

Healing Hands International News



"God's Healing. Your Hands."

Issue 2012-3

www.hhi.org

Food And Hope For The Future

David Phipps has dreams of being a successful gardener, and dreams of helping individuals and families to become well fed and independent. An avid reader, David has researched several books on agriculture, consulted with teachers of agriculture, and has detailed a plan for an income producing farm. Until recently, however, David Phipps had not turned a shovel for twenty years. He is an inmate at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville, Tennessee

Through a program initiated by the warden and chaplain of Riverbend, Healing Hands International was invited to work with a pilot group of ten inmates to break ground on a garden "within the walls" of the prison. Randy McCadams, a west Tennessee farmer and Healing Hands volunteer, and Jim Pounders, HHI staff member, spent two evenings with the inmates, preparing them to "start small" and bring physical growth and spiritual pride to fellow inmates. Inmates learned that Jesus often illustrated his teaching with stories of agriculture, as in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13).

On October 6, 2012, McCadams, Pounders, and the selected inmates tilled and planted a 30 feet by 50 feet garden on the Riverbend compound. A winter crop of mustard and turnip greens were sewn. Following the winter, as the soil becomes more receptive through sun, rain, fertilizing



Prisoners at Riverbend Maximum Security Prison break ground on their garden led by HHI Ag instructor, Randall McCadams.

and growth, a broader effort is planned in the spring of 2013. With the help of 20 inmates, raised beds and drip irrigation will enable inmates to enlarge the garden, planting and harvesting vegetables which can be consumed by their fellow inmates.

David Phipps and his fellow inmates are learning about God's plan to provide physical and spiritual food for his people, and in the process, they may learn how to

provide for their families and perhaps even provide a livelihood when they are released.

Has your congregation considered planting a community garden or adding agriculture to your current prison ministry? If so, a great way to get started would be to attend an HHI stateside workshop. See the chart below for more info or call us at 615.832.2000.

U.S.A Food Training Workshops in 2013

Survival Gardening & Rainwater Harvesting

Food Preservation

Ft. Worth, Texas: March 19-21

Nashville, Tennessee: April 22-24

Illinois: TBA

Nashville, Tennessee: August 1-2

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Volunteer Spotlight: Jerkins Family



Volunteering can be a family affair and Healing Hands loves to see families give their time together. A perfect example of this is the Jerkins family.

Brittney and Karen serve food every year at Walk 4 Water.

Dr. Gary Jerkins has been on the board of HHI for many years and has been one of our greatest supporters. His wife, Karen, and daughter, Brittney, are just as faithful in their service.

This family has never missed a Walk 4 Water in Nashville and often take on the task of serving lunch after walking the four miles. Also, Karen and Brittney are on the planning committee for the Women of Hope conference and give much of their time and energy to help make that event successful.

The Jerkins are members of the Hillsboro church of Christ and have also founded their own non-profit called SeaStar Kids which benefits children in Ukraine.

Is your family looking for service opportunities to do together? Contact Cindy Herring in Nashville at 615.832.2000 or Marilyn Holland in Ft. Worth at 817.536.3383 for more information.



Gary and Karen have never missed a Nashville Walk 4 Water.

Women of Hope conference

Woman of Hope:

Grace Farrar



"A Sisterhood of Hope"

Woman of Inspiration:

Sara Pigg Walker



February 1-2, 2013 in Murfreesboro, TN Register today: www.hhi.org/womenofhope

"Aggie Agnes" Has Hope

In June, Agnes was one of 75 farmers who participated in the 3 day village food security workshop at Tulia, Kenya. In the workshop co-sponsored by Healing Hands International and Caring for Kenya, Ebenezer Udofia and Carl Burkybile taught composting, construction of raised planting beds, drip irrigation, and mulching.

The ten workshop beds plus previously constructed planting beds along with rabbit production, laying hens, milk goats, and rainwater harvesting are serving as a demonstration farm where people are coming to see and learn. Seeing what can be done gives them hope for the future and results in additional workshop request for other communities.

Most of the Tulia workshop graduates have made compost piles and many have constructed raised planting beds. Once graduates have a compost pile and a raised planting bed, HHI is committed to providing drip irrigation kits. A farmer's first drip irrigated planting bed will provide the vegetables to feed the family and the additional beds will provide income for school fees and other family needs.

Justus Mutua, workshop host, says he is especially proud of Agnes. She, with the help of her children, constructed and planted 17 raised beds. When Justus saw even the small children in the family carrying water from the river for the planting

beds, he used sister organization Caring for Kenya funds to purchased Agnes a donkey. With help of the donkey to carry water, Agnes says she plans to expand her garden.

Agnes is already getting daily income from her garden. Agnes is so excited about this "new way of farming" that she has trained 15 other families! Healing Hands Director of Agriculture says, "Agnes is an example of what we see wherever we hold food security workshops. People are excited about what they learn, they are using what they learn, and they are teaching others."

A \$1,000 donation will fund a village workshop and \$300 will provide drip irrigation kits to help 150 people feed themselves for a lifetime. Together we can make a difference helping people move from starvation to survival to productive living. Visit www.hhi.org/fundraising-page to start a campaign and fund a village workshop!



Agnes is pictured above in her first raised bed garden.

Giving Kids A Voice In Haiti

"It is through education that children are empowered to think for themselves and learn that their voice has power to make changes for the betterment of their lives." This is the philosophy that Dr. Bobbie Solley has brought to the education program at Healing Hands International.

As Bobbie began to make preparations for her trip to Haiti for the beginning of their school year, she collected school supplies from supporters of HHI and put together 150 learning packs for each of the students in the school. A few days before she left the U.S. she got an email from the principal telling her that there would now be 300 students!

Rather than panicking, we simply turned to our faithful supporters and got the word out that we had an urgent need. Over the weekend, sewing groups across the country spent hours sewing drawstring backpacks. Individuals collected school supplies to send in and before Bobbie left we had 300 packs ready to go with her. We were again amazed and overwhelmed by the generous response of God's people.

Bobbie had a wonderful week teaching the teachers at the Gantier school how to interact with their students. She said that it was amazing to see the wide eyes on the students as their teachers read to them for the first time.

There are several ways that you can be involved in giving a voice to children around the world:

- I. Give a Learning Pack: For a one-time donation of \$25 you can ensure that a child has a backpack filled with all of the supplies she will need for a successful school year.
- II. Adopt a Teacher: For \$15 a month you can ensure that a teacher has all of the



Bobbie Solley, HHI Director of Education, helps children in Haiti learn to communicate with their teachers.

supplies and books she needs for a successful learning environment.

- III. Train a Teacher: For \$30 a month you can provide a teacher with the training she needs to change a culture one child at a time. This includes an intensive week long workshop in the summer, as well as several 2-3 sessions throughout the year with children in the classroom.

Also, if you are a teacher or retired teacher looking for an opportunity to serve,



Ladies from the Maple Hill church of Christ in Lebanon, TN spent their Saturday sewing drawstring bags for education packs in Haiti.

we are looking for people like you. Contact Bobbie Solley at bsolley@hhi.org for more information.

Hope Parties Going Viral

Women love a chance to get together, eat, shop and have a good time. So, why not do all of those things and also empower your sisters around the world at the same time?!

Hope parties began just a few weeks ago and already six women have invited us into their homes and close to 100 women have learned about *Women Worth a Million* and become supporters!

When you hostess a Hope party in your home, all you have to do is invite your friends, fix a few light snacks and enjoy the evening. HHI staff will do the rest.

Your guests will learn more about the program while playing some fun games and shopping. For more information or to book your own party, contact Jessica in the Nashville office at



615.832.2000 or visit www.hhi.org/hope-parties.

HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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World Relief News

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New Vice President of Texas Operations

Growth is exciting! As Healing Hands continues to grow, we continue to add awesome new players to our team. Doug Fair is no exception.

Doug will be leading our Texas office and spending time sharing the HHI story with our friends in the Lone Star state. For more information about Doug or to contact him, visit www.hhi.org/staff or email dfair@hhi.org.



Doug helps unload Magi boxes while on a visit to the Nashville, TN office.

From Texas To Tanzania

A young mother in southwest Tanzania showed up at the Chimala Mission Hospital this summer with her eight month old son. She was very scared and confused, because her baby was not breathing. The medical staff at the hospital was able to quickly begin nebulized albuterol treatments on the boy and he was well enough to go home in just a few days.

This is just one example of how medical supplies sent by Healing Hands International can save lives. This same week burn patients were treated, abdominal surgeries were performed and countless minor procedures were successfully completed because of medical supplies provided by supporters of HHI.

If you know of a source for medical supplies, please contact us in Nashville at 615.832.2000 or in Ft. Worth at 817.536.3383.



Doctors at the Chimala Mission Hospital in Tanzania use medical supplies provided by HHI.