



HEALING HANDS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Issue 3, Fall 2022



On the Cover:

Neighbors Reap Bountiful Harvests

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Neighbors Reap Bountiful Harvests

Bikita South is located in the Masvingo Province of Zimbabwe. This district has several cluster gardens that Healing Hands International has had the blessed opportunity of partnering with over the last decade, one of which is the Kufaranemvu Cluster Garden. Cluster gardens are common in African culture as they allow multiple families within a community to contribute to the overall well-being of a large garden. The benefits are endless as each member pays their dues and works hard alongside their neighbors. They have learned that working together reaps a larger and more successful harvest for everyone.

We are excited to introduce you to Melania! She is a wife and mother of three children. Currently, she has five raised planting beds with vegetables such as covo (African kale), onions, sweet cabbage, beans and butternut squash. Melania was described to our team as one of the hardest working members of the Kufaranemvu cluster garden. Water shortage or not, the sustainable gardening techniques taught to this community in the Hunger to Harvest Workshops have been pivotal to the success of produce, just like Melania's.

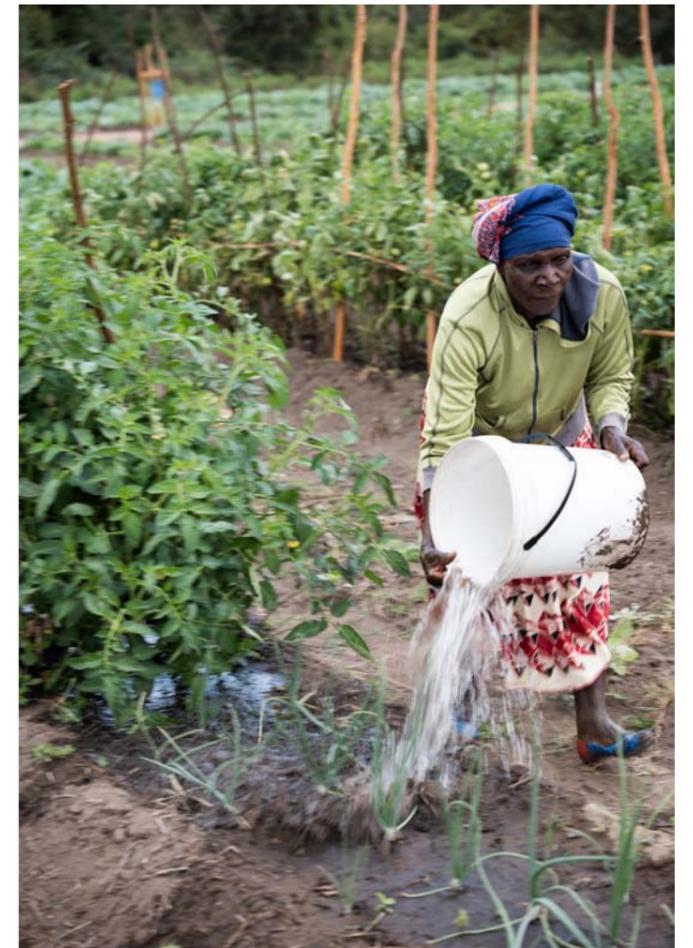
Additionally, the Njeremoto Cluster Garden has been an amazing success. This was the first community garden that HHI partnered with in Bikita, and it remains one of the best in terms of production and implementation of the Hunger to Harvest Workshop techniques. This garden has a total of 85 members and each contributes to its success.

We are grateful to our faithful and trusted coworker John Dube for the way he seeks out communities in desperate need of hope. John Dube is the HHI Hunger to Harvest Trainer for all of Zimbabwe, and he is very much a pivotal part of this organization. In discussing these two particular gardens and their great success, John emphasized



that food production continues to improve, which increases food security. He shared that lives have been saved and livelihoods improved.

The Hunger to Harvest Program has impacted communities socially, economically, morally and spiritually. If you are interested in bringing more communities from *hunger to harvest*, simply scan the QR code.





Walking With Peachtree

The Peachtree City Church of Christ in Georgia hosted its first Walk4Water in 2020—just in time for COVID! Although the first event was a virtual Walk4Water, a seed was planted in this congregation that has bloomed into something beautiful. Over the last three years, Peachtree City has sponsored 24 wells through their walks! Their church has actively participated with the MAGI project, and they were involved with collecting buckets for the Ukrainian relief efforts. This congregation has a heart for service, as Missions Deacon and Walk4Water co-coordinator Jeff Richardson shared with us: **“Our church has always been very mission-minded over the years. But Walk4Water has proven itself to be the most worthwhile event ever. We all have our own personal causes that we get passionate about—like helping the poor with better education, nutrition, health, sanitation, and agricultural opportunities or helping with the plight of women and children in impoverished areas and human trafficking. What’s amazing about Walk4Water and the Clean Water project at HHI is that it addresses ALL of these causes. And that is why I believe this resonated so much with all of our church members and our community.”**

Walk4Water can help the local church bridge the gap between knowing about the issues Jeff mentioned and wanting to help solve them. Chris Parker, the Family Involvement Minister and co-coordinator of the Walk4Water event, said, **“I love Walk4Water so much because it accomplishes three things for our congregation: meeting the need for water around the world, bringing our members together to work toward a good and common goal, and showing our local community that at Peachtree City Church of Christ we love each other and love to serve.”** This year, the walk had around 50 community members attend who were not members of the congregation. Elder Andy Garner added, **“The leadership team at the Peachtree City Church of Christ is so thankful for the vision of Healing Hands International for providing mission opportunities and combined focus for God’s people to be part of making a difference in this world.”**

From hosting a Walk4Water event to moving into other HHI ministries, this congregation truly represents the mission of Walk4Water: *to connect willing hearts with opportunities to serve.* As Andy Garner said, **“God is alive and working in His people. No obstacle is too great, no mountain too high, nor well too deep that God cannot provide.”**



Partnership Produces Pure Water

Meet Dawun! She is a member of the Gnani Church of Christ in Ghana. Dawun has three daughters, and she is all too familiar with having to walk for water. For most of her life, she has walked two miles multiple times a day to the Oti River to collect water for her family. Not only is the walk long and hard, especially during the summer when temperatures can reach up to 105 degrees, but the water she collects is not safe and puts her family at risk.

Dawun said, **“I am grateful to God and to the people who donated so I have clean water close by so I can care for my family.”**

This well is the work of four different organizations coming together to make an impact in the lives of women, just like Dawun. The community of Gnani is in the service area of the Yendi Church of Christ Medical Clinic, a location of *International Health Care Foundation (IHCF)*. Based in Searcy, IHCF hosted a Walk4Water, along with *Ghana West Africa Missions / Water for West Africa*. This walk provided the funding for the well in Gnani and a well at the Yendi clinic. The *Rural Water Development Program (RWDP)* in Ghana drilled the well. We are so thankful to have such great partners in the United States and around the world!

A Vision For Exponential Impact

As we wrap up a year of celebrating what God has done through this ministry over the past 30 years, we are excited to present to you a vision for the future and the increasing impact we can have together. This five-year plan was developed with input from many of you—our faithful donors and volunteers. We look forward to walking this vision out together and celebrating what God is doing all along the way!

1. Strengthening Programs

Over the course of the last 30 years, God has led this ministry to develop new and vibrant programs, meeting the needs of those who are hurting and providing opportunities for both physical and spiritual transformation. **By listening to our staff and partners around the world, we will identify unmet needs and develop new programs that address these issues within in the communities we serve. HHI will establish best practices and key performance indicators to ensure excellence in everything we do.**



2.

Ensuring Financial Stability

In 2022, we were able to establish a quasi endowment, giving donors the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy. **Over the next five years, we will continue to grow this endowment with the goal of fully funding the operating expenses of this ministry, allowing 100% of your gifts to go directly into funding the programs you are so passionate about!** We will also continue to develop new and engaging giving opportunities that will allow you, the donor, to feel connected to those in need around the world.



3.

Building & Enhancing Communications

Accountability and communication with you, our faithful donors and volunteers, is integral to the success of the work we are doing together. Over the next year, HHI will introduce a brand-new website allowing you to better connect to the stories of transformation happening around the world. Additionally, we are establishing a strategy with professionals around the world to capture pictures and videos that allow us to communicate the stories of those we serve in an excellent and inspiring way.



4.

Developing People

The greatest asset of this ministry is people. When we invest in people, the impact is exponential. HHI is developing a staffing plan, both here and around the world, to support the fulfillment of the strategic plan. **Through our vibrant network of trusted churches, we will continue to identify Christian leaders with training and experience in sustainable community transformation to add to the Healing Hands family.**

HHI has always been a connector between Christians in the United States and those in need around the world. However, there are still many churches here in the U.S. who don't know about the incredible opportunities to serve through HHI. **Over the next five years, we plan to invest more in building relationships with individuals and churches, enabling them to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the world.**



MISSION

Our mission is to aid, equip, and empower those in need around the world in the name of Jesus Christ so they might experience God's healing grace.

VISION

Our vision is a world filled with hope where physical needs are met and hearts are surrendered to Jesus Christ.



MAGI Delivers Joy In India

MAGI has officially partnered with HHI's friends in India! This summer, over 200 children and their families from 15 different congregations benefited from MAGI, thanks to those of you who have financially supported the MAGI Sponsor-A-Box initiative. This was the first MAGI distribution by our faithful in-country partners, Prasanthy and Anusha, who lead vocational schools in Nellore that are supported by the Women of Hope program.

Anusha shared, **“Our friends were excited to be participating in this outreach ministry. It was such a blessing to see all of the children opening their MAGI boxes. After they went home to put on their new shoes or dresses, we were overcome with joy as they sent us pictures expressing their gratitude. The church leaders feel that this will be a great blessing to their communities.”**

Initially launched in 2020 amidst the unknown factors of the pandemic, the MAGI Sponsor-A-Box initiative has allowed HHI to empower local partners on the ground to purchase similar contents that would go in a regular MAGI box. The best part is that they are customized to the needs of that specific community or village. This not only saves time by our team not shipping the MAGI boxes, but also it gives each of us the opportunity to support the local economy, as well.

Since its inception, Sponsor-A-Box has delivered funds for eight distributions to over 2,200 kids in Kenya, Zimbabwe and India. As HHI looks toward the last quarter of 2022, we are in discussions with partners to implement MAGI Sponsor-A-Box in Brazil, Paraguay and Uganda. If you would like to support MAGI in this way, simply scan the QR code, or call our office at 615-832-2000.



One Loaf At A Time

In 2019, the HHI Hunger to Harvest Program was seeing great success after a recent gardening workshop in Tombolombo, Malawi. Many of the women who participated were asking how to add value to the flourishing crops they were harvesting. Ten of the women developed a business plan to launch a bakery, utilizing the grain grown in their gardens. Little did they know, these women would spark a ripple effect of empowerment!

daughter. I can afford fertilizer for my farm, and I am able to feed my family.” Grace Ng’oma, a member of the pork co-op said, **“I am now living a happy life. I am self-reliant. I can feed my family, and I can afford fertilizer for my farm.”** Although the women are part of different business groups, the impact is the same!

In June, Women of Hope was thankful to hire one member of the pork co-op, Loveness Nkhata, to become



The HHI Women of Hope Program extended a revolving loan to the bakery, meaning that all loan repayments from the bakery would be cycled to another women’s group to start another business. Now, there are more than 30 women from the Tombolombo Church of Christ involved in the bakery, a poultry business and a pork business! All of these women are blessed by the profits and financial stewardship of the initial bakery.



One of the bakery participants, Marietta Banda, shared, **“I am so happy to be a part of the bakery. Now, I am able to pay school fees for my**

the Women of Hope Coordinator in Malawi! Loveness will focus on developing these young businesses, mentoring women in business skills and expanding HHI’s work in the country. Loveness is excited to begin discovering what kinds of talents God has given these women and using those talents to transform their communities.

Just like the Lord multiplied the offering of loaves and fishes during the Sermon on the Mount, so He has blessed and multiplied the investment of the bakery in Malawi. Through training and a small loan, women are able to spread blessings throughout their communities, breaking cycles of poverty one loaf at a time.



Buckets are Changing Lives

More and more of your family buckets are being delivered into the hands of Ukrainians in their homeland. Our team was encouraged to learn that the actual buckets themselves have been great resources to the people, as they are having to search to collect water for their families.

Our Ukrainian brothers and sisters have not only experienced physical trauma, but also mental and emotional trauma. They are carrying the weight of what they have experienced, and they are in places where connections with people who speak their language can be few. And yet, in the darkness, God is providing. Yulia is a counselor in Ukraine. When the war broke out, she and her three girls traveled to Poland and then on to Zagreb, Croatia, where they are receiving support from the Kuslanova church family. HHI was grateful to cover the transportation costs. Yulia's husband, Dema, stayed in Ukraine. He founded the Let's Love non-profit and helps organize the Volunteer Brothers, a group that distributes humanitarian aid inside of Ukraine. Yulia has been meeting with a few people via Zoom, but since she is not certified in Croatia, she cannot charge for these services. With assistance HHI is providing, Yulia will be able to provide counseling services part time and still provide the care her family needs during this time.

Additionally, HHI is grateful to be in a position to assist local churches as they care for Ukrainian refugees and their children. Through your generosity, HHI, in partnership with SeaStar Kids and the Sopot Church of Christ, is going to help provide school supplies and coats for 700 Ukrainian refugee children. School supplies are also being provided to children who are being served by the Cluj Church of Christ in Romania.

The damage is daunting, but HHI feels confident that God will continue to introduce our team to the right people at the right time—just as He always has. Thank you for walking alongside us in ministry. None of this would be possible with you.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts were given in memory of the following from June 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022. Donors are in light-face type.

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On the Cover: Cluster gardening in Zimbabwe is moving 85 families from Hunger to Harvest!

How to Donate to HHI Using Your IRA

For many people, IRAs increase their taxable income when they take distributions. Individuals aged 70½ or older are permitted to direct distributions from their traditional IRAs to registered charitable organizations, such as Healing Hands International. For those who are required to take minimum distributions from an IRA, the amount transferred to charity will qualify toward the individual's required minimum distribution for the year.

- Distributions are limited to a maximum of \$100,000 per year.
- Distributions are excluded from taxable income.

Using this method of giving could also have other side benefits, such as lowering the giver's marginal tax bracket and reducing the giver's taxable income, possibly reducing the amount of taxation on social security benefits. *If you would like help in submitting a request to your IRA administrator or have any questions, please contact Scott Saunders at 615-832-2000 or email him at ssaunders@hhi.org.*



Healing Hands International

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