



HEALING HANDS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Issue 1, Spring 2023



On the Cover:

Clean Water Changes Everything

pg. 2



Learn how you can get involved with the Clean Water program today!



CLEAN WATER

ACCESSIBLE WATER IS LIFE CHANGING



Meet Nanyamka and Dzifa! These siblings reside in the community of Kpassa Jumbo in Ghana, and they knew the desperate struggle of accessing clean drinking water all too well. This village has battled illness, infection, and despair due to poor sanitation and a lack of clean water. Children, just like Nanyamka and Dzifa, would walk over two miles daily just to collect unsafe water from a scarce pond shared with animals. Not only did these long walks keep the children from being able to attend school, but it was dangerous for women and children to be making these trips alone.

Now, by grace, things are different! Through the generosity of the gracious people who attended the Traverse City Church of Christ Walk4Water in Michigan last year, a clean water well was drilled in this community! Now, Nanyamka and Dzifa have close access to clean water. These children are a part of the local Kpassa Church of Christ community, and their lives have now been touched by God's love in a tangible way. A special thank you to Ghana West Africa Missions for their partnership! Clean Water is life and when it becomes accessible, everything changes.



WOMEN OF HOPE

A BRIGHT SHINING FUTURE IN UGANDA

Last summer, the Lord opened doors for Women of Hope to expand into Uganda! In June, HHI hired Lillian Asianzu to conduct business training for rural women, and in December, she launched a revolving loan. This loan fund provides startup capital for three different businesses in Uganda, made up of women who have completed the Women of Hope Christian Business Training! All loan repayments from each of the groups will be cycled to other women's groups to begin new businesses. The revolving loan fund is a sustainable approach to business funding and investments that can benefit many groups for years to come.

The Bright Shining Soap co-op was the first recipient of the revolving loan in Uganda. This business is a beautiful demonstration that if you start with what you have and work diligently, it is possible to do more than you can imagine.

Last year, Lillian hosted a business workshop at her home congregation—the Arua Church of Christ. This training taught the women about market research, budgeting, drafting business proposals, and how to run a savings group. With much excitement, the ladies immediately formed a savings group, where they strategically saved their money for safekeeping and small-loan access. Once they saved up enough capital, the group decided to go into business together raising

chickens. However, these ambitious ladies did not want to stop there. They saw great potential in a laundry detergent business.

The group used the profit from the first chicken business to save 10% of the seed capital required for the soap business. HHI was then able to provide the rest of the funds needed to get started through the revolving loan. After receiving training on how to make a great product, the ladies launched Bright Shining Soap in January! Within a few short months, the women have begun to see profits and started repaying their loan.

Now, these women are making an income to support their families, and they also are filling a critical need within the community. Joseph Edema, the HHI Hunger to Harvest Coordinator in Uganda, purchased the bars of soap to put into MAGI bags. The bars were so popular that many of the families are now regular customers of Bright Shining Soap!

These business-savvy women are running two successful businesses, creating abundance for their families, saving for the future, and finding a sense of community. Praise God for a bright and shining future!



Learn more about Lillian, revolving loans, and the work in Uganda by visiting our website.



THE WOMEN OF HOPE WEEKEND

The annual Women of Hope Weekend in Murfreesboro, Tennessee this past February was a huge success! With over 600 women in attendance, 30+ Spanish-speaking women using our translation service, and over \$50,000 raised for the Women of Hope program, it was truly an unforgettable weekend. We were deeply encouraged by all of the speakers including Ann Voskamp, JL Gerhardt, Sarah Nieto, and each of the breakout speakers. HHI is excited to share that, through the funds raised, not only did we fund Women of Hope's work in Uganda for the year, but we also we were able to launch a new program in Nigeria! Thank you!! We cannot wait for next year!



Watch the sessions online today in the Women of Hope Library.



THE MAGI PROJECT

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

The MAGI Project is a tool to share God’s love with a hurting world, and the distribution of MAGI boxes can take on a variety of personalities from location to location. HHI empowers our partners on the ground to use their discretion in knowing the best means of utilizing the MAGI Project as an outreach to their local kids and families. Oftentimes, this is facilitated in a traditional setting at a church, school, orphanage, or community center.

HHI is grateful to have a long-standing relationship with Robert Bazan, Missions Coordinator at Church of Christ North in Pharr, Texas. With the Texas/Mexico border located nearby, Robert is engaged with 20 churches on both sides of the border who utilize MAGI to encourage those in their community.

In March, one particular MAGI box distribution in south Texas took place at the local flea market! It was spring break for the local schools, so the foot traffic was unusually high with children. As they walked around the market with their parents, they unexpectedly came upon a table that wasn’t selling items, but instead was giving items away. Robert shared,

“We’ve found this to be impactful because it creates an opportunity for conversation. It is a different way of outreach in a public setting. We use every resource available to make an impact in the community to show others the love of Jesus and MAGI is just one of those tools.” The mission team from Union Hill Church of Christ out of Nixa, Missouri, was visiting with Robert and his congregation. Garrett Snodgrass, team leader for the Union Hill team, said, **“We’ve brought MAGI boxes with us and distributed them for the past couple years with a local church. At the flea market, our group really enjoyed the interaction with folks from the community. Not only did the child’s face light up, but so did the parents who expressed their appreciation. We never knew who we were going to meet next.”**

Additionally, Robert met a new friend, Rosalva, who has been able to help tremendously with the efficiency, organization, and storage of nearly 4,000 MAGI boxes! Rosalva owns a local warehouse that ships and delivers all sorts of merchandise to Mexico through customs. When Rosalva heard about Robert facing the challenge of where to store MAGI

Boxes as they wait to be distributed throughout the year, she reached out to him and offered her extra warehouse space for free. **“I thank God that he gave me the opportunity to serve in a very, very small way for what MAGI does for all the kids,”** said Rosalva. When asked about the blessing of Rosalva’s space, Robert said, **“With her decades of experience in shipping across the border through customs, she is using her gifts to save us so much time and effort on how we were previously delivering MAGI to the churches and orphanages in both the border towns and remote regions of Mexico. The fact that she does this on a weekly basis out of the goodness of her heart while managing her own thriving business is tremendous. She sees the value in it.”**

There are many hands that touch a MAGI box before it arrives in the right recipient’s hands. Each of those touchpoints are a crucial part of the process, and they leave a lasting impact on everyone involved in the operation. We believe there is power in a gift box when given with the love and message of Jesus Christ.



LIPSCOMB ACADEMY VOLUNTEER DAY

Last month, our team was eager to welcome students from Lipscomb Academy to the HHI office as a part of their high school service day! The students worked hard on getting MAGI boxes ready for shipment, along with organizing PPE supplies in the warehouse. It was such a treat to have these bright and young faces in our facilities! Our volunteers are the backbone of this ministry, and we are grateful to have been included in this service day.

Are you interested in bringing a group from your church or school to volunteer at Healing Hands International? Contact nmarkwood@hhi.org to learn more!



Learn how you can get involved with the MAGI Project today!



“This is an innovative option for farmers like me who want to improve their family nutrition and change their future.”

—MAPENZI MRIMI

HUNGER TO HARVEST

HOW ONE WOMAN MAKES AN IMPACT

The Hunger to Harvest Program equips communities to fight hunger through basic gardening techniques that can be used even in drought-prone areas. Through workshops and education, local community members learn how to work together and build an efficient agricultural economy. They learn how to provide for their own needs, and they are trained to teach others to do the same.

Earlier this year, our team was delighted to send HHI Trainer Augustus to the Mwaradinda village in the Kilifi County of Eastern Kenya. Upon arrival, he hosted a two-day Hunger to Harvest Workshop for almost fifty eager attendees! The trainees learned to make compost piles, construct raised planting beds, and utilize drip irrigation. The men and women were excited to learn that through the use of farm trash, animal manure, and kitchen scraps, they could make compost to improve the soil fertility! Trainees watched happily as the compost pile was built layer by layer.

Khadikja Dama attended the workshop, and he shared, “**With what I have learned—plus practice and persistence—I can be a great farmer. By using farm trash and animal manure, I will make compost. It will be like black gold on my farm.**” Another attendee, Rehema Katna, said, “**I am 59 years old, and I**

had never thought of using our farm to generate income. In my remaining days of life, I will live as a changed person benefiting from the use of farm trash and kitchen waste. As my farm is developed, my grandchildren will enjoy fresh, healthy vegetables.”

The second day of the workshop focused on learning to use raised beds and drip irrigation. HHI Trainer Augustus shared, “**This knowledge and skill set will help community farmers in these environmentally challenging times to rebuild their lives and gain access to food security. The income will help pay school fees, making education for their children possible and giving hope for a better life.**”

Additionally, these learned skills will allow the men and women to generate income and increase their opportunities to be employed by others. The food produced will result in improved nutrition and, thereby, improve the health of the people. Agnes Ngombo said, “**This program is one of the best I have ever attended. The training will boost food security. My family will implement what we learned and it will change our family nutrition. Thank you, Healing Hands International.**”

Once the drip lines were set and connected to the buckets, water was added to create wet spots

for planting. The trainees were excited to add the seeds and transplants!

Mapenzi Mrimi is a mother of five children and grandmother to three children. When Mapenzi learned about drip irrigation, she shared, “**If a single bottle of glucose drip can help resuscitate a dying patient in a hospital, why can’t drip irrigation help revive my failing crops? This is an innovative option for farmers like me who want to improve their family nutrition and change their future.**”

As the training was completed, each of the trainees received a certificate of completion. The joy of receiving a certificate was written ALL over the faces of the graduates! When communities are equipped with the skills to fight hunger, everything changes.



Learn more about the Hunger to Harvest program today!



Stay up to date on HHI's Disaster Relief efforts.

DISASTER RELIEF

SENDING AID FAR AND WIDE

One of the many difficulties in responding to disasters is having a limited amount of resources and not being able to help everyone during a crisis. HHI partners with Christians on the ground—sometimes our own local employees and sometimes vetted partners who we know to be good stewards of physical resources. While we respond to a number of crises throughout the year through one-time efforts, there are currently five ongoing disaster responses that HHI is dedicated to continue working alongside with relief and recovery.

UKRAINE



Over a year has passed since Russia officially invaded Ukraine, creating the largest European refugee crisis since WWII. To date, nine containers filled with generators, medical supplies, MAGI boxes, and family buckets, have been sent from our warehouse, reaching refugees as well as victims trapped on the front lines. We have seen the body of Christ come together to rescue and relocate orphans, provide electricity to community centers in subfreezing temperatures, counsel neighbors who have lost loved ones, and create spaces for healing. Since January, HHI has provided 13 diesel generators, 20 duel fuel generators 140 sleeping bags, 40 wood-burning heaters, fuel and operation support for relief transportation, and continued trauma and grief counseling for Ukrainian refugees in Croatia. Donations of diapers, men's undergarments, and formula have come into our Nashville warehouse and will be included in the next shipment. HHI is committed to supporting our Christian partners as we come together to meet basic needs and work towards recovery and healing through Christ.

HAITI



On August 14, 2021, the southern peninsula of Haiti was rocked by a 7.2 earthquake, resulting in thousands of deaths and injuries. The ongoing political situation in Haiti has made transporting relief inside the country extremely dangerous. HHI employees have constructed fifty emergency shelters, which have now turned into permanent housing due to their quality construction. As the transportation situation is still dangerous, we have changed our recovery strategy to sending funds directly to victims, who have been able to make house repairs, start small businesses, and pay school fees. As of April, we are nearing the completion of repairing nine heavily damaged church buildings. Each congregation created a repair committee to supervise the funds and church building repairs. **"The committee wishes to thank you on behalf of the church, we are all very happy. May God continue to bless you, in the name of Christ"** — Jean Yves St Clair, local leader of the Church of Christ.

TURKEY



Aftershocks continue to shake Turkey and the surrounding areas, hampering recovery efforts and reminding millions of the moment their entire world changed. Quickly after the initial earthquake, HHI was able to contact churches to seek ways in which to support them. Because of your faithful support, we have been able to



partner with seven American missionaries and their Turkish congregations as they work in the rescue efforts, set up housing centers, operate soup kitchens, and share

the gospel in word and deed. A partner and missionary shared this: **"During our weekly prayer meeting, there was one lady from Hatay who had been praying at the church. We have been praying that God opens hearts and last Wednesday she professed her faith in Jesus. We have learned that through our actions and the Lord's continual work in these families they see Jesus."**

We are also working alongside a Turkish Christian charity, First Hope Association, as they are registered with the Turkish government and are able to cut through some of the bureaucracy which can plague disaster relief. This has allowed the charity to partner with the local military to set up tent cities, provide mobile latrine and wash facilities, and create play therapy tents for thousands of children.

HHI has helped supply tents, bedding, and hygiene items to hundreds who have lost their homes, and we are providing truckloads of water to a soup kitchen in the city of Antioch (Antakya). We will continue to partner with our Christian brothers and sisters to meet the needs of those displaced and to aid in recovery.

EAST AFRICA



The multiple-year drought in East Africa has led to increased crop failure and famine, putting over 3 million people in food shortage. This has created a domino effect of livestock dying, an increase in food prices, children dropping out of school due to malnutrition, and an increase of local conflicts over limited resources. In addition to administering HHI's Clean Water Program and Hunger to Harvest Workshops, our local trainers identified ten of the worst-hit communities across Kenya. HHI has committed to providing food security to these communities for the following year.

On a monthly basis, each of these communities are receiving basic food staples of corn, flour, beans, oil, and salt to provide for their families. Jackson and his family are part of the 216 families in the Chokichok community, and he has received food relief. He shares, **"God's blessings are with you, our dear friends, and blessings to the Healing Hands International organization for supporting us in this worst moment of hunger."**



CYCLONE FREDDY

Cyclone Freddy (the longest-lasting tropical cyclone ever recorded) swept through Malawi in March, leaving hundreds dead and exacerbating food security issues caused by widespread famine. HHI President Art Woods, and HHI Director of African Agriculture Dr. Ebenezer Udofia visited Malawi just days before the cyclone swept through. While there, they developed a plan with Country Director Mbwenu Chirwa to provide emergency food relief. Following the cyclone, this plan was further developed to include relief supplies and seeds. We are grateful for our incredible international staff, who quickly help us identify needs and develop plans to alleviate suffering in their own communities.



WALK4WATER

TEN YEAR WALKS MAKE A SPLASH

2023 marks ten years for several of HHI’s Walk4Water events! The annual walks in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, and Henderson, Tennessee, have all been partnering with HHI and Walk4Water for ten years, impacting countless lives!

Windy Cline, the coordinator for the Bowling Green walk, got connected with Walk4Water through her husband, Grant. Windy shared, “**My family attended the Leitchfield, Kentucky walk for a few years. Grant decided to bring Walk4Water to Bowling Green in 2014. He worked on it for months leading up to the event. Grant unexpectedly died eleven days before our first Walk4Water event. With the help of our church, the Walk4Water event was held Saturday, October 11, 2014. Two hundred people showed**

up to walk in the pouring rain that day. Just as we started welcoming everyone and praying for the walk, it stopped raining. As the last two people finished the four miles, the downpour began again. God blessed us that day–We raised more than \$29,000 for clean water.”

When asked why he’s still hosting a walk ten years later, Henderson coordinator Chad Thompson said, “**Walk4Water helps people in very important ways, both physically and spiritually. It also brings people together—it’s something families can do together, and it’s good for kids to see and understand that there are other people in the world who struggle to have something that we have so easily.”**

Shane Hughes, the coordinator for the Lawrenceburg walk, said that his favorite part of the walk planning process is the actual day of the event. “**You may not have seen some of the participants since the last walk, but you can still get together, catch up, and share in the goal that brings us together every year.”**

Collectively, these walks have sponsored sixty-two wells! This means thousands of people have been impacted by clean water. HHI is abundantly grateful for every community that partners with us to provide clean water around the world!

Do you want to know more about hosting a Walk4Water in your community? Contact Gillian Kelley at gkelley@hhi.org to get started.

Find a local
Walk4Water near you!



MEMORIAL GIFTS

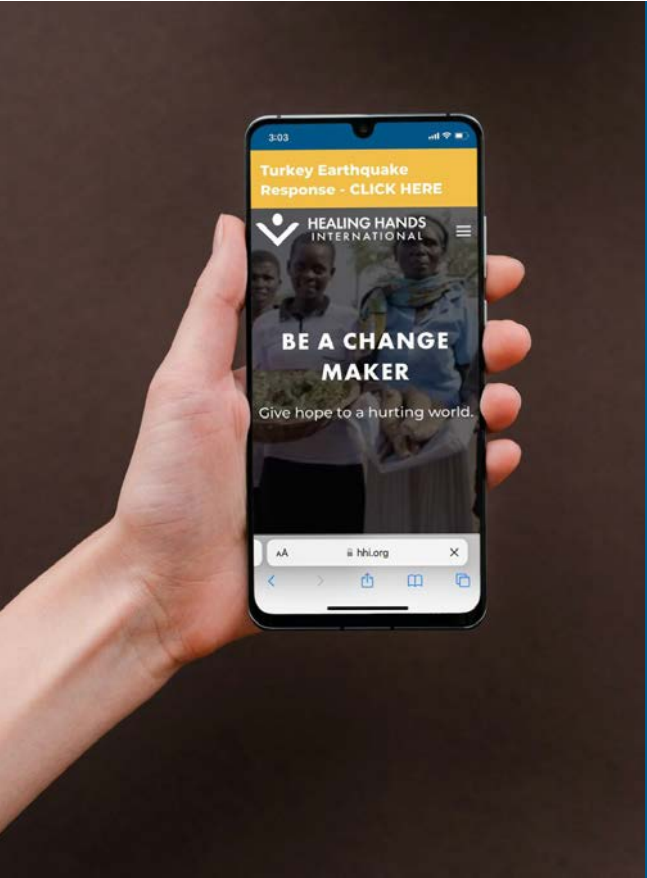
Gifts were given in memory of the following from August 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023. Donors are in light-face type.

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Todd and Anna Garrison



NEW LOGO & WEBSITE!

We asked, and you answered.

Our team is excited to share with you the new logo for Healing Hands International! The vision and mission have not changed—simply a new look. **HHI exists to glorify God and to uplift and empower people.** We believe this mark represents those two concepts in a clean, concise, and durable way.

Additionally, HHI has a new website! We seek to be good stewards of the opportunities God has given this organization. There are incredible stories to share about the work being done around the world in the name of Jesus Christ, and this new website allows anyone and everyone to see the good works being done with opportunities to get involved.

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Debbie Friedline
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Turner, Donald
Julia Hickman
Turner, Yolanda
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On the Cover: Meet Nanyamka and Dzifa! These siblings reside in the community of Kpassa Jumbo in Ghana, and they now have access to clean water!



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