



HEALING HANDS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ISSUE 1, SPRING 2024



On the Cover:

Disaster Response in Kenya

Cultivating Collaboration

A note from the HHI staff.

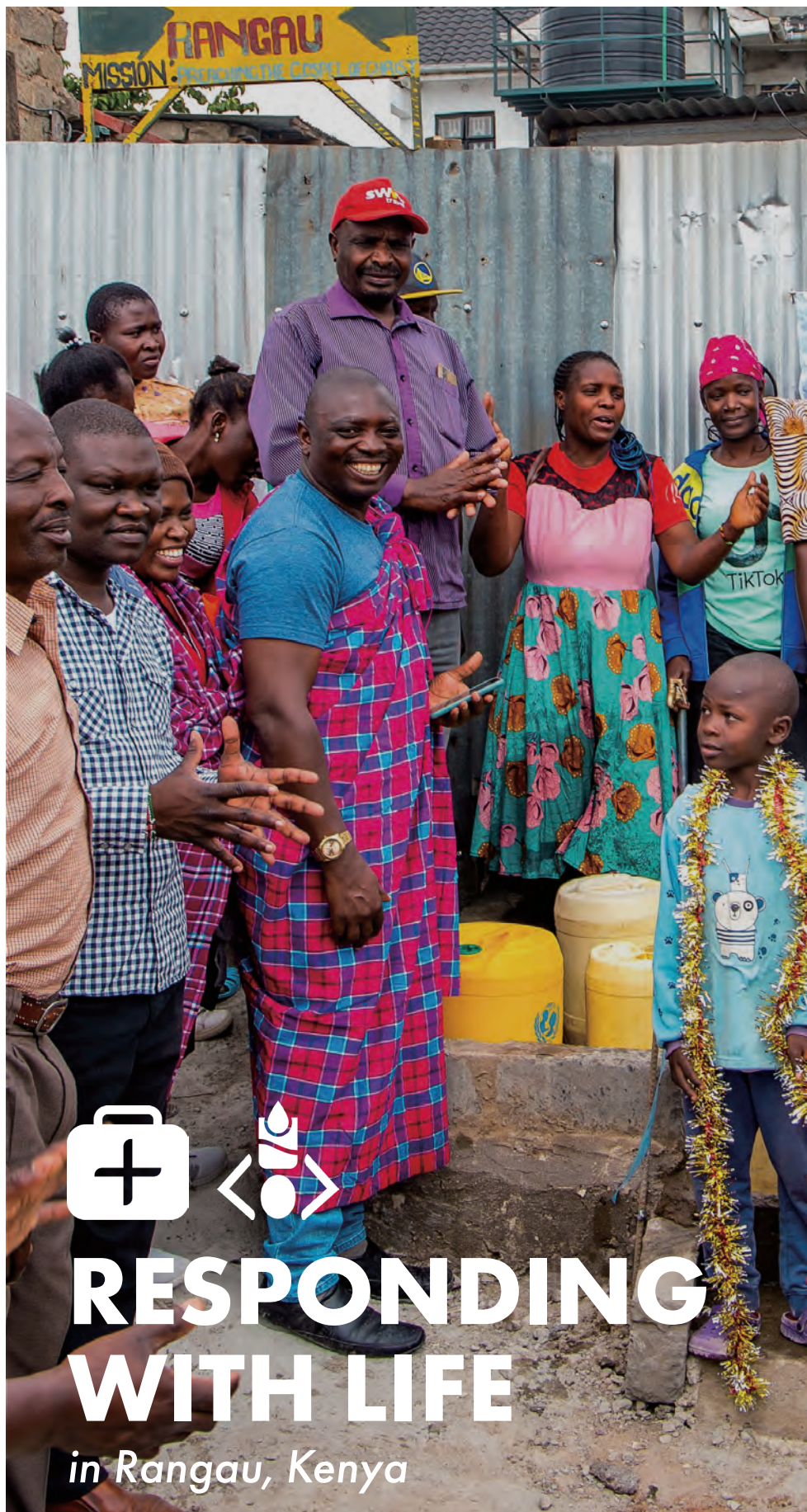
As spring returns and God breathes new life into the season, we are reminded of the ways we depend on His hand in our lives. By His only Son, we are saved. By His light, we can see. Because He first loved us, we can love each other.

Only by cultivating a relationship with Him and allowing Him to work within our hearts are we useful in His service and able to share Jesus with the world.

Similarly, the programs of Healing Hands International function at their peak when they support each other, weaving their benefits to fully aid, equip and empower those in need. Join us this year in celebrating the ways we work in tandem!

We are collaborating with one another, helping our brothers and sisters worldwide find healthier futures, founded in grace that only God can bestow. Through the concept of Transformational Villages, we invite you to look for your reflection in the stories that follow.

God bless!



RESPONDING WITH LIFE

in Rangau, Kenya



RANGAU, KENYA

In the east African nation of Kenya, a prolonged drought and resulting famines have plagued lives and impoverished entire villages for years. The **Disaster Response** program has been especially focused on the Rangau community in Kajiado County, working to provide immediate assistance with food staples and supplies to ensure nutritious and balanced meals in the short term.

When most people in the U.S. think about Disaster Response, it is usually connected to what they see on the news: a catastrophic tsunami that wipes out several cities or a devastating tornado that levels entire neighborhoods. While HHI does indeed respond to crises like these, we are also continuously responding to disaster situations that never make the six o'clock news. Because of our extensive network of staff and partners around the world, we often receive requests for aid due to localized flooding, drought or pestilence. Of course, these needs are just as important and sometimes

more desperate because of the lack of awareness. HHI is able to respond quickly and effectively in these scenarios because of faithful donors like you who are willing to give to the general disaster fund. And, because of Healing Hands International's sustained relationships in these communities, opportunities develop to bring comprehensive relief and recovery through our other programs.

For example, Disaster Response has been working alongside the **Clean Water** program to bring another level of safety and sanitation to the residents of Rangau. With a new well and access to clean water, the risk of water-borne diseases is nearly eliminated, as are difficult, daily journeys in search of potable water. Adults have time to focus on their families, and children can attend school to prepare for a new future. With food in their bellies and water to quench their thirst, the people of Rangau have the strength to move forward, cultivating a new chapter as they pull themselves from the

grip of an ongoing disaster. They know that God has remembered them in their time of extreme need, and they are inspired to continue.

Hunger to Harvest and Women of Hope have also been active in Rangau, bringing viable agricultural practices and invaluable business skills to HHI's ongoing relief effort. The collaboration within Healing Hands International's family of programs, donors, staff and volunteers has been a life-saving endeavor, and the people of Rangau extend their deepest gratitude, steeped in joy and prayers for God's continued blessings.

**Give to the
General
Disaster Fund
here:**



SPREADING JOY

in Indridri, Uganda





KUCWINY, UGANDA

Healing Hands International strives to consistently connect inspired women and revitalized communities. God formed the woman as an integral part of humanity's existence, and her role in family and society is crucial to transformative projects that return villages to a state of well-being. **Women of Hope** opens the door for women in need to enter their potential and actively seek opportunities that allow them to lead their families away from poverty.

The villages of Akanyo and Indridri, Uganda, are shining examples of a cultivated effort to help women succeed. After attending Women of Hope's business classes, the local women formed business plans, received the priceless financial support of revolving microloans and created savings groups. Before the classes, they report feeling individually isolated, each woman enveloped in her own unfortunate situation and removed

from others. The Women of Hope classes brought them together and created room for camaraderie to blossom. Struggles were shared and shouldered, offering relief and understanding as a balm for those plagued with loneliness. With an arsenal of new skills and methods to capitalize on existing markets for their ideas, women in both villages have taken the hands of friends who have walked the same path and guided each other into the light.

The beauty of the results in Akanyo and Indridri is found in their children, who naturally benefit from mothers who make purposeful steps each day. The **MAGI** project came alongside Women of Hope and took another worry from their plates. As their income has improved, they have been able to pay school fees for their children, investing in their education. However, getting the children in the door of the schoolhouse is only part of the battle they face. Supplies

and clothing are significant needs, and MAGI delivered the answer with backpacks full of educational and basic hygiene products.

The distribution of MAGI resources delighted the children, peaked their interest in classroom activities and allowed their mothers to direct their business income elsewhere, such as buying food for their tables. Eyimani Suzan, a 46-year-old mother of six from Indridri, highlights the monumental outcome forged by the collaboration between Women of Hope and MAGI: "My family has come to believe in the love of God."

Scan for
more info!



HARVEST OF HOPE

in Kisiiki, Kenya





KISIIKI, KENYA

Kisiiki Village is located in the Ndalani Ward of Machakos County, Kenya. It is a hilly part of the country and home to a harsh and unforgiving climate – a relentless natural challenge to any sort of farming. Economic opportunities are limited, including raising livestock and sand harvesting, which can further damage the land's productivity potential.

Hunger to Harvest conducted a Survival Gardening Workshop in Kisiiki, teaching the reliable methods of drip irrigation, raised-bed planting and composting, which is a key component to crop success in a region like Machakos County. Composting allows a community to use what would otherwise be considered farm trash to develop healthy soil composition, providing nutrients that growing crops need in order to flower and produce harvestable fruit. It is successful in dry climates, and has proved useful to the

people of Kisiiki in their efforts to feed their families. Alphonce and Jonas, a father and son preaching team who lead the church in this community, have taken the skills they learned and trained several hundred more people, multiplying the impact of the original training.

In fact, because the gardening techniques yielded outstanding gatherings, further economic opportunities materialized, and **Women of Hope** took a seat at the table. Using the local church for classes, our directors trained 35 Kisiiki women in business ideas, finance management and recordkeeping. They focused on the importance of working together in order to empower one another, encouraging them in ways to generate income for the support of their families and to share Christ throughout the community. The women immediately formed a VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Association). Groups like this allow the women to combine their

savings and hold each other accountable. Because access to traditional banking institutions is limited, these groups are essential to the success of rural business ventures.

Using the funds they have saved thus far, the women have formed two active groups that meet on a weekly basis, pursuing ongoing projects in poultry and rabbits. Now, when customers are purchasing produce, they can also purchase meat. By diversifying their product availability, the women distinguish themselves in the marketplace. They are also continuing to build their savings funds, and they are able to pay school fees for their children. Cultivating gardens keeps their bellies full, and the women can concentrate on the next steps to carving out new paths for the generations to come.

**Scan for
more info!**



GIVING RESILIENCE

in Haiti





On a sweltering, summer morning in August of 2021, an earthquake shook the already struggling nation of Haiti. They had not yet fully recovered from the assassination of their president and the political insecurity that ensued.

The **Disaster Response** team was on the ground immediately and has remained active, connected and productive ever since. What the people of Haiti have endured cannot be overstated. Families were sleeping under trees on the muddy ground, torn by forces beyond their control. Aftershocks stoked further fears, and medical supplies to treat injuries were as unavailable as food, water and comfort. With God's great blessing and direction, donor funding has remained consistent and helpful in the rebuilding efforts of countless churches and community centers serving the survivors.

As nations rise from disasters, there is a group of the population that needs special attention and particular care. The children of

Haiti needed hope. They needed reminders that they are seen by the rest of the world and not forgotten when news coverage turns the cameras elsewhere. Children of all cultures, situations and locations deserve wonder in their lives. They need to know they are loved regardless of the current events and above any level of invisibility. The **MAGI** project answers that need.

MAGI joined the Disaster Response team in Haiti, completing 17 distributions to 723 children. A MAGI box was individually placed in 723 pairs of outstretched arms, designed specifically for each child's age and gender. The box was not for a friend or a family member or a stranger but for that one precious child. And even in their position of displacement, these children were grateful for their blessings, willing to share with each other and, for a moment, transported to a mindset of excitement and anticipation of good things to come.

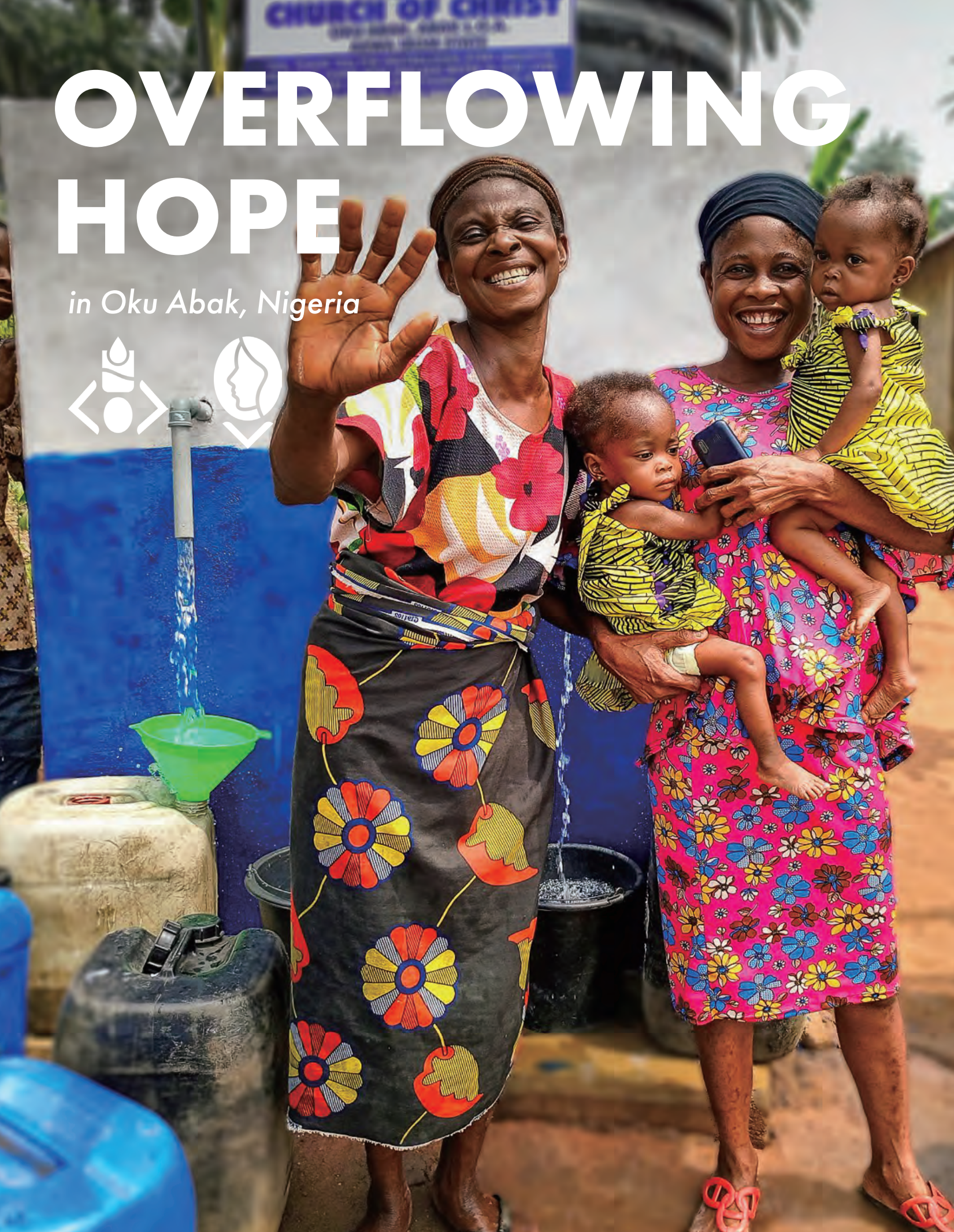
MAGI promotes such joy, especially when the world seems to have fallen down all around them. It encourages the freedom to receive love, a gift first bestowed when Jesus was born. The humble items in each box fill needs that are taken for granted by much of the world, but they make it possible for children to attend classes with notebooks and pencils in hand. Lack of access and limited funding become a nonissue. Without fail, these basic hygiene necessities, school supplies, small toys and pieces of clothing cultivate a flicker of light from within, all given in the name of Jesus.

**Scan for
more info!** ▶



OVERFLOWING HOPE

in Oku Abak, Nigeria





OKU ABAK, NIGERIA

Life changes at the well. Whether it is a well of water or the Wellspring of Life in Jesus Christ, new beginnings are born at the well. As Christians, we understand that God will convene with us wherever we are. We need not be perfect in deed, faith or profession to call on our Lord, even through all the uncertainties of our humanity.

In the Nigerian village of Oku Abak, there is a beautifully observant mother. She was tested with years of poverty and repetitive disease caused by the relentless, widespread fallout of contaminated water. She is named Eno Sunday, and she speaks from the depths of her heart about the well **Clean Water** drilled in her community: "I shed a tear of joy for your show of love. We were nobody to others ... but today, HHI has proven that the love of Christ is without a boundary."

Indeed, Christ is in every mission we pursue, and He is without limits. If the end goal is to empower, then

sharing the source of our joy and purpose and reason for existence is the only way to truly be helpful. And as the earth gave way to a mighty drill, digging through layers of our planet's crust, a powerful rush of life's most necessary component burst forth and immediately renewed the people of Oku Abak.

Clean Water is providing access to refreshment of body and soul. The well returns their livelihoods with time for business, school and family. The collective health of the village improves, and lives are not lost to preventable illnesses like cholera and debilitating skin diseases. Not relying on rainfall for crops, local farmers collect and use water from the well. Their yields are drastically increased, and their livestock do not go thirsty. The well is truly a lifeline to the future.

The lives of women in Oku Abak may display the greatest change. Typically, they endure the searches for water alongside their children.

They watch their families suffer, caring for the sick, bearing the loss of babies and husbands, goals and opportunities, happiness and hope.

As the water well transformed life, **Women of Hope** was able to join in the efforts to help Oku Abak, bringing in business training and tools that gave them a chance to succeed. They started group savings projects and learned to keep records and fill economic needs. Finding markets for their talents, they have kindled an entrepreneurial spirit, and they are carrying each other to prosperity. They have cultivated a sense of optimistic ambition, drowning the weight of poverty and defeat ... and it all began with women at a well.

Scan for
more info!





WALK 4 WATER

Walk4Water events are major fundraisers for the Clean Water program's well projects, which cost an average of \$7,500. Because of our faithful supporters, these walks often generate enough funding for multiple wells and even **Hunger to Harvest** training, ultimately providing clean water and sustainable farming techniques to communities that were thirsty and starving in previous years.

The Mid-County Church of Christ in Troy, Ohio, held their 15th Walk4Water last year, raising enough funds to support the drilling of two wells in Nigeria as well as Hunger to Harvest training seminars. Understanding the magnitude of collaborative efforts, Troy's event represents all of our faithful Walk4Water participants, who give their time and money to bring awareness to a tremendous need.

The walk in Troy, Ohio helped to transform the villages of Ikot Nsung Ikono and Eka-Obong in Nigeria. The Clean Water program was able to drill a well in each community, ending years of suffering, especially for women and children who were usually tasked with long treks searching for water.

Now that water is easily accessible, residents of both villages have the ability to wash their faces, bodies and clothes. They can drink and cook with clean, refreshing water. Children have time to attend school, and their mothers can focus on caring for their families. Businesses can thrive with healthy workers, and the wells become gathering places for praise and worship and for sharing the love of Jesus.

Because of the generosity of Troy's participants, Hunger to Harvest was able to add another layer

to the benefits made possible in both villages. Leading Survival Gardening Workshops, our trainers shared time-tested methods of drip irrigation, composting and raised-bed planting. Returning for Garden Maintenance Seminars, they addressed concerns like pests, disease and weed control, and taught how to store bountiful harvests. The people of Ikot Nsung Ikono and Eka-Obong are able to irrigate their crops directly from their wells with no worries about a lack of rain, and they have a complete picture of life with food on the table and water in their glasses. It is a cultivated collaboration to give life to formerly endangered futures.



Host or find a walk near you!



IKOT NSUNG IKONO, NIGERIA

HANDS-ON IMPACT

Our incredible group of volunteers is vast and consistently growing. We love hearing stories from around the country as people of all ages learn about Healing Hands International, choosing to get involved in ways that reflect their talents and love for the Lord.

Riverchase Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama, is a wonderful example of HHI volunteers of all ages coming together to support the Hunger to Harvest program. This community has assembled 250 drip kits and 300 seed packets to use in Survival Gardening Workshops. Pictured right, a father and his daughter approach the Father, praying over these very seeds. These efforts are critical to the success of Hunger to Harvest training sessions, and they cultivate innate connections of humanity, even across oceans, time zones and varied cultures. Faith as tiny as a mustard seed is the least we are called to offer. Even so, it is faith that God will multiply, and in His hand, it is limitless.



Special thanks to our friends at Hope Seeds, for making events like this possible!

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