



HEALING HANDS  
INTERNATIONAL



On the Cover:

# TEAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ISSUE 2, SUMMER 2025



John Dube (pictured on cover) is a Country Director for Healing Hands International, representing HHI in and around Zimbabwe in Southeast Africa. John identifies communities in need of clean water, agricultural training, women's business training, and more. He also oversees the work of other trainers and partners, supporting them as a leader, mentor, and preacher. A graduate of the Mutare School of Preaching, John is passionate about serving the people of Zimbabwe, bringing deep spiritual wisdom to the work of meeting physical needs.

So far in 2025, John has been instrumental in serving communities affected by drought. Through HHI's Disaster Response program, John identified 11 Zimbabwean villages in need of food. He reported that, for people in these villages, attending "social and spiritual events like church gatherings has become secondary after seeking food first." In coordination with the village elders and leaders, John orchestrated the distribution of hundreds of bags of maize mealie, a type of coarse flour made from corn, reaching approximately 5,143 individuals.







John and other trainers and coordinators do more than just bring resources to communities in need; they talk with the people, record their stories and words of appreciation, and report on the spiritual impact these efforts have. Coordinators and trainers are equipped to preach the Gospel, sharing the Good News in tandem with sharing resources. In the village of Checheni, John interviewed a 66-year-old woman named Marita Machando. "Age and several ailments have caught up with me, and my life is at risk," she said. "I can't do hard labor, yet I need to eat and feed my family. I just felt God has spoken to you, Healing Hands [International], to come at the right time to be this village's rescue."

Many families in a neighboring village lost herds of cattle to the drought and to disease in January. Thomas, who lost four cows, said he "had no hope for a better harvest." Thanks to the food distribution,

however, Thomas is now "filled with hope and happiness" and has "every reason to celebrate."

Jokonia, a 65-year-old man from another local village, was initially doubtful that they would actually receive the help they were promised. When John returned with the bags of maize mealie, Jokonia was shocked. "First time in my life to get such a large portion of food aid, especially at such [a] critical moment... Thank you, God, for sending us a true friend." Coordinators like John Dube enable Healing Hands International to work intentionally rather than with a one-size-fits-all approach. John reported that the food distribution was timed perfectly with the lean season, in which "almost every family had exhausted its food reserve." Thanks to the food distribution, families could wait for the next harvest with hope rather than fear. When droughts, famines, and natural disasters strike, families are often

left without support or hope for the future. The vast majority of these events never make the news. Without people like John living in and among these communities, we would never connect with people like Thomas, Marita, and Jokonia; their stories would never be told. HHI coordinators and trainers save lives, serve thousands of people, and take time to share powerful stories of faith and resilience.

"To me, the experience was both emotional and spiritually touching as I was humbled by the stories, words of gratitude, and appreciation from the individual beneficiaries... The desire to work for God and our Lord Jesus Christ, whose personality was deeply rooted in saving humanity, compels me."

**For as little as \$25, you can support people like John making an impact in the field. Become a Change Maker today!**



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**HEALING HANDS INT'L**  
TO  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
IKOT ABASI UFAT, NSIT UBUM LGA.

"We have been a catalyst for change in our community.  
Their efforts have brought hope and restoration to our lives.  
We're grateful for their commitment to improving our lives  
and providing us with the resources we need to thrive.  
May God bless their work."

POURED 067

# CLEAN WATER

*in Nigeria*





A common mantra in the Clean Water program at Healing Hands International is that clean water changes everything. The field staff who identify communities lacking access to potable water see both the need and the transformation a well can bring. Victor Nyong (pictured in left photo, on the right), HHI's Nigeria Trainer, plays a key role in this effort. His primary responsibility is leading agricultural workshops—an essential step toward holistic village transformation—but these workshops can't take place without access to water.

So far in 2025, Victor has coordinated 12 well drillings in Nigeria, reaching approximately 19,000 people. At each well location, Victor shares the Gospel message and encourages the local church communities. A graduate of Bear Valley School of Preaching, Victor also serves as a teacher at the Lugbe Abuja Secondary School.

Victor's reports are always eloquent and detailed, describing the rich cultural heritage of the regions he visits and how the universal need for water cultivates unique expressions of gratitude, hope, and opportunity.

One of the communities where HHI drilled a well is home to the Ibibio ethnic group, one of the largest ethnic groups in the Akwa Ibom State. According to Victor, they have a "rich cultural heritage, including their traditional music, dance, and art." With an economy driven primarily by agriculture, water scarcity is a "crippling issue [that] perpetuates a cycle of poverty, poor health, and diminished opportunities."

Spare time, improved health, and economic opportunity become more abundant in communities with access to clean water. One of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Nkoyo Akpan—a mother of three—shared that, "the borehole is more than just a source of water; it is a catalyst for change, opening doors to new

opportunities and possibilities." Victor reported that Mrs. Akpan can now devote more time to her children, her cassava processing business, and her own well-being. The well not only improved her quality of life, but also gave her a sense of dignity. "It has been a game-changer for me and my family," she says. "I can now provide for my children without breaking my back. Thank you to everyone who made this possible."

Coordinators and trainers like Victor take their first-hand knowledge of regions like Akwa Ibom and create lasting, positive change. "I am deeply grateful to Jehovah God, Healing Hands International, and the Coordinator, Bro. Victor Nyong, for making this project a reality," says Meyenne Cyprin Bassey, another beneficiary of the well.

**For as little as \$25, you can support people like Victor making an impact in the field. Become a Change Maker today!**





# HUNGER TO HARVEST

*in Uganda*





Over 650 people...this is the number of lives that have been changed by Ugandan Hunger to Harvest Trainer Joseph Edema just this year (pictured above). Edema's passion for teaching people to feed themselves is eclipsed only by his passion for sharing the Gospel with those same precious souls.

When asked about the most rewarding part of his job, Edema shared, "The work has made me who I am through exposing me to many communities, learning new ideas, and creating more friends. Through it, I have had the opportunity to preach to many who have been saved with the message of Christ."

One of the longest tenured members of the HHI international team (12 years), Edema has traveled all over Uganda—sometimes over 300 miles—to train communities in food sustainability. Many of the villages where he hosts training are inaccessible by public transportation, so he travels by motorbike to reach them, often

carrying drip lines, buckets and seedlings. But he is undeterred because he has seen the "fruit" of his efforts over time: families enjoying more than one meal per day, and children able to pay school fees from the sale of excess produce.

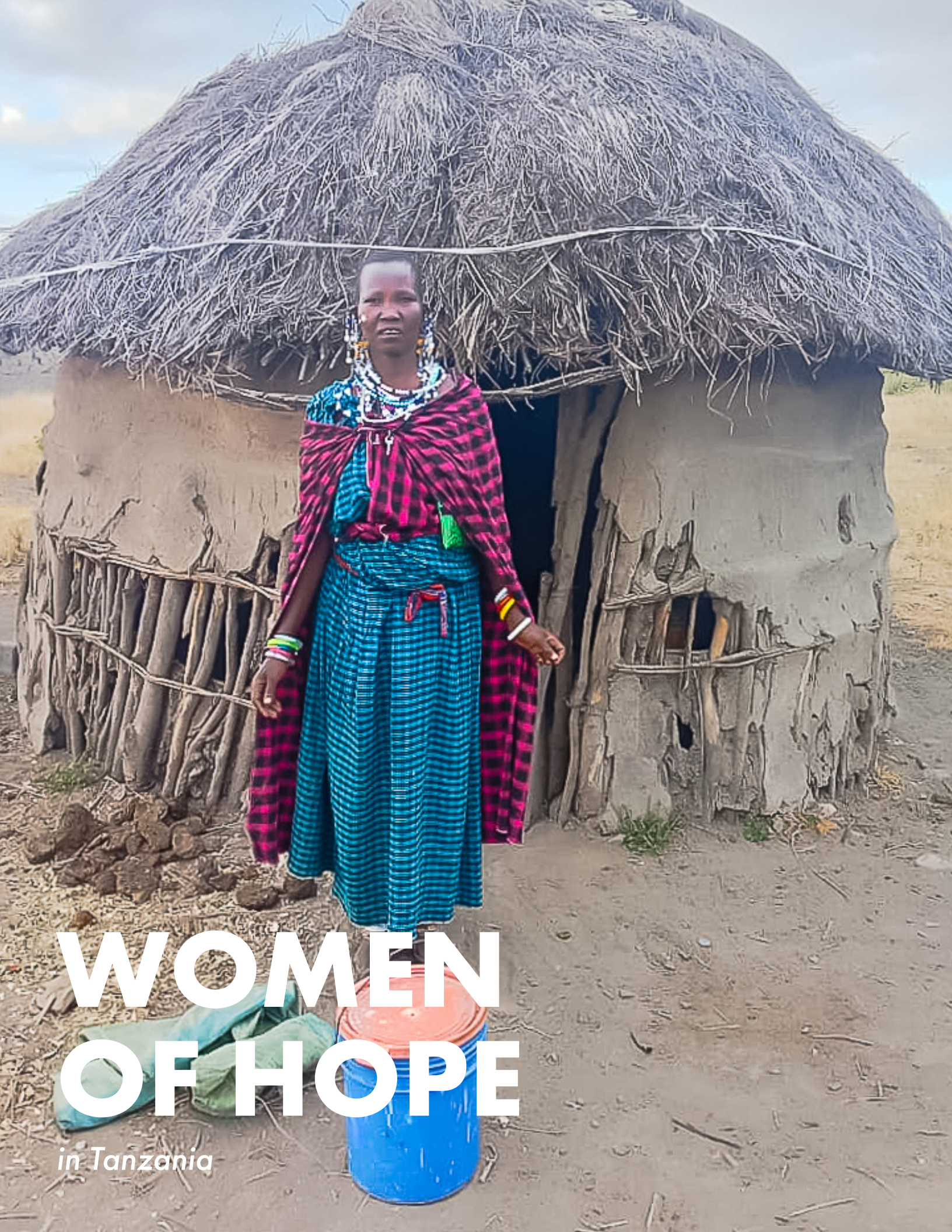
Edema's passion is agriculture, but as an experienced leader, he has also helped facilitate the drilling of more than 80 wells in Uganda, providing clean water to more than 150,000 people. By combining the Clean Water and Hunger to Harvest programs, he has seen the exponential impact that HHI can have in a community over time. Trust is built, and Gospel opportunities are created.

One recent example of this can be found in the Kawempe community of Northeast Uganda. Edema was able to visit this community for a well handover celebration and a Hunger to Harvest follow-up training. He found the community had constructed six successful raised planting beds, and they

were harvesting beautiful, nutritious leafy greens. Both the well and the raised beds are located on the grounds of the Antioch Church of Christ, allowing the community to experience the love and compassion of those who follow Jesus.

**For as little as \$25, you can support people like Edema making an impact in the field. Become a Change Maker today!**





# WOMEN OF HOPE

*in Tanzania*





"Knowledge is power," says Linah Shillah, who has served as a Women of Hope Coordinator since April 2024. A Kenyan, Linah now lives in Baraka, Tanzania, and has a deep passion for working with the Maasai people. She is married to a Masaai man and is intimately aware of the compassion it takes to build trust before introducing new information to her beloved community. Linah desires to reach the women who are living in the midst of very little, visiting their villages and praying for change. "It's the 21st century. You have to learn something. There is so much to be done and so much to be taught!"

Through her time among the people, Linah has come to understand that the life of a Masaai woman is not easy. She has found that low self-worth is a normal mentality. "They are just existing." Most are unable to read or write in their own language, and many are influenced by cultural beliefs that women should not work. But that hasn't stopped Linah from walking

alongside them to show them there is something better.

To date, Linah has conducted vocational training for 595 women and has facilitated five Village Savings and Loan Associations, providing the Maasai women with the knowledge and skills to earn and save money using godly principles—and it's working.

One group, in particular, no longer has just "one thatched house"; there is at least one child in each family attending school, and the community is now eating chicken, fish, and eggs. "They are learning this is healthy for them."

Linah excitedly reports that the women are not only beginning to realize their value, but they are begging for more knowledge. Nditoiya is one of those women who has experienced transformation. She now accompanies Linah to training sessions—a Maasai speaking to a fellow Maasai—a trusted messenger, of sorts, preparing

hearts and minds to receive the hope Linah brings.

Linah knows that hope firsthand. Just one year ago, she was attending her first training, "not to be trained, but to just get a free meal." That day changed her life. Linah became a Christian, learned to save money, started her own business, and is now employed by HHI—all because of that day at the Baraka Church of Christ. Thanks to HHI, "women have been able to stand on their own, change their lifestyle, and earn respect in the long run. Seeing lives changed in a positive way gives me pleasure."

**For as little as \$25, you can support people like Linah making an impact in the field. Become a Change Maker today!**





# MAGI PROJECT

*in Malawi*





Charity Chirwa is from Malawi but spent eight years in South Africa studying at university and working in research. When Healing Hands International dug a well in her home community, she connected with Loveness Nkhata, another HHI staff member. Charity was excited about the work Healing Hands International was doing, and, on top of her own farming business and philanthropic background, she joined the team in January 2025.

Charity now primarily works for HHI as a Women of Hope Loan Manager for Malawi. However, like most field staff, Charity also identifies communities in need of other program support, such as the MAGI Project. After coming on board in January, she oversaw a MAGI distribution for 150 children from 23 church branches and communities in the area of Mzimba, Malawi.

As a mother of three, Charity understands the pressures of providing for a family. In regions like Mzimba, school and church can often be an afterthought to

survival. The MAGI distribution was described by local church elder Smith Chunga as a “stress reliever” for parents.

“They have really seen the Glory of God through Healing Hands International...and they were not expecting to be blessed like this,” said Elder Smith Chunga. “This will be very encouraging to parents and children to draw close to God by attending church service without any stress and the burden of providing for school basic needs.”

Mr. Smith also shared with Charity his gratitude that the MAGI distribution helped bring uniformity to children otherwise divided by a sense of inferiority and superiority. “All the children [now have] the same basic school needs regardless of their family background.” Thanks to distributions like this one, children have access to the same school supplies, hygiene items, and clothing items as their peers. Not only does this encourage them to stay in school, but it empowers them to have hope for the future.

The Village Headman praised Charity and Healing Hands International for their efforts. According to Charity’s report, “This was the first time for him to witness the organization, which is operating under [the] church, to do this amazing work. To him, he has seen the church, which is not just preaching the word of God but also acting the word of God.”

When you support programs like the MAGI Project, you’re not just sending supplies to children; you’re empowering local staff like Charity to identify villages in need, build relationships with their leadership, and record their stories and testimonies. In just a few months, Charity has already inspired change for the church branches of Mzimba, Malawi.

**For as little as \$25 a month, you can support people like Charity making an impact in the field. Become a Change Maker today!**





# DORCAS

in Tennessee





### Submitted by: Tina McClain

During May and June 2025, the Dorcas sewing group from Dyer, TN, Church of Christ delivered 150 bookbags, 106 baby blankets, 336 diapers, and 170 hygiene kits (containing 1700 pads) to the Nashville office of Healing Hands International. While there, we were asked, "How did you get started?" Well... we are so glad you asked!

About eight years ago, I attended an HHI workshop conducted by Dr. Bobbie Solley, where participants made educational items for children in Haiti learning to read. While engaged in that project, I learned of an upcoming Dorcas workshop also hosted by HHI. I didn't know what the Dorcas ministry was all about, but the pictures of smiling ladies working at sewing machines and their beautiful finished products captured my attention, so I reserved a spot to find out more.

The workshop was incredible. When I returned to Dyer, I brought back sample items, patterns, and a

hopeful heart that my friends would be excited too. I could hardly wait to share the news—sewing groups all over the United States were making handcrafted items for women and children around the world!

Just as I had hoped, the Dyer ladies immediately and enthusiastically said, "We want to do that!" Within a few weeks, a room was organized with sewing machines, fabrics, supplies, storage, and display racks. The first sewing night was held in July 2017.

Now, all these years later, there are still 13 devoted ladies stitching on the first Wednesday night of each month. We share a meal, a devotional, and laughter that is louder than our machines!

Our MAGI boxes now include beautiful dresses, shorts, bookbags, and marble bags handmade by our group.

Friends from our community and nearby churches have blessed us by donating fabrics, notions,

money to purchase supplies, and even memorial gifts in honor or remembrance of loved ones.

That's how it all began, and we pray that our work will continue and increase. We love Jesus, each other, working together, and we especially love Healing Hands International for inspiring us and sending our handmade items of love and hope around the world through the Dorcas ministry.

Thank you, God, for nimble fingers, busy hands, and happy hearts as we sew for Jesus.



When you Walk4Water, lives are changed.

Find a walk near you!

Sept 6 - Lawrenceburg, TN	Sept 20 - Howell, NJ
Sept 6 - Westminster, CO	Sept 20 - Canton, OH
Sept 6 - Castle Rock, CO	Sept 20 - Manchester, CT
Sept 6 - Montgomery, AL	Sept 20 - Vandalia, OH
Sept 13 - Paris, TN	Sept 21 - Bowling Green, KY
Sept 13 - Huntingburg, IN	Sept 21 - Lincoln Park, MI
Sept 13 - Brighton, MI	Sept 27 - Charlotte, NC
Sept 14 - Parkersburg, WV	Sept 27 - Henderson, TN
Sept 20 - Crossville, TN	Sept 27 - Briensburg, KY
Sept 20 - Leitchfield, KY	Sept 28 - McKenzie, TN

**WALK4WATER**  
HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL



## Upcoming Lunch 'N' Learn events:

**August 1st - Bees**

**September 5th - Planting Bulbs for Spring Flowers**

**October 3rd - Cool Season Vegetables**

**November 7th - Composting**

**December 5th - Program Update and Seed Packing**

Grow your knowledge of all things gardens, flowers, and more—while also fighting hunger and empowering communities in need through HHI's Hunger to Harvest program.



**HUNGER  
TO HARVEST**

Find more  
information here:  
[hhi.org/hungertoharvest](http://hhi.org/hungertoharvest)





# Estate Planning

with Healing Hands International

**Everyone needs a will.** However, data shows that approximately two-thirds of adults don't have a will. A will provides legal protection over assets, names guardians for minor children, and so much more. It's also a vehicle for many people to leave a gift to charities like Healing Hands International.

Want more information about how you can leave a gift to HHI in your estate plans?

Reach out to Scott Saunders at 615.832.2000 or email him at [ssaunders@hhi.org](mailto:ssaunders@hhi.org)



SAVE

THE

DATE

# BOLD



# HOPE

**WOMEN OF HOPE WEEKEND**  
**HEATH, OHIO**

**NOVEMBER 7 & 8, 2025**