area will deliver a more efficient experience for our associates and volunteers. The location of the new processing area is strategically located next to the clothing department which accounts for more than half of the store's donations and sales. The next phase of this transition is to create a larger baling and fixture center with the existing stockroom.

Our Spencer store celebrated its 10th anniversary with a big celebration for the staff and a sale for the customers. This was an incredible event that really poured into our Spencer team and Store Manager, Karmen Brown. Karmen also announced that she will be officially retiring in September 2024. She wanted to make sure we had plenty of time to find her replacement so the transition would go as smoothly as possible.

The Clive store has seen the biggest staff decrease since opening. In 2023, four full-time staff members left for other opportunities, and we have yet to find the right candidates to fill these roles. Store Manager Crystal Peace has been great at utilizing her existing staff and volunteers to ensure the work continues to get done at a high level. Even with a reduced staff, the Clive store had its best sales year since opening.

In 2023, our staff and volunteers were stretched in many different ways, but we have amazing people doing great things in our organization, and they always rise to the challenge. I'm so proud of our team for everything they do to ensure our generosity engines run wide open to help as many people as possible. Go team!



**Steve Lucas**  
District Manager  
Many Hands Thrift



Many Hands Thrift Market celebrates the grand opening of the Indianola location

## Welcoming Indianola



**Carla Weed**  
Store Manager, Indianola

As I reflect on 2023 and how our word for the year was "Stretch", I am inspired to share how far we have extended our reach by the opening of our newest location in Indianola. Preparing for the opening in June, I had the opportunity to spend time at each store training and stretching my knowledge and experience to develop the tools needed to train and lead new volunteers and employees.

We have stretched our hand to volunteers of all abilities and backgrounds, creating a safe space where anyone who would like to contribute their time has a rewarding and approachable work experience. We have stretched our arms wide to embrace partnerships with local nonprofits, including Lighthouse Community Center, We Lift, Backpacks

for Hunger, and various community churches. We have expanded our guest and donor base to extend far into the small towns and countryside of Southern Iowa. Many of our regular guests come from this area and consider Indianola the big city.

Most of all, we have stretched our hearts to include our new extended family—the volunteers, employees, guests, donors, the community of Indianola, and the people of Haiti and Abaco, whom it is our honor and privilege to serve every day. I am so excited to see what 2024 has in store for us as we continue to grow in this new community and stretch our reach further and further.

## A Special Year in Spencer



**Karmen Brown**  
Store Manager, Spencer

2023 was a very special year as we celebrated our 10-year Anniversary. In those 10 years, we have seen the hand of our Lord Jesus move in mighty and amazing ways. Our theme for the year was The 3 G's—Grit-Growth-Grace. This theme fit perfectly for our 10-year anniversary. There has been a lot of Grit over the past decade to keep going and stay the course in our Mission. The Growth has been nothing short of amazing—in the Mission and following in His footsteps. Sales & donations have seen incredible growth. And His Grace is what has carried us each and every year. We continue to be a light of His Love in our community and beyond.

The volunteers continue to be strong, and we know there is no way we would be where we are today without each

volunteer that has come our way. A number of them have been with us since we opened—they carry their own departments—what a huge blessing!!

As I look over the past 10 years here at Many Hands Market—from the very first day we opened our doors, we have desired to be His Light and Love to each customer and donor and to our community. At the end of the day my question to myself remains the same, "Did we make Jesus smile?" And in my heart, I believe we have and will continue to do this into the next decade. When we keep Jesus as our focus, everything else falls into place. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve here at Many Hands Market.



## Success at Merle Hay

In 2023, the Merle Hay location of Many Hands Thrift Market experienced growth and success thanks to the dedication of our team and the invaluable contributions of volunteers. Despite the challenges posed by economic fluctuations, we exceeded our expectations in terms of sales, community engagement, and impact.

Our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility was evident through initiatives such as textile recycling, donation drives with KGGO for underserved populations to stay warm over the winter, and partnerships with other charitable organizations such as Dorothy's House and The International Rescue Committee amongst others. These efforts not only aligned with our mission but also resonated with our customers, leading to a positive store image.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to fostering a culture of faith, love, collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. We will continue to prioritize the well-being of our volunteers, invest in staff development and training, and explore new opportunities for growth. Together, we look forward to achieving even greater milestones in the years to come.



**Melissa Tafta**  
Store Manager, Merle Hay



## Community at Clive

Stretch was the word for 2023, and Clive certainly saw its share of it! We learned to stretch our resources, our skills, and more to overcome the many obstacles from staffing to finances that our store encountered. We managed to rise above everything that was put in front of us. We did this because of the dedication that everyone on our team brings with them each day.

Clive has continued to strive for community and inclusiveness within the store. We welcome and value each and every volunteer who serves at our store and have built lasting relationships with many of them.

It is truly amazing to look back at last year and see all of our accomplishments within our store and then realize how all of that work has had a direct impact on improving the lives of our brothers and sisters in Haiti and Abaco as well as right here in our community. The generosity engine that is Clive is churning more than ever to make 2024 the best year yet!



**Crystal Peace**  
Store Manager, Clive



## Blessings at Grimes

Last September, I was blessed with the opportunity to become the Store Manager at our Grimes location. Before starting my position, I began researching everything Many Hands does and was amazed by what I found. I truly feel like I was brought here for a reason.

Many Hands Thrift Grimes has such an amazing, hard-working staff and the most wonderful volunteers. They have all been so helpful in showing me the ropes. There are many parts to making this store successful so that we have the opportunity to help others in need. Then another blessing came when Jeff Thomas returned to the Grimes Store as Assistant Manager. Everyone here in Grimes knows and loves Jeff, and we were lucky that he came back right in time for the big Christmas Open House. What a day that was! We all worked so hard, and it paid off. Everyone here has such a passion for what we do, Love In Action, each and every day.

The Grimes team knocked it out of the park in 2023, and I'm honored to join this wonderful place that does so much good in Haiti, Abaco, and all the local things we are a part of. I can't wait to see what 2024 brings.



**Krisha Foreman**  
Store Manager, Grimes



# EXPANDING GENEROSITY

*How Many Hands Builds Lasting Engagement Through Volunteerism, Partnerships, and Community Impact*

**I**n 2023 we entered our third year of a three-year vision to advance and deepen engagement. Our goal was to increase our surprise and delight culture by developing new leaders and tools for deeper engagement within communities. At the organizational level, our 2023 strategy word was stretch: stretch our imagination to see what was possible.

The Development Team started growing our team by hiring a Volunteer Program Manager in March and restructuring the Volunteer Ministry Program to develop new ways to engage and ignite generosity. We also implemented and streamlined new processes and efficiencies, including the launch of a new volunteer tracking system. Our team also worked to identify and empower team members with the gift of hospitality to fuel their passion for serving on store hospitality teams. We brought unity to the organization through leadership development.

The Lead Like Jesus curriculum originally developed for our staff in Haiti was implemented in both Abaco and the States. Our staff and volunteers here in Iowa connected with our global communities in Haiti and Abaco through leadership development.

We continued to deepen engagement in the community through partnerships, building on past relationships by creating new ways to partner and building new relationships with organizations, schools, businesses, and churches in our communities. We have also provided volunteer service opportunities to high school students who are developing life and employment skills while earning community service hours to achieve a Silver Cord at graduation. Many Hands believes that we are all created with a purpose and spiritual gifts to achieve that purpose. In 2023, we partnered with nine schools and organizations that walk alongside youth and adults

with intellectual, social, or learning abilities which is a mutually beneficial blessing! Sharing our mission to be Love in Action with our local community churches, we hosted over twenty church groups of all ages and denominations throughout the year at all locations.

In April, we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event to recognize and say thank you to our generous volunteers who donate their time, skills, and experience to our thrift markets. These dedicated individuals embody the mission of Many Hands, to be Love in Action. Over seventy-five volunteers and staff attended to celebrate and hear inspirational updates on the global mission from CEO Tim Brand, CDO Tyler Kamerman, and Marketing Director Rob Van Beek. The service of our volunteers inspires us to live generously, love unconditionally, and serve one another. Many of them are retired and choose to spend their precious time investing in the Generosity Engines to ensure they are a success. Fran DeHaan is a living example of what it means to serve. Fran was recognized

with intellectual, social, or learning abilities which is a mutually beneficial blessing! Sharing our mission to be Love in Action with our local community churches, we hosted over twenty church groups of all ages and denominations throughout the year at all locations.

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“  
**These dedicated individuals embody the mission of Many Hands, to be Love in Action.**



Tammy Krohn and Tammie Smith are recognized for their hours of service at the Many Hands Thrift Market Volunteer Appreciation event.

and received the Governor's Volunteer Award for his service to Many Hands, serving in the thrift markets over 1200 hours in 2023 in addition to traveling to Haiti and Abaco multiple times a year to help on campuses with various building and maintenance projects.

In October of 2023, more than 200 companies came together for UpLift Urbandale, a commu-

cess and over 5,000 clothing donations. Delta Dental of IA and Wells Fargo Security Team each spent a day with us at our Merle Hay location where twenty-six hands sorted through hundreds of items in just a few hours!

As we look back on 2023, we are encouraged to see God glorified and the love of Christ in our communities.



**Melissa Nelson**  
Volunteer Program Manager



**LOCATION**

PIGNON,  
HAITI

**POPULATION**

30,000



**LOCATION**

ABACO,  
BAHAMAS

**POPULATION**

20,000



**3,000**

PLATES OF FOOD DAILY ACROSS 19 SCHOOLS

**98,050**

POUNDS OF FOOD GROWN OR PURCHASED

**80 STUDENTS**

IMPACTED THROUGH ARK PROGRAM IN ABACO

**131 EMPLOYEES**

WORKING INTERNATIONALLY

**94 VOLUNTEERS**

WELCOMED TO ABACO



**Our desire at Many Hands is to be love in action in a broken world. We want to connect people to the life-transforming presence of Jesus Christ, so that His name may be glorified among every people, tribe, nation, and language!**

**-Tim Winkler**

# GROW Community

**M**any Hands believes in the power of community. As we live life together, we grow. The desired outcome of the Growing Community initiative is for life transformation in Christ, recovering true identity and vocation expressed through just and peaceful relationships.

**Our four goals are:**

1. Restored relationship with the triune God, the God of the Bible
2. Every child thriving above the malnutrition line through the first 1,000 days of life
3. Every parent equipped with the resources to take care of their family
4. Community-owned initiatives with the social structure to thrive

This is a long-term initiative with a 6+ year strategy to develop families, leaders, and economic resources for the community to thrive. If people are seeking God, many other good things will follow and become possible. If they are not, the horizons of change are more limited and difficult. Having multiple voices and establishing trust are

critical pieces for this initiative to truly take root and grow. It cannot be rushed and will take much prayer for it to succeed.

**How We Do This**

We believe that walking with children and their caregivers from the beginning of a child's life gives us the best opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and create lasting change. This helps to establish a relationship with each family, where we know each other's name and God-given story. Focusing on geographically saturating a defined area, Many Hands establishes six building blocks for the same families over seven years. These building blocks focus on education, the first 1,000 days, agriculture, safe structures, leadership development, and youth development.

Through this process, we aim to strengthen struggling families, building a solid foundation for them and their communities. We want to prepare them for a time when we will end our services and investment in the family, and they, in turn, will invest in one another.

# OUR SOURCE OF

# Strength

*Witnessing Spiritual Renewal  
Despite Challenges in Haiti*

A woman washes her clothes in the river near the city of Don Don, Haiti



**Craig Gabhart**  
Operations Officer  
Many Hands for Haiti

**I** look up to the mountains; does my strength come from the mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth and mountains. Psalm 121: 1-2

These are familiar words for Many Hands Haitian staff as they are recited in unison before we pray together as coworkers each weekday morning at 8:00 a.m. devotions. And how fitting as we gaze across the Haitian landscape to see mountains stacked layers deep, one range behind another. For Many Hands Staff in Haiti, 2023 required seeking God's strength daily and experiencing how God, the very Maker of the mountains, was our Guardian as we came and went while the organization marched forward throughout the year.

This past year brought incredible opportunities to expand, spread, and stretch in ways that saw God's blessing. We

went to the hard places, more remote than we have been before, to establish a fourth Love-in-Action Center as well as prepare for the fifth; to employ and feed more people than ever before (677 meals served daily). The year was filled with hardships more difficult than the year before, but God gave our 121 Many Hands Haitian staff what was needed to persevere and charge out into the darkness with willingness and determination.

God used our Chaplains to share the gospel with over 1,400 people, and God became real to 111 new Christians who committed their lives to Jesus, while 52 people were restored in their faith and commitment. Our Spiritual Mothers made over 1,300 home visits bringing hope amidst the mayhem. Our Agriculture team distributed 7,000 trees and harvested 15,850 lbs of produce. 38 babies were born to moms in our First 1,000 Days program. We continue to arrange for families to have concrete floors in their homes.



**I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from the mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth and mountains.**

**-Psalm 121: 1-2**

Fifth grade was added to our school. Our logistics team delivered 92,050 lbs of food items to our Love in Action Centers. Our staff have been attending classes to learn to “Lead Like Jesus.”

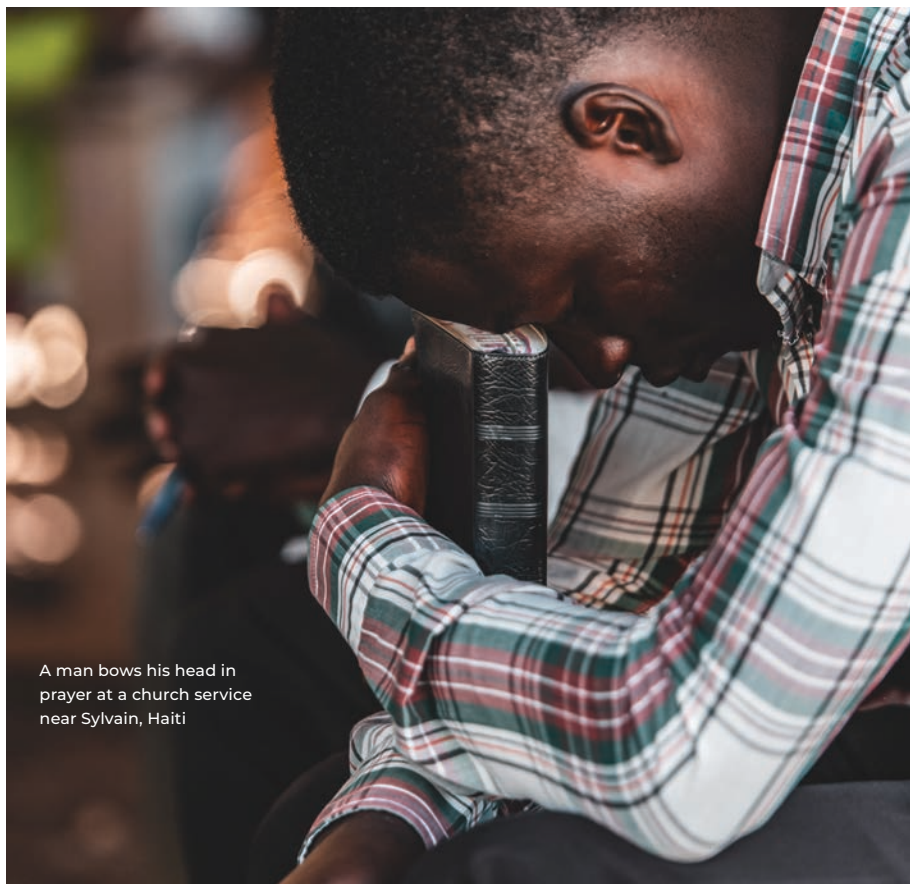
While reviewing the year 2023, Haitian staff were asked, “In what ways have you seen Many Hands generously growing impact?” Their responses displayed achievement in growing together in community by building deep relationships in the communities where we work. They saw a positive influence spreading to community members of all ages from the generosity of Many Hands and the strength of Many Hands’ God-honoring leadership style. Going so far as to say Many Hands is giving people a new ‘orientation’ for their life, a new ‘conception’ (a new idea or mental impression) of life.

We see this in the way people are collaborating together, the way we see people leading, and the way we see people resolving conflict. With the programs and opportunities Many Hands offers, Agronomist Claudin says, “Many Hands helps people identify their talents which increases their capacity to work which leads to economic change, which brings more independence.”

Haiti continues to struggle with gangs, soaring food costs, no working government, and a lack of employment opportunities, but God is still the One we look to. Jean Rene, our construction manager, once prayed, “Lord, just say the word.” An admission that there is only one source of our strength. Where does our help come from? God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth.



A bible study group gathers to learn and worship in Haiti



A man bows his head in prayer at a church service near Sylvain, Haiti



## Medical Assistance & Benevolence

Many Hands has a benevolence team to help meet the needs of the community we serve in Haiti. Our approach is long-term development, but because of the dire life circumstances of a majority of those we serve, relief aid is needed. In 2023, 64 individuals received medical assistance through either one-time assistance or ongoing care. Our on-staff nurses were able to provide ongoing health care and opportunities for learning for those in our First 1,000 Days program.

There were 237 moments throughout the year where the Benevolence Committee shared a gift of food to bless a family in need. On top of that in 2023, MH had a "Stretch Out Your Hand" initiative where each member of our staff had the opportunity to collaborate with their coworkers to identify local families in extreme hardship. Week by week, different groups of staff members visited a total of 188 neighboring families in need of a gift of food.

The year 2023 also had its share of loss of life for a number of individuals who were in relationship with Many Hands: DeDe, Elicia, Diveniel, Elione, Anne, husband of Yvonise Jean, Maintil, as well as members of MH staff Herman and FouFoun. Each loss brings an opportunity to share the Saving Love of Jesus Christ with family members.



**Christi Gabhart**  
U.S. Lead - Ministry & Benevolence



## Spiritual Development

Throughout 2023, our Spiritual Development team was on the move every day, sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The team made 417 hospital visits and 1,318 home visits. Across the community, team members hosted a weekly bible study in eight different locations. Through two different ceremonies, 40 couples were married. With God's blessing on our work, we saw the fruit, with 111 people committing their lives to Christ and 52 people who were restored in their relationship with Jesus.

Our team led three theological trainings for our spiritual staff to strengthen and equip them. In addition, the Spiritual Development team led Community Conversations for the new community, Mè Bel Mè. Each morning at our four Love-in-Action Centers, our team led devotions. Every member of our Many Hands team expresses how grateful they are to put God first in their work day.



**Jean Ronel Joseph**  
Manager Spiritual & Leadership Development



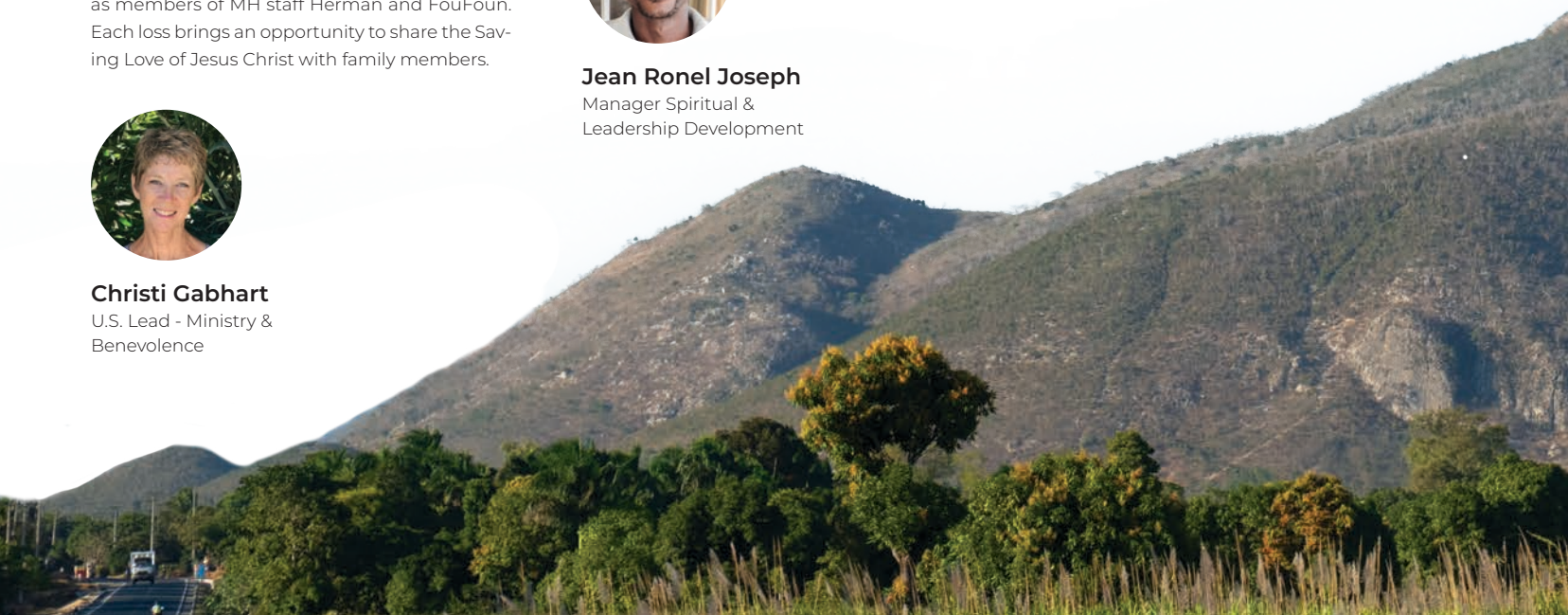
## Leadership Development

Lead Like Jesus training continued into 2023, with 67 participants going through either the Level 1 or Level 2 courses. In the course, leaders write a personal mission, vision, and value statement and create an action plan to address a need or challenge they see in the areas they lead.

One of the action plans that came to fruition this year was the new adult literacy class. Teachers Juna and Patirica organized for nineteen parents to have the opportunity to learn to read and write in their native language. This class empowered parents and opened them up to a whole new world. Fifteen women and two husband/wife couples persevered through challenges to finish the class that met twice a week for 4.5 months.



**Mark Kauk**  
U.S. Lead - Leadership





## Safe Homes

2023 was a difficult year for construction in Haiti. When supplies could be found, their prices were high. Despite these challenges, Many Hands was able to bless 25 families with a new, safe home, a concrete floor, or help with their existing house. By making homes safer, we are able to ensure a secure environment for families leading to better health.

The Safe Structures team also organized registration papers for the Many Hands' fleet of 34 motorcycles. In addition, the team was able to assist with transportation for special medical cases and purchasing food for the program.



**Jean Rene Deforge**  
Construction Coordinator

## Education

Many Hands added a 5th-grade class to our school this year, bringing the school total to 183 students. In addition to health checks by our staff nurse and a nutritious breakfast and lunch daily, we were able to start regular oral checkups at a local dental clinic for our students.

In an effort to invest in high-quality training for our staff, we hosted a two-day training with P4H Global for all 29 of our teachers and helpers. This was our second year of training with this world-class organization. Topics covered this year included assessments, reflections, lesson planning, and student engagement. Training opportunities like this build confidence in the teachers which helps them be better leaders.



**Micul Pierre**  
Principal of School of Light

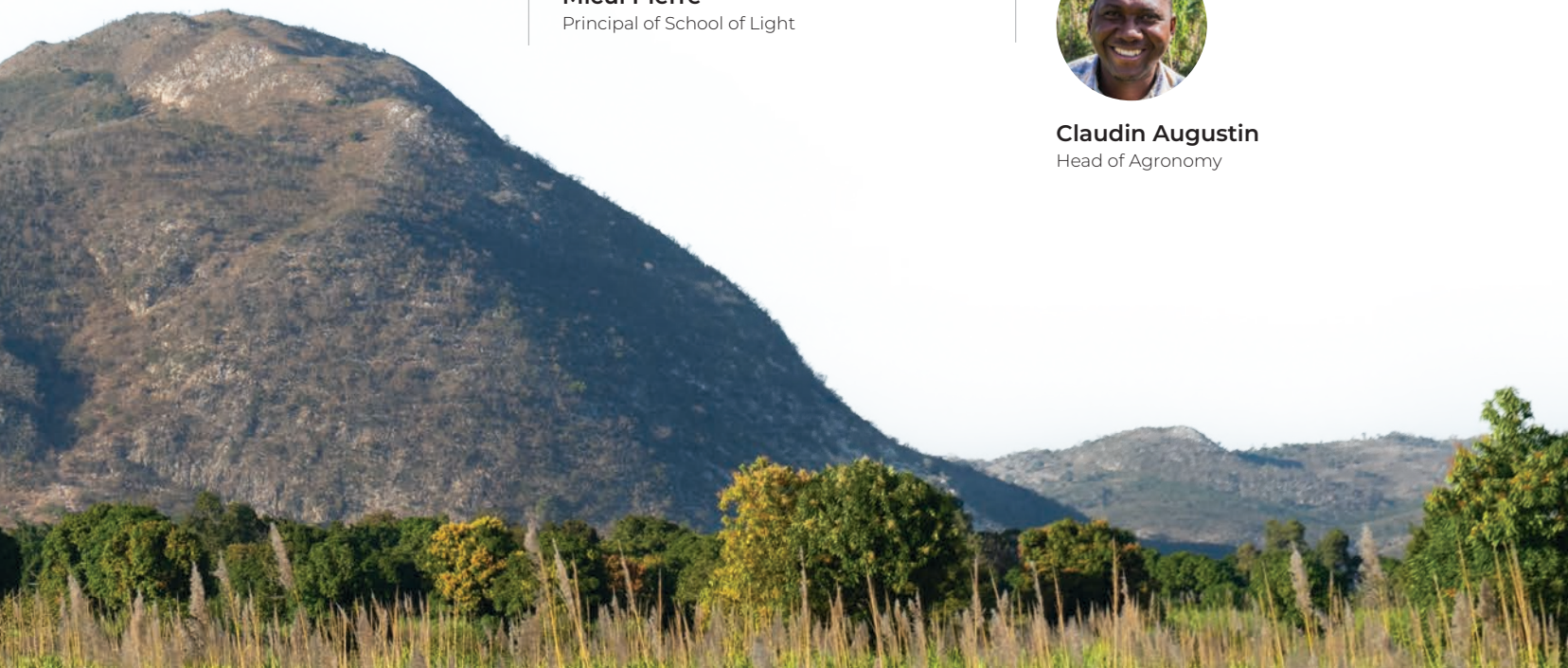
## Agriculture

We continue to thank God for the many ways He provides so we can do what He has called us to do. In 2023, our team in Haiti, including eight interns through a local university, harvested 15,850 pounds of produce that was used in food preparation every day for our First 1,000 Days Program. Additionally, 253 pounds of peanuts were harvested, roasted by one of our cooks, taken to a local business to be made into peanut butter, then served on bread as breakfast to the school students. This level of sustainability has a ripple effect across the whole community.

The Agriculture team partnered with the Spiritual Development team to provide agriculture training to our bible study groups. The team was able to share farming techniques, practices, and principles that honor God as they work. Participants were recipients of over 7,000 tree seedlings Many Hands grew and distributed to be planted by area families.



**Claudin Augustin**  
Head of Agronomy



# A CATALYST FOR Growth

Many Hands for Abaco  
Expands its Ministry



A woman sits in the entrance of her home in Abaco, the Bahamas



Photos: **Left** - Many Hands staff and board members pray over a woman in Abaco, Bahamas; **Middle** - Sam Berg (right) discusses teachings from Lead Like Jesus with class; **Right** - Community members celebrate the grand opening of the Murphy Town Community Center with song and dance



**Tim Winkler**  
Director of Ministry  
Many Hands for Abaco

After a soft launch in 2022, the Lord, working through Many Hands for Abaco, exploded onto the scene in Abaco for 2023! So much has taken place in such a short time it is hard to know where to begin. But we know God has been in the details as we continue to grow.

Many Hands believes in relationships. By working together, we can face the challenges of the day and grow. Relationships have been key to establishing Many Hands for Abaco. In 2023, we saw God at work through these connections.

God started by working through our relationships with staff. At the start of 2023, we had two full-time and two

part-time staff. By year's end, through the building of relationships, Many Hands Abaco had grown to five full-time staff and two part-time staff. Then God, in His wisdom, used these new relationships as a catalyst for growth across our ministry in Central Abaco. Through our staff, Many Hands formed and grew several key critical partnerships in 2023.

As we connected locally, we established strong partnerships with several churches across the island. Through these connections, Many Hands started spiritual discipleship and formation classes in collaboration with these churches. Sam Berg led small groups in focused bible studies throughout each week. Many of the pastors on the island are bi-vocational and enthusiasti-



**Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!**

**Psalm 96:1-4**

cally welcome the addition of co-laborers and resources to support them.

Driftwood Farms, located just south of Marsh Harbour, pioneered hydroponic farming on Abaco. Our partnership with owners Glen and Tracy Kelly allows us to produce food otherwise unavailable on Abaco. Through this partnership, Many Hands teaches the local population how to grow and sustain their food source.

Initiated by Lisa Berg, we formed a partnership with Central Abaco Primary School. The school gave Many Hands classroom space to build a library—the first of its kind and the only library on the island since Dorian. This partnership also led to the launch of our Academic Recovery for Kids (ARK) Program. Then, through a partnership with the Reformed Church of America, we hired an additional teacher, Celekah Mills, a native of Abaco.

Many Hands began a partnership with Pastor Barrett and Carrie Hendrickson at Kirk of the Pines Church. Broken homes are all too common on Abaco. Many kids in middle and high school have experienced neglect and abuse in all its forms. Having a heart to reach this neglected population, the Hendricksons lead a youth group called G2. Many Hands supports this program as the Hendricksons minister to close to 100 kids every week.

Additionally, in 2023, fellow Many Hands team member Pastor Ryan Forbes, a local pastor and native of Abaco, has been providing strategic



Hydroponics at the Poinciana Driftwood Farms in Abaco, the Bahamas



Photos: **Left** - Lisa Berg (right) teaches students in the ARK program; **Right** - Pam Osborn helps harvest vegetables at Poinciana Driftwood Farms



insight and serving as a key conduit for meetings with Members of Parliament.

This is just a snapshot of our growth in 2023. On the following pages, you will see details of our programs' impact. But we know that without God going before us and a dedicated staff building relationships throughout the island, none of this would have been possible. Many Hands has already hit the ground running, and the Lord is opening up more opportunities for ministry on the island! Please continue to pray for God to continue opening the doors for what's next and opening the hearts of those whom we are called to serve alongside.

Our desire at Many Hands is to be love in action in a broken world. We want to connect people to the life-transforming presence of Jesus Christ, so that His name may be glorified among every people, tribe, nation, and language!

"...Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised...!"

Psalm 96:1-4

## Youth Development

Due to known problems most youth of The Bahamas face, we strive to be intentional in developing this at-risk population, and growing their capacity, experiences, and love for self, God, and others. The programs we are implementing aim to do just that. In 2023 we hosted our first Challenge What's Possible (CWP) Sports Camp, which is a multi-day, multi-sport camp hosted by experienced coaches and athletes for both male and female attendees. Our camps, designed with a Christian emphasis, provide daily Biblical teaching and cover the camp in prayer as well as providing instruction, skill development, and athletic competition in a team environment. There

is also a session for local coaches to gain more knowledge and resources, which is important for the long-term success of the players and teams after the camp.

The Abaco Youth Baseball League (AYBL) is a program that was started and supported by locals, and Many Hands has stepped in to aid and strengthen it. We provide the AYBL with college-level coaching experience and Christian-based devotions after practice. Recognizing the players' lack of proper equipment for a full baseball game, we have taken the lead in finding and providing the necessary gear.

## Leadership Development

In The Bahamas, issues like broken homes, economic challenges, and tensions between Bahamians and Haitian migrants present a difficult situation to navigate. Many Hands believes that while these complex and deep-rooted problems exist, the best path forward is to empower the community through servant-leadership.

Many Hands is working to equip and strengthen leaders who can transform their communities to bring unity, stability, and hope. These programs are designed for lay leaders, youth, and leaders-of-leaders creating a solid foundation at every level.

Working in partnership with the inter-

national organization, Lead Like Jesus, a leadership curriculum has been developed to use as discipleship material. The program aims to move people from where they are to where God wants them to be, with a focus on loving those they influence. Classes allow for a personal discipleship model, focusing on a leader's Heart, Head, Hands, and Habits.

In 2023, we held three study groups focusing on servant leadership topics that provide useful tools for long-term development. This program will continue to evolve over the next several years based on community needs.





## Agriculture

The Bahamas faces a pressing issue of food insecurity, primarily because more than 90% of its food is imported. As a consequence, only 3.2% of Bahamian jobs are in the agriculture sector. Given the small amount of farmland, a general lack of agricultural expertise among the population, and the ever-present threat of another devastating hurricane, numerous challenges continue to exist in the agricultural industry.

Poinciana Driftwood Farm, an innovative hydroponic vegetable farm located in Abaco, specializes in providing fresh, organic produce to the local community. Teaming up with Driftwood, Many Hands is committed to fostering programs focused on food production, agricultural training, and school-based initiatives to expand access to fresh, locally-grown produce.

Hydroponic farming gives us the advantage of overcoming the limitations of arable land and increases our resilience against hurricanes. We are working toward providing various trainings—including backyard farming, hydroponics, and raised garden bed farming—to enhance agricultural knowledge in the community. Our efforts will result in twelve shadehouse greenhouses and a 30% increase in food production for Driftwood.



## Safe Structures

Many Hands for Abaco rose to the challenge of rebuilding the area in 2023. A cornerstone of their efforts was the Murphy Town Community Center. Through collaboration with local organizations, the center was not just rebuilt, but transformed. It now functions as both a vibrant community hub and a secure hurricane shelter, boasting features like redundant water and power supplies, a commercial kitchen, and a dedicated space for children.

Their focus wasn't solely on the community center. Recognizing the importance of Camp Abaco, a beloved summer camp for Caribbean youth, Many Hands partnered with the Assemblies of God to revitalize the facility. A brand new solar power system replaced the reliance on expensive generators, ensuring a more sustainable future for the camp. Upgraded staff housing, new beds, and a fresh coat of paint further solidified Many Hands' commitment to the camp's renewal.

These projects highlight Many Hands for Abaco's dedication to rebuilding essential infrastructure and fostering safe spaces within the Abaco community, paving the way for a more promising future.



## Education

In the wake of Hurricane Dorian and COVID-19's devastation on Abaco's education system, Many Hands rose to the challenge. Partnering with public schools, we launched the ARK program, a pilot initiative at Central Abaco Primary School (CAPS) targeting students in grades 3-6 who are behind in reading and math. This program has already impacted 80 students at CAPS and continues to expand.

But Many Hands' impact goes beyond academics. Recognizing the importance of character development, we implemented a bi-monthly program for all 600 CAPS students, fostering positive values based on biblical principles. Further addressing CAPS' needs, Many Hands constructed a new library in 2023, equipping it with books, learning materials, and technology. Students in grades 2-6 now visit bi-weekly for character development training and to check out books. Through targeted learning support, character development programs, and essential resource provision, Many Hands is making a significant contribution to securing a brighter educational future for Abaco.



Photos: **Left** - Volunteers help with planting at Poinciana Driftwood Farms in Abaco, Bahamas; **Top Right** - A group of Vi Bella artisans pose for a photo; **Bottom Right** - Jasmine, a Vi Bella artisan works on new products in Haiti

# WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

*From local food security and school supplies to artisan employment and community centers, Many Hands showcases the power of collaboration in tackling Abaco's needs and empowering Haitian communities.*



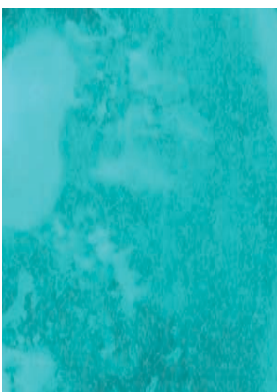
**Tyler Kamerman**  
Chief Development Officer

**B**etter Together – it's not just a catchy slogan. At Many Hands, we truly believe that we are better together, and we live that out through the relationships that we foster, strengthen and nurture on a daily basis. We formed some amazing partnerships during 2023, and because we joined forces with other people and organizations, we were able to grow in unexpected ways.

Driftwood Farms was founded to provide local, organically-grown, farm-to-table produce that is otherwise unavailable in Abaco. The shared desire of Many

Hands and Driftwood Farms, to address issues of food security, was where the partnership began, and it has flourished since. We are working together to put strategies in place to provide sustainable food sources to support a First 1,000 Days program and future Impact teams visiting Abaco, while also establishing training programs to teach food-insecure locals how to grow their own produce.

Similarly, the alliance with Hope Fleet showcases the power of collective action in times of crisis. Founded by a group of individuals who have a heart for the



Caribbean, Hope Fleet provides support by bringing supplies, volunteers, and attention to those in need. They accomplish this by connecting and mobilizing the international boating community to operations and projects in the Caribbean. Many Hands has been able to utilize the unique mission of Hope Fleet to get school supplies and a variety of other needed items to the island.

The collaboration with Sol Relief to rebuild the Murphy Town Community Center serves as a testament to the transformative potential of partnerships rooted in shared values. Sol Relief's mission aligns with Many Hands' passion for building up communities, empowering individuals, and offering opportunities for growth and connection. Sol Relief was a contributing financial funder, on-site partner, and project management entity during the rebuilding of the Community Center. At the

and Mexico. After a successful Better Together event in Sioux Center, a new Vi Bella artisan center was opened on Many Hands' campus in Pignon. Four existing artisans traveled from Port-au-Prince to provide training for those interested in employment, and ultimately seven new jobs were created because of this partnership, with a focus on more in the future. Both Many Hands and Vi Bella are thrilled about this newly formed partnership, looking forward to the transformative growth it will bring to the lives of artisans in Haiti.

These partnerships underscore the profound impact that can be achieved through collective action and shared purpose. As Many Hands continues to forge alliances with like-minded organizations, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a brighter future, with a focus on transforming together to be love in action in a broken world.



**These partnerships underscore the profound impact that can be achieved through collective action and shared purpose.**

**-Tyler Kamerman**

same time, Many Hands provided supporting funds, volunteer labor, expert contractors, and project management oversight. The teamwork was evident as the Community Center officially opened in November of 2023.

In the midst of one of the darkest times in Haitian history, Many Hands is continuing to be the hands and feet of Christ, expanding into a new community through a wonderful partnership with Haiti Lifeline ministries. This organization seeks to empower, equip, and encourage the work of Christ in Haiti. The initial joint focus with Many Hands will be establishing another Love-in-Action Center in the community of Savan Tabec. Through this fifth Love-in-Action Center, our organizations aim to combine our experience and resources to strengthen the spiritual and physical situation and the economic opportunities of pregnant women and mothers. Long term, this partnership will bring the strengths of both organizations together to fulfill their shared goal of transforming the lives of infants, mothers, and families.

Meanwhile, the collaboration with Vi Bella Jewelry represents a paradigm shift in economic empowerment. Vi Bella is a social enterprise and job creation ministry employing artisans in Haiti



An aerial view of the Murphy Town Community Center under construction

Djeni Fluer rests in her home after giving birth to her baby girl in Sylvain, Haiti



# SERVING OUR MAMAS

## *Many Hands First 1,000 Days Program Transforms in 2023*

Opening a new center, developing and implementing a prenatal program, providing private spaces for the Spiritual Mothers, changing the special food program, starting daily activities for babies, and hiring and training ten more First 1,000 Days staff, are some of the wonderful changes that we made to be love in action at our centers in Haiti!

This year, a new, exciting prenatal program component, 'Fanm Assent' (Pregnant Mothers), was established! The program's slogan is 'Healthy mothers birth healthy babies.' Eighteen months of research and meetings helped create a program addressing two main issues: the medical concerns of pregnant mothers and feeding babies at home. Our midwife would often ask mothers to have labs done, but most mothers could not complete labs because of a lack of money or transportation. We partnered with the UCI Medical Clinic, where labs and sonograms for pregnant women are given. Results usually show mothers are anemic and have various infections. With proper medication, mothers now have a better chance of a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby at birth.

The other concern is addressed by collaboration with our wonderful agronomy staff. Fanm Assent families are now required to work in

the community garden. 10% of the harvest will be given back to Many Hands for the daily lunch program, and the rest of the produce will be shared with the mothers, allowing them to have nutritious food. The Fanm Assent program also plants two fruit-bearing plants at each participant's home to help provide food at night and on weekends.

The new Mè Bel Mè (MBM) Love-in-Action Center opened in October, with 13 mothers enrolling in the First 1,000 Days program and starting with the Fanm Assent component. Four healthy babies were born by the end of December!

Before Many Hands opens a center, community meetings start about six months early. Around 50-90 young adults and grandparents usually attend. In MBM, three meetings were held to introduce our program. The four main components of the First 1,000 Days program were introduced: Nutrition, Health, Education, and Jesus as our foundation. Kethlin Vilbon, Manager of the First 1,000 Days program shared the vision for the program.

I spoke on why Many Hands started the program and discussed the motto 'Healthy mothers have healthy babies.' The First 1,000 Days program now starts with the prenatal Fanm Assent program and continues through ages zero, one, and

Community members at the newly built Mè Bel Mè Love-in-Action Center



Locals celebrate the grand opening of the Murphy Town Community Center in Abaco, Bahamas

## ABACO'S HOPE REBUILT

### *Collaborative Spirit Shines as Restored Center Brings Love in Action to Abaco*

The Abaco Islands witnessed a momentous occasion on December 2, 2023, with the grand opening of the Murphy Town Community Center. More than just a ribbon-cutting, it was the completion of a project representing collaboration, resilience, and renewed hope.

The center stands as a vibrant symbol of unity, offering a nurturing space for the island's youth and families. Its doors open wide to welcome community events and celebrations, enrich academic and sports programs, and provide a safe space when storms threaten.

This beacon of hope wasn't built overnight. The generous support of community members and partner organizations like Sol Relief and the local government allowed us to completely restore the center. With help from our partners, we added a new roof and interiors, introduced solar panels, installed new electrical and plumbing, and added a community playground. Special recognition goes to the incredible residents who poured their hearts and hands into making this dream a reality.

Tim Brand, Many Hands CEO, was in Abaco for the ceremony.

"The Murphy Town Community Center is more than just a building; it's a testament to the transformative power of unity," explained Brand. "It serves as a powerful reminder that when we follow God's call and join hands for a common purpose, even the most ambitious vision can be realized."

The hope is that the impact of this building extends far beyond simple gatherings. The center has already begun offering programs with essential services, addressing crucial educational needs, and bringing the community closer together. Many Hands also plans to hold its new First 1,000 Days program at the center starting in March 2024. We are excited to see how God uses this new beacon as a light for the community.



Photos: **Left** - Jean Ronel, Many Hands Chaplain and Leadership Development Officer, speaks at a community meeting in Mé Bel Mé; **Middle** - A nurse performs exam on a First 1,000 Days member; **Right** - A mother receives gifts at the First 1,000 Days Christmas Party

two. Mothers who choose to participate are expected to come every day for lunch, attend a class once a week, and attend scheduled health check appointments set by our nurses.

The Spiritual Moms (female pastors) have requested a private place to hold discussions with program participants. At the Sylvain campus, we converted a storage room for privacy. Dividers at the other centers provide private appointments with mothers. Last year many mothers gave their hearts to Christ!

A book-reading component has been implemented at each Love-in-Action Center. Liv Li Lendi (Read in Mondays) puts books out every Monday for caregivers to read to their children. This year, we also started putting toys and books out every day to encourage free play, peer interaction, fine and gross motor skill development, and increased verbal processing skills. This last year 69 children participated in playing with toys, reading books, and singing

songs. The activity table has been a monumental success. Children who were initially hesitant to approach the table now come willingly each week. Academic vocabulary has been introduced in conjunction with fine motor activities each week. The children's curriculum has proven to be a transformative asset to the First 1,000 Days program.

This has been a very productive year. God has clarified many areas of concern and has given clear answers to questions. Many hours of prayer, discussions, and meetings proved valuable in implementing our new Prenatal Program. I am very thankful for the support and input we have had to better serve our mamas.



**Melissa Kauk**  
U.S. Lead - Curriculum & Instruction  
**Many Hands for Haiti**



**LOCATION**

ABACO,  
BAHAMAS

**POPULATION**

20,000



**IMPACT BREAKFAST  
ATTENDEES**

*1,086 ATTENDEES ALL-TIME*



**IMPACT TRIP  
PARTICIPANTS**

*897 PARTICIPANTS ALL-TIME*



**IMPACT STORIES  
SHARED**

**2023  
IMPACT  
TEAMS**



# IMPACT



# Journey



In 1998, I went on my first short-term mission trip to Haiti. It forever changed my life, as I went deeper and deeper into the calling God had for me, eventually leading to starting Many Hands. Looking back on my journey, a mixture of trips, coursework, people, experiences, and conferences plunged me further into my faith, eventually founding Many Hands. Over our 15-year history, we have learned that God is transforming us all, those we serve and those who are serving. It is always a two-way street since we are giving in our areas of strength and receiving in our areas of weakness. Relationships are at the heart of it all, as we bring God's shalom to chaos with our Heavenly Father, ourselves, our neighbors, and the rest of creation.

The Impact Journey is much bigger than a trip— it is a path to bring Heaven to Earth in all areas of life. We long to experience God's love in action through community, connecting incredible people through experiences and stories. We accomplish this through immersive and highly relational international trips, classes, books, blogs, retreats, and events. Looking back at 2023, God was at work and moved through this transformative work.

We were incredibly blessed to successfully launch Impact Trips in Abaco, Bahamas, sending 195 people through Impact Trips and another 94 serving in various ways on the island. Teams painted, planted, harvested, built, cut, played, read, prayed, fed, delivered, cleaned, coached, cried, and laughed throughout Abaco. We listened to hundreds of stories, helping people heal from living through a horrific hurricane and all the troubles of life. They felt known and appreciated as we loved them, pointing to the ultimate love of Jesus. Teams were exposed to a greater depth of community, while being challenged in areas of being all in, living with purpose, seeing unique gifts and talents in everyone, evaluating their daily habits, and walking through the challenges of life together. Each trip ended with team members sharing their Impact Story from the week, seeing God show up in ways they didn't expect.

Back in the States, the team continued to develop resources and experience to help people start or continue on their Impact Journey. A new class was piloted at Third Church in Pella, IA, called Sent, exploring four deep questions: What does God say about mission? What is the problem in the world? How do we help without hurting those we serve? And how do we live as People of Impact? This class will continue to be refined, to make the course available to churches across the country in 2025.

The Impact Breakfast, held in West Des Moines, IA, saw record attendance as we wrestled with being a blessing in the midst of brokenness. This moving morning was headlined by Ryan Forbes, Mary Andringa, and me, each giving a perspective of leading from a place of hope through family, community, and business challenges. We hope to expand this Impact Breakfast in future years, adding multiple sites across the Midwest.

Lastly, I wrote a book entitled *Standing on the Shoulders: A Legacy Story of a Father, a Son, and Life's Greatest Gifts*. Each of us has a question to answer: Will we choose to live a life for others to stand on our shoulders or leave behind the rubble of brokenness for others to clean up? For me, this came to a head when my father, Denny, was living his last months of life. I have given an intimate, raw, and vulnerable look into this inspiring true story of love, hope, and redemption. Life's greatest gifts are revealed, exploring the deeper questions of what it means to live a good life and how to leave a legacy for future generations.

The Impact Journey is not a one-time event but a life-long choice to live with Jesus at the center of everything. We continue to see God moving in incredible ways as we lean more and more into this unique calling to invite people outside of their comfort zones and into something greater – a life of impact with our Heavenly Father.



**Tim J. Brand**  
CEO and Founder  
Many Hands



# EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION

## *Many Hands' Impact Journey Expands in Abaco, Fostering Transformation Through Community Engagement and Storytelling*

**T**he Impact Journey continues to grow and expand, challenging its participants to consider a deeper commitment to being love in action and immersing themselves within communities, fostering personal growth and collective impact. This intentional engagement created a reciprocal relationship where both participants and community members come together to create a lasting and transformative impact.

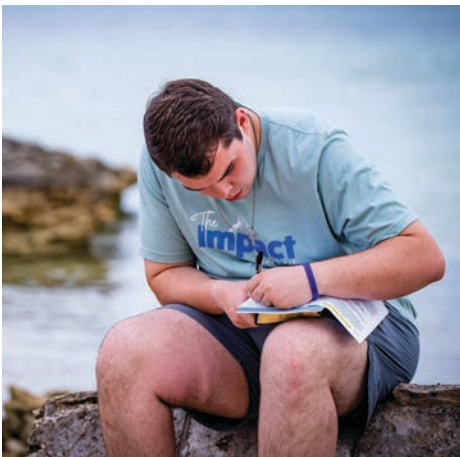
In June, 2023, Pam Osborn became the Impact Trip Manager. Pam guides teams through the trip planning process and pre-trip orientations. "It is a privilege to work with teams and see the transforming power of Impact Trips as people discover their passions and move into a more intentional life of impact," said Pam.

Laura Nicholson, Director of Impact - Abaco, made the move to Marsh Harbour, Abaco, to take on the hands-on role of welcoming and coordinating teams on the ground. The state-side Impact team's commitment extended to the development and refinement of promotional materials and the revision of the IMPACT Story booklets. These materials serve as essential tools for communicating Many Hands' mission, impact, and ongoing projects. Aiming to showcase the transformative experiences of both participants and community members, the Impact team and marketing team worked to create compelling visual stories that resonated with the Impact audience.

Thirteen Impact teams traveled to Abaco in 2023, made up of 195 participants with their own unique, incredible stories. Many Hands continues to believe in the power of stories. By



An aerial view of Camp Abaco in Abaco, the Bahamas



**It is a privilege to work with teams and see the transforming power of Impact Trips as people discover their passions and move into a more intentional life of impact.**

**-Pam Osborn**

hearing and sharing stories of transformation and redemption, teams bear witness to the tangible impact of God's love in people's lives. Whether it is overcoming adversity, finding hope in despair, or experiencing moments of divine intervention, these stories become living testimonies to the transformative power of God's love.

These participants engaged in a wide array of projects, showcasing Many Hands' versatility and commitment to holistic community development. From construction and painting to community prayer walks and sports camps, the teams demonstrated dedication and a diverse skill set in their efforts to make a positive impact.

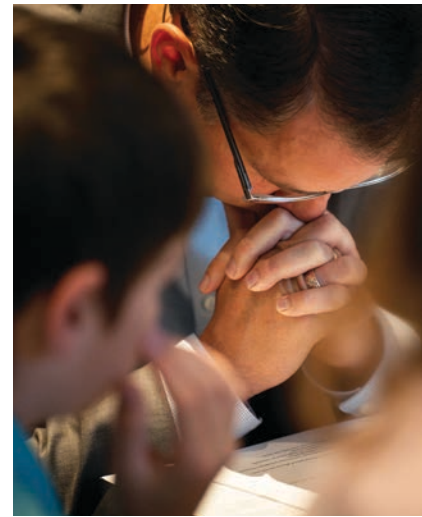
The success of 2023 was not only attributed to the dedication of our Impact participants, but also to the collaborative efforts with local organizations, government authorities, and community leaders. Establishing strong partnerships has been instrumental in maximizing the work accomplished.

"We embraced transformation, learned from challenges, and created growth in our first year in Abaco. As the journey continues, the lessons we learned over the past year serve as a foundation for even greater achievements and impact for the future. In 2024, we will continue in our commitment to expand our understanding of the unique needs, aspirations, and stories of each community, fostering trust and respect," Laura Nicholson states.



**INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF AN IMPACT TRIP?**

Visit our website at [ManyHandsImpact.com](https://www.ManyHandsImpact.com) to learn more or email [Impact@mh4h.org](mailto:Impact@mh4h.org) to learn about upcoming trips.



Photos: **Top Left** - Guests enjoy breakfast and conversation at the annual Hotcakes for Haiti; **Top Right** - Tim Brand (left) and Julie Hulstein chat at the Better Together event; **Bottom Left** - Many Hands staff pose for a picture at the annual Impact Breakfast; **Bottom Middle** - Impact Breakfast attendees grab their nametags before the event; **Bottom Right** - Tim Brand prays with his family at the Impact Breakfast event

# GATHERING & CELEBRATING



**Emily Van Gent**  
Engagement Manager

Reflecting back on 2023, it was a banner year for Many Hands events. Starting off the year strong was the annual Hotcakes for Haiti breakfast at Third Church in Pella. A fun morning of pancakes, eggs, fellowship, and more led to over \$15,000 being raised to help with construction costs at the Murphy Town Community Center in Abaco.

In June, a new partner event launched in Sioux Center called Better Together. At this event, we kicked off a partnership with Vi Bella, a social enterprise and job creation ministry empowering artisans in Haiti and Mexico. Through

this partnership, Many Hands and Vi Bella are providing sustainable employment opportunities for people we walk alongside in the Pignon area. Almost \$100,000 was raised to fund the launch of this initiative. It was really inspiring to see over 200 people come together to support our Haitian brothers and sisters.

As we continued to celebrate 15 years of Many Hands ministry in 2023, we held our 5th annual Pignon in Pella event in September. It was a beautiful evening at Tamory Hall, gathering with familiar and new supporters of Many Hands. Together we honored



Photos: **Top Left** - Many Hands staff, past and present, pose for a picture at the annual Pignon in Pella; **Top Right** - Eric Recker speaks to guests at Pignon in Pella; **Bottom Left** - Pastor Ryan speaks at the Impact Breakfast; **Bottom Right** - Tim Brand speaks at the Impact Breakfast

our past and dreamt of the future. Six former missionaries in Haiti attended and were celebrated for their call and time served. Over \$30,000 was pledged, giving us a strong foundation for what is needed to complete our Generously Growing Impact initiative.

Five years ago, we launched the Many Hands Business Breakfast to build a community of leaders focused on challenging what's possible. After five years of impact and growth, the Many Hands Business Breakfast transformed into the Impact Breakfast. This change reflects our desire to build a community moved to challenge what's possible

and impact lives through love in action. We want to continue to provide a space for faith-filled connection, collaboration, and inspiration.

Over 300 leaders joined us for an inspiring morning at Lutheran Church of Hope as we were challenged by Tim Brand, CEO of Many Hands, Mary Andringa, Chair Emerita at Vermeer Corporation, and Pastor Ryan Forbes, International Consultant from Abaco. We explored how we can continue to choose a life of blessing despite the brokenness that comes our way. Thank you to those who joined us, our outstanding speakers, Lutheran Church of Hope

for hosting us, and our sponsors, Iowa Fireworks, Randall Roofing, and Vander Haag's Inc.

Many Hands is grateful for all those who attended and supported our events in 2023. Connecting with those who champion our ministry in person brings life and hope to our team. We look forward to another exciting year of gathering and continuing the work God has for us.

The Many Hands volunteer team pose for a picture at Lighthouse Community Center



## WEEK OF IMPACT



**Melissa Nelson**  
Volunteer Coordinator

In 2022 Many Hands started the Week of Impact to give back to our local communities, shine a light in the darkness, and spread a message of hope. Ephesians 4:11-12 says: "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." We are called to serve and care for one another.

For a week in September 2023, Many Hands staff set aside time to demonstrate Love in Action through service.

The week started with The Spencer Thrift Market team serving at the Grand Avenue Community Outreach (GACO). GACO is a volunteer-driven nonprofit that provides social services and outreach programs designed to meet the physical, spiritual, and long-term needs of people in Northwest Iowa and beyond.

The Indianola Thrift Market team came alongside the Lighthouse Community Center, serving dinner and spending time with the people

they served. The Lighthouse shines a light every Tuesday night at 5:30, serving meals and bringing people from all walks of life together around a shared table. They recognize the power of fellowship, fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging meaningful connections among individuals in the community.

The Metro Thrift Markets closed early in order to provide employees with the opportunity to serve. They were joined by the team from Pella and several volunteers to pack meals with Meals From the Heartland. Nearly 40 Many Hands staff and volunteers joined together to make a significant impact, providing meals for families suffering from food insecurity.

"I'm trying more and more to have the mindset that none of what I've been blessed with is mine anyway," said Development Officer Tyler Kamerman. "The more ways that I can figure out how to give back to people using what God has blessed me with, the better. That, I think, is what generosity is all about."



# 2023 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

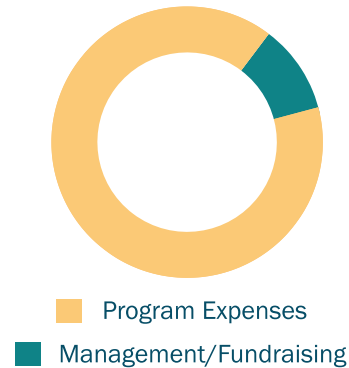
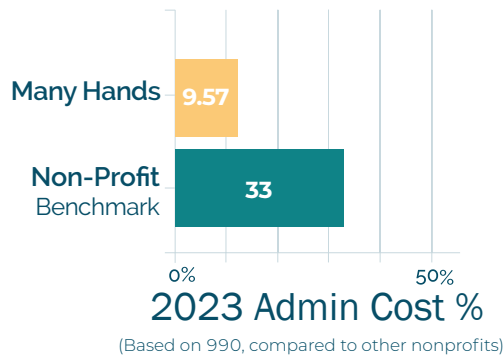
Our 2023 Form 990 provides details of all our income, expenses, and administrative costs. We are very happy to see Many Hands had an administrative cost percentage of 9.57%. What that means: for every \$1.00 given to Many Hands for Haiti, \$.90 of that dollar goes toward programs. The benchmark for administrative costs for nonprofits according to Charity Navigator is 33%.

Here are our audited financials for 2023:

<b>Total program service expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,472,642</b>
Agriculture and feeding program	\$ 440,999
Economic Dev program	\$ 82,713
Education program	\$ 677,883
Medical Assistance program	\$ 199,675
Safe Homes program	\$ 137,513
Short-term Trips	\$ 251,022
Spiritual Development	\$ 370,459
Campus Construction	\$ 481,274
Many Hands Thrift Stores	\$ 3,798,770
Fundraising	\$ 142,257
Management & General	\$ 572,828

**Total Income**  
**\$ 7,247,278**

**End of Year Net Assets**  
**\$ 1,968,665**



## PARTNERS



# A YEAR OF SELAH AWAITS



**Tim J. Brand**  
CEO and Founder  
Many Hands

The word whispered by the Divine over the organization for 2024, is selah. It's not a single note but a symphony of meanings: a pause for reflection, a rock of unwavering faith, and the everlasting echo of eternity.

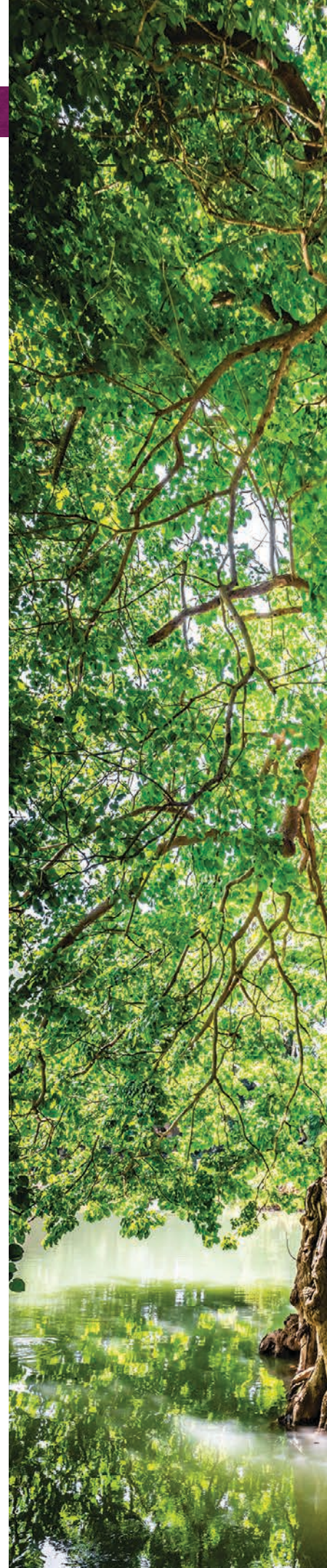
This year, we're invited to pause, not in retreat, but in rediscovery. In that sacred stillness, we'll find the strength to become the rocks of transformation: steadfast anchors amidst the storm, radiating hope and resilience.

But selah isn't just about individual solace; it's about building something eternal, together. We are not soldiers weary from battle but architects of a future etched in love. Each prayer, each act of kindness, each brick laid in the foundation of our mission ripples outwards, creating a legacy extending beyond us.

Yes, the world seems bleak on this side of Heaven, but remember: dawn always follows darkness. In God's perfect timing, He makes all things new. Every life we touch, every soul we guide, has the potential for an eternity bathed in His light. We have the privilege to walk with them, hand-in-hand, through sunshine and storm.

So, let's not be discouraged. Let's rise, invigorated by the timely breath He bestows. Let's join the symphony of selah, each voice adding harmony to the grand composition. This year, we don't just survive, we thrive. We build, we love, we leave our mark on the world, all while basking in the radiant peace of selah.

This is your invitation. Join us on this journey of reflection, resilience, and lasting impact. Together, let's make 2024 a year etched not in struggle but in the soaring melody of selah.





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## HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORY

<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b> .....	<i>Tim Brand</i>
<b>CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER</b> .....	<i>Tyler Kamerman</i>
<b>DIRECTOR OF HR</b> .....	<i>Jon Pedersen</i>
<b>DIRECTOR OF MARKETING</b> .....	<i>Rob van Beek</i>
<b>FINANCIAL MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Marcena Schwab</i>
<b>IMPACT TRIP MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Pam Osborn</i>
<b>ENGAGEMENT MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Emily Van Gent</i>
<b>VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Melissa Nelson</i>
<b>TECHNICAL WRITER &amp; AV COORDINATOR</b> .....	<i>Kellee Van Hemert</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT &amp; MARKETING SPECIALIST</b> .....	<i>Magen Andrasko</i>
<b>DESIGN &amp; VIDEO SPECIALIST</b> .....	<i>Kelsey O'Connell</i>

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## THRIFT DIRECTORY

<b>DISTRICT MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Steve Lucas</i>
<b>CLIVE MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Crystal Peace</i>
<b>SPENCER MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Karmen Brown</i>
<b>GRIMES MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Krishna Foreman</i>
<b>MERLE HAY MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Melissa Tafta</i>
<b>INDIANOLA MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Carla Weed</i>
<b>NEW STORE PROJECT MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Jeff Thomas</i>
<b>OPERATIONS MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Jeff Andrews</i>
<b>LOGISTICS MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Mike Frandsen</i>

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## HAITI DIRECTORY

<b>SPIRITUAL &amp; LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Jean-Ronel Joseph</i>
<b>LOGISTICS MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Yves Garard</i>
<b>SECURITY MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Katou Alexis</i>
<b>CONSTRUCTION MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Rene Deforge</i>
<b>AGRONOMY MANAGER</b> .....	<i>Claudin Augustin</i>
<b>MANAGER FIRST 1,000 DAYS</b> .....	<i>Kethlin Vilbon</i>
<b>PRINCIPAL - SCHOOL OF LIGHT</b> .....	<i>Micul Pierre</i>
<b>OPERATIONS OFFICER</b> .....	<i>Craig Gabhart</i>
<b>U.S. LEAD - MINISTRY &amp; BENEVOLENCE</b> .....	<i>Christi Gabhart</i>
<b>U.S. LEAD - LEADERSHIP &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<i>Mark Kauk</i>
<b>U.S. LEAD - FIRST 1,000 DAYS</b> .....	<i>Melissa Kauk</i>

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## ABACO DIRECTORY

<b>DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY - ABACO</b> .....	<i>Tim Winkler</i>
<b>DIRECTOR OF FIRST 1,000 DAYS</b> .....	<i>Deborah Winkler</i>
<b>DIRECTOR OF IMPACT</b> .....	<i>Laura Nicholson</i>
<b>DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION &amp; EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<i>Lisa Berg</i>
<b>DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY &amp; BENEVOLENCE</b> .....	<i>Sam Berg</i>
<b>ARK CLASSROOM TEACHER AND LIBRARIAN</b> .....	<i>Celeka Mills</i>

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Many Hands is an Iowa-based nonprofit creating local and global life-transformation by strengthening families. Established in 2008, the organization focuses on six key areas for transformation, including education, agronomy, leadership development, safe homes, medical assistance, and economic development. Each year, the organization reaches at least 25,000 people through their Caribbean operations, IMPACT trips, and Many Hands Thrift Markets located in Iowa (Spencer, Grimes, Clive, Merle Hay, Indianola).

Many Hands is called to transform together, to be love in action, in a broken world.

709 Main St, Pella, IA 50219  /ManyHandsForHaiti

**[mh4h.org](http://mh4h.org) | [mh4a.org](http://mh4a.org) | [manyhandsthift.com](http://manyhandsthift.com) | [manyhandsimpact.com](http://manyhandsimpact.com)**

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— CELEBRATING —  
**15** YEARS OF  
LOVE IN ACTION

