



HEALING HANDS  
INTERNATIONAL



2023  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



# I AM BECAUSE WE ARE



**Pictured: HHI Leadership Team (Left to Right: Joseph Smith, Jana Owen, Mbweni Chirwa, Dr. Ebenezer Udofia, Art Woods, Alisa Van Dyke, Chris Gingles, John Dube)**

It's been an incredible year of goals and milestones—set, accomplished and exceeded far beyond our humble expectations. The Lord is leading, and with His guidance, we are a mighty force, a family of donors, volunteers and staff positioned to do good in this world, all for the glory of God.

This year has been one of firsts, highlighted by the inaugural Ubuntu Conference in Africa, bringing together HHI staff from 10 nations to celebrate, train, inspire and prepare our hearts for the work ahead.

As you read through this report, you will see that HHI has set new records and reached more souls than ever before. This is because of you, our faithful donors. As we close out 2023, we invite you to pause and be amazed at what we can do when we come together in the work God has planned for us. Be confident that your fingerprints are with every MAGI box, every cup of clean water, every crop that is harvested, every woman who starts a business and every helping hand that reaches out in a disaster situation. Know that these successes belong to the entire HHI family.

We're deeply grateful for you and look forward with great anticipation to what God will do in 2024.

Art Woods  
President, HHI

**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.**





# STATS & RECORDS

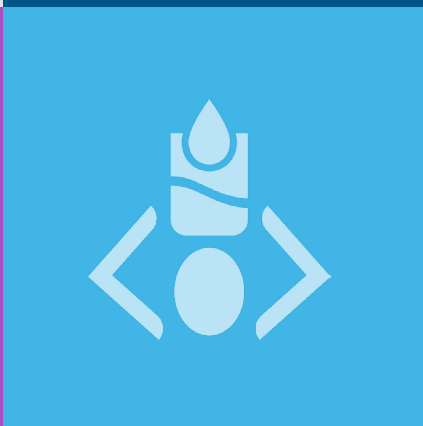
**30**  
Countries Served

**20k**  
Dorcas Items Received

**30k**  
MAGI Boxes Distributed

**\$1.3 Million**  
Raised by 68 Walk4Water Events

**21**  
Businesses Started



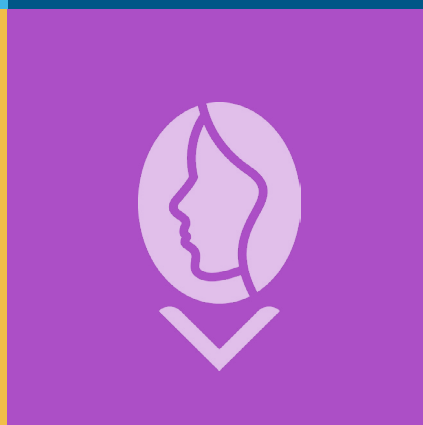
**209**  
Wells Drilled



**6k**  
Women Trained in Business

**17k**  
Hunger to Harvest Trainees

**11**  
Disaster Responses



**36**  
Wells Repaired

**3.4k**  
Boxes Sponsored

**5.5k**  
Walk4Water Walkers



**4.9k**  
Volunteer Hours



**382**  
Hunger to Harvest Trainings

# COUNTRIES SERVED



## Europe

Poland  
Ukraine



## Asia

India  
Israel  
Turkey  
Palestine



## South America

Brazil  
Colombia  
Paraguay  
Venezuela



## North America

Dominican Republic  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Mexico  
United States



## Africa

Benin  
Burundi  
Congo  
Ghana  
Kenya  
Liberia  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Nigeria  
Sierra Leone  
Uganda  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe



# CLEAN WATER



HHI knows the struggles of thirsty souls searching for potable water sources, often requiring long treks to dangerous, remote locations. Sometimes, the only options are shallow, muddy puddles shared with livestock or contaminated creeks laden with bacteria. Families regularly fight debilitating water-borne diseases, and villages suffer frequent loss of survival and hope. Ironically, communities often exist directly above a source of refreshingly clean water, located deep within the earth below their feet.

**HHI's Clean Water program has the resources to survey the land and tap into those water stores, bringing clean water to the surface.** Because of our donors, the Clean Water program is able to dig wells and install pumps in the backyards of churches and schools worldwide. Clean, safe water becomes available to wash hands and clothes, hydrate parched mouths and fill cooking kettles. From clean water flows the freedom for children to attend school, for their parents to hold jobs and for healthier lives to prosper with promise and potential. Clean water changes everything.

**Walk4Water is Clean Water's fundraising powerhouse.** Participants walk in representative solidarity with our beneficiaries worldwide, raising awareness of those who walk many miles daily in search of usable water. In 2023, a record breaking 68 walks took place across the country. Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama, hosted their inaugural walk in 2023, resulting in a grand total of \$139,546 raised, and 18 new wells drilled!



**WALK**  
**4** **WATER**  
HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL





# HUNGER TO HARVEST



Hunger is an ever-present issue. **HHI donors allow the Hunger to Harvest program to reach communities suffering from starvation—tilling the ground and giving people the means to feed their bodies, their communities and their souls.**

The initial Survival Gardening Workshop teaches a farming economy and the use of local talent and resources to begin growing crops in raised-bed gardens. Learning the benefits of drip-irrigation methods and composting to build soil nutrients, trainees report consistently productive yields, even in the dry seasons.

Following up with a Garden Maintenance Seminar, Hunger to Harvest provides continued support and further education to identify and control weeds, insects and diseases. Trainers address proper long-term storage so that harvests can be used all year, and excess produce can be sold to provide an income source, curbing hunger throughout the community.

**John** (pictured, left) attended a Survival Gardening Workshop in his village of Tumong, Ghana, and he was deeply proud of the education and new way of life. Considering the knowledge to be a momentous gift, he said with joy: *“I promise to make this day count.”*



## TRAINERS

HHI Trainers are the lifeblood of Hunger to Harvest, full of patience, knowledge and a love for farming methods that nurture God’s earth. Active in the field and in their communities, Trainers share life-saving wisdom, supporting communities as they learn, mature and grow. Trainers teach them to survive and then to thrive.



## DRIP KITS

Drip kits are designed to irrigate crops in difficult growing conditions. Including a gravity-based system of tubing and spouts, drip kits deliver collected water consistently and directly to plant root zones. They limit water lost to evaporation, allowing the healthy, steady growth of lush gardens in the middle of desert climates.







# WOMEN OF HOPE



**HHI's Women of Hope program believes that positive change in poverty-laden communities begins with women and that women deserve a seat at the table where economic opportunities are born.** Our Christian Women's Business Training offers classes on budgeting, business planning and savings strategies in an effort to improve economic futures.



Women of Hope also provides vocational training, giving women the skills needed to produce a variety of goods. This increases their selling potential and minimizes risk in the market. Donor-funded, revolving microloans are redistributed as they are repaid, allowing the launch of even more businesses. With access to resources like the Village Savings and Loan Association and other tools that have never before been available to them, women rise to inspire and support each other. They work together to multiply their potential, carving new paths for themselves and the generations following in their footsteps

Kenya is home to a population of women rebuilding their lives after lengthy prison sentences, many suffering from the aftereffects of female genital mutilation and experiential trauma. **Jannette Akoth** and **Caroline Isaambe** are HHI staff members in Kenya. Together, they planned to host 100 women at a Women of Hope event.

Instead, and giving all credit to God, they welcomed 400 attendees—80 of whom were recently released from prison (pictured below). After hearing about the gracious love of Jesus, 12 of these women decided to be baptized, beginning this new chapter in their lives with an eternal purpose. With training in soapmaking and cakebaking, they will have options to create livelihoods, support their families and break the cycles of poverty.





# THE MAGI PROJECT



**HHI operates the MAGI Project to address the needs of children worldwide.** Making A Godly Impact, traditional MAGI boxes are full of basic necessities—educational items, hygiene products, toys and clothing—wrapped and shared with the love of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift ever given to mankind (John 3:16).

Expanding on our classic packing and shipping method, MAGI's recent Sponsor A Box initiative has grown rapidly. Sponsor A Box provides a secondary way for donors to participate in MAGI by channeling funds directly to trusted partners and HHI staff around the world. They receive the money, make on-site purchases to fill MAGI boxes or bags and deliver the gifts directly to the children who need them most, thus allowing resources to be poured directly into local economies. Area leaders are empowered to fulfill the MAGI mission in a new way that drastically multiplies recipients.

Receiving his first MAGI box at the age of seven, **Kevin** (pictured above, right) is now studying to become a preacher. Driving for Mission Lazarus (HHI's long-time partner in Honduras), he daily conquers steep, washed-out mountain roads, finding his way to remote cliffside villages to deliver MAGI boxes.

Children delight in the arrival of his mud-slung Land Cruiser, top-heavy with gifts for them all. This year, in his joyful community of Aquacáte, he delivered a MAGI box to his precious daughter for the first time. He is a living reminder of the influential seeds planted in the lives of each child who receives a MAGI box.





# DISASTER RESPONSE



When the unexpected happens in ways that challenge survival and spirit, HHI's Disaster Response program mobilizes to seek and satisfy the greatest immediate needs by empowering local church leaders. With the faithful support of our donors, funds and supplies are transported to areas with greatest need—lifting hearts, encouraging endurance and bringing hope when it seems lost. The mission of the Disaster Response program is three-fold: relief, recovery and resiliency. This means that HHI often responds to disasters that never make the news, and our team is often still there working after many have left. We invite you to help us stay prepared by giving to the general Disaster Response fund.



## TURKEY

On February 7, 2023, record-breaking earthquakes violently shook Turkey and several other countries in the region. With magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5, the quakes and their aftershocks destroyed areas in and around the Hatay Province (biblical Antioch, where followers of Christ were first called Christians).

A year later, recovery efforts are no longer in the news, but Disaster Response continues to hold a strong relief presence. Leading food, water and WASH (Water and Sanitation, Hygiene) projects, we have invested in a local business supporting earthquake victims. We are also assisting in the construction of a structure to house a community center, café and church.

## UKRAINE & HAITI

Disasters sometimes create years—even decades—of prolonged need to rebuild communities. Disaster Response upholds commitments, walking alongside victims as they grieve, find strength and forge ahead.

The war in Ukraine has raged on for two years, and Disaster Response is still answering calls for help. In 2023, we developed a supply-chain partnership with various countries to efficiently reach victims who need it most. We delivered three containers full of food, medical supplies and hygiene items, and we secured counseling for hundreds of refugees as they gather the pieces of their lives.

Haiti is still heavily affected by the 7.2 earthquake that hit the Caribbean nation in 2021. Disaster Response continues to pour into its communities by rebuilding churches, providing small business grants and equipping students with educational supplies.

## EAST AFRICAN FAMINE

East Africa has endured a ruinous, four-year drought, causing the most devastating statistics in 40 years. As 2022 came to a close, HHI's Disaster Response program committed to long- and short-term aid in the area, providing a month's worth of food for four communities, and food security for one year for ten villages. The relief allowed them time to raise crops and regain their footing for the months to come. By the end of our project in December 2023, these communities were able to sustain themselves with a renewed resilience.



### 2023 Disaster Responses:

1. Flooding in India from Cyclone Michaung
2. Israel/ Palestine conflict
3. South Sudan unrest and refugees in Uganda
4. Tribal conflict in Manipur, India
5. Drought and famine in East Africa (Kenya)
6. Famine in Zimbabwe
7. Flooding and mudslides in Uganda
8. Earthquake in Turkey
9. War in Ukraine
10. 2021 Earthquake in Haiti
11. Destruction from Cyclone Freddy in Malawi



# VOLUNTEERS

HHI's volunteers are at the heart of each program. This family spans all ages, from school children to their great-grandparents. We welcome our volunteers with open arms, often sharing meals, missions and life stories with each other. We remain humbly amazed by the various roads that lead people to HHI, and we are forever grateful for the ways they pour into all of our programs.

**MAGI** is a wonderful way to get involved. Volunteers can pack an individual box, organize a collection drive or bring a church, school or business on board to conquer a united goal. MAGI also needs volunteers to join us in our Nashville office to get boxes ready for shipment.

Volunteers also help pack **Walk4Water** shirts to be delivered to walks across the country and very often enjoy personally participating in these events that raise funds for Clean Water and Hunger to Harvest efforts.

We welcome many hands to lighten loads of assembling drip kits and seed packets for **Hunger to Harvest** Survival Gardening Workshops.



*"I coordinate a Walk4Water because of the impact it has on people across the world with access to clean water and the impact it has on the people from our congregation and community who participate in our walk."*

—Paul Wisdom



*"Whenever I am with my HHI family, I know I am home—with those who love Christ, who love others and who love me."*

—Peggy Nims



*"I volunteer with HHI because not only does it give me the opportunity to impact others for God but God uses them to impact my life as well."*

—Adam Bentley



*"I have enjoyed volunteering in ways that help people my own age."*

—Ella Bramlett, age 16

By hosting or attending a Hope Party in their church, home or place of business, **Women of Hope** volunteers give dignity and hope to female artisans around the world.

Church and school groups play a vital role in putting together hygiene kits to include in buckets for **Disaster Response**.

Our **Dorcas** sewing community has volunteers who use their talents to sew diaper bags, blankets, Barbie clothes, feminine hygiene kits, girls' dresses and boys' shorts for children receiving MAGI boxes and their families.

**We appreciate your part in the Healing Hands International family, and we invite you to consider the volunteering options across all of our programs.** Scan the QR code, or email our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Markwood (nmarkwood@hhi.org), for more information.

May God bless and keep our volunteers all across the globe. Their joy, faith and hard work are unmatched and indispensable to Healing Hands International!



# TRANSFORMATIONAL VILLAGE

The jewel of Healing Hands International shines brightest when programs work in tandem. Transformational Village is an innovative concept that combines benefits, tools, education and training from multiple HHI programs, conquering a host of challenges with interwoven solutions for a future that is truly transformed.

Apondo Kasaye is a Kenyan farming community of 1,000 people who have perpetually endured economic, physical and situational struggles. They welcomed HHI's Hunger to Harvest Survival Gardening Workshop and learned about drip irrigation and composting methods to produce crops even in unfavorable weather and soil conditions.

To address further needs, HHI's Clean Water, Women of Hope and MAGI programs were requested. Enlisting the help of the local church, 80 members strong, HHI answered the call. By God's grace and divine providence, our donors provided a way.

HHI's Clean Water program was able to drill a well, and community members were overcome with gratitude at the sight of clear water filling their buckets.

Hulda lives in Apondo and delights in drawing water from the well. Free from rising at 4 a.m. to walk 3 km, she has more time to care for her family, to bathe, to have a refreshing cup of water and to irrigate her crops, without fear of water-borne bacteria. "I want to thank God for this miracle! I used to fetch water from the river, walking for hours, but you have helped us now. We are very happy. Thank you, and God bless you in abundance!"

Another Apondo resident, Jannet, attended the Hunger to Harvest training as well as Women of Hope's Christian Women's Business Training. She studied practical basics and started a produce store with microloans from the Village Savings and Loan Association. She is now empowered to support her family and afford her children's school fees. Paying it forward, Jannet hosted a Women of Hope event for other women in her village, and she even fed the participants from the vegetables raised in her new garden.

With MAGI's efforts to provide school supplies, encouragement and the love of Jesus Christ to the children of Apondo Kasaye, a total transformation is indeed in progress here!



Apondo Kasaye, Kenya



# YOUR IMPACT IN 2023

With integrity as one of our core values, stewardship of your gifts is a top priority. Every gift you make is truly making a transformational impact.

**2023 Total Annual Revenue: \$7,281,729**

**2023 Total Expenses: \$6,576,281**

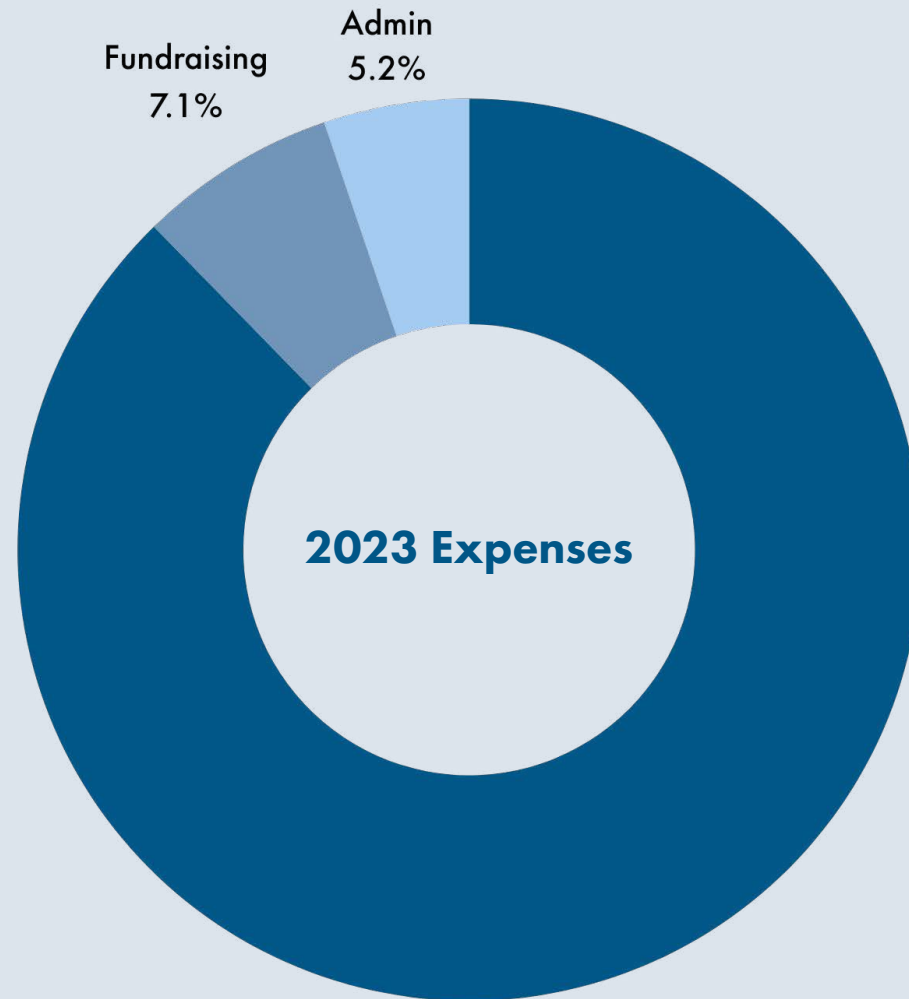
**2023 Endowment Revenue: \$755,925**

Through the leadership of the Board of Directors and because of the incredible generosity of donors who want to ensure the future of this work, HHI established an endowment fund in 2021.

The purpose and vision for this fund is that all administrative and fundraising costs would be covered so that every dollar you give goes to impact the lives of people through our programs.

Due to the downturn of the economic climate in 2022, the endowment experienced losses. However, we are grateful to report that the market made a positive swing in 2023, regaining all of the loss plus some.

Again, the strategic objective remains unchanged: long-term growth in order to provide financial support to HHI's operations and mission in perpetuity.



ECFA Accredited upholds the highest standards of integrity and accountability in an increasingly watching world.

Charity Navigator is the largest evaluator of charities in the US, providing insights into a nonprofit's stability, best practices, and results reporting.

# CHANGE MAKERS COMMUNITY



Every day, we see brokenness in our world. It can become easy to think, "What can I do? I'm just one person!" HHI provides tangible opportunities for Christians to make real change possible—one person, one village, one community at a time.

Hundreds of individuals, families and churches have committed to become monthly supporters of the work HHI is doing around the world. We call this community the Change Makers, because their consistent support provides the stable foundation that allows each of our programs to grow and flourish.

When you join the Change Maker community, you will receive exclusive video content and stories from the field that illustrate the lasting and sustainable change your support is enabling. Will you become a Change Maker today?







## “I AM BECAUSE WE ARE”

In African culture, mere existence is heralded as inextricably united, woven with others and bound in an idea of community, relationships and family.

Specifically translated, Ubuntu means “I am because we are.” My life depends on the fact that you are part of my life.

The theme of our inaugural International Conference in Kenya, Ubuntu highlights not only a successful 2023 but also several years of exponential growth. As we expanded on all fronts, the need to gather was clear. Our future success depends on the certainty that all our leaders, trainers, coordinators and staff come to this work on the same page, passionate about the same goals, universally supported and aligned as one.

The Ubuntu Conference unveiled a beautiful camaraderie, a true connection across all borders and distance.

During a blessed week full of joy, dancing and music, we sang praises to our God, and we undoubtedly felt His presence in the midst of our fellowship.

Ubuntu describes HHI’s inception and development, especially in the last 15 years, and it lays the foundation for 2024 and the years to come.

Healing Hands International depends on the fact that you are part of this family—donors, volunteers, staff and beneficiaries worldwide. We are one being with separate parts that function together, bringing to life something more grand than the parts alone. HHI exists because you breathe life into each program, each experience and every soul who feels the love of Jesus Christ because of an interaction with HHI. It is His message that blends our hearts and guides our efforts.







# HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

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Healing Hands International is a 501(c)(3) Christ-centered nonprofit organization.