

many hands

QUARTERLY

Transforming together, to be love in action, in a broken world.

MARCH 2022



MANY HANDS

P.O. Box 204 Pella, IA, 50219
www.mh4h.org | 641.629.6633



NEW YEAR, NEW GROWTH

Tim Brand, CEO



Ribbon cutting ceremony at Jean Boule



Staff and mothers at Jean Boule enjoy a group game



Construction of the new school building on our Sylvain campus



Finished chairs and desks ready to be used by our eager students

Last fall, we gathered together to listen and dream about what was possible for the families and children we serve in Haiti at the Pignon in Pella event in Iowa. That night, we raised over \$150,000 for the needed buildings and infrastructure to create the physical environment for change in the communities God has called us to. It makes me happy to update you on the progress we've made since then.

We broke ground on the new school buildings in late December and have been humming along through the construction, trying as best we can to finish up all projects before the rainy season (and the roads get bad).

Our next school "pod" has all the walls up and is waiting for the ceiling to be installed. This will expand our school to allow for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade, with 4th grade opening in the fall of 2022. We also are building our school administration building, creating much-needed offices for the school principal, and a library. We are also including a special education room for those falling behind or with special needs. We will be installing a cement roof on this building, giving us the opportunity to build a second floor in the future. In addition, we also needed to upgrade our electrical and water supply for these buildings. We've installed a new water well on campus (150 feet deep), supplying agricultural water for irrigation, as well as water to the offices/bathrooms. New solar units were installed to upgrade our systems, controllers, and batteries.

In addition to the school infrastructure, we opened our newest Love in Action Center in the rural area of Jean Boule (JBL). This is a new community for us and allows us to start an additional First 1,000 Days program. This center includes a new community Bible Study, deep water well, and physical space for us to establish needed relationships in the community. We opened the First 1,000 Days program in late January, taking our first class of pregnant women and mothers with children under the age of 1. We will expand the ages of this program in the years to come, with a target of 250-300 mothers and children three or under, providing daily meals, health checks, health education, and spiritual development.

We are so blessed by your generosity and how you continue to be love in action in our broken world. Thank you for all you give to help us achieve the strategic mission to generously grow impact throughout the world.

Be blessed,

Tim J. Brand
Founder and CEO

KAUKS JOIN OUR TEAM IN HAITI



Many Hands is pleased to announce the addition of new senior management in Haiti. Melissa and Mark Kauk have answered the call and have joined the Many Hands team in Pignon, Haiti. Both will be filling newly created roles, with Melissa filling the position of Manager of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mark filling the position of Director of Leadership Development. With a passion for missions, Mark and Melissa have felt called to serve together as husband and wife.

“Our heart desires to be able to share the gospel with other people and also to see them grow in Christ. We want to help them see their potential, whether that’s living in Orange City or if it’s in Haiti,” explained Mark.

Hearing the call to Haiti, they plan on using their previous experience to walk alongside the community. Working with our Spiritual Shepherds, Mark will be facilitating training and materials for local leaders. Melissa will be working with our staff to create culturally-relevant materials for teaching. She will also be assisting in the First 1,000 Days programs held at our Love in Action centers.

“I’m already mapping out how every lesson is taught and make sure certain objectives are taught consistently every year and consistently at every place,” shared Melissa. “There are currently three Love in Action centers and the goal is to open up more, so we want to be a part of the logistics behind that. We want to strengthen the wonderful teaching taught every day by the dedicated staff and strengthen the investment in good leaders in the communities we serve.”

Mark and Melissa have decades of educational experience between them. Mark worked at Unity Christian for 44 years in Orange City, Iowa, where he was a science teacher and coached girls’ athletics. His recent global experiences have included trips to Haiti and Ethiopia on behalf of the Luke Society and educational work in Liberia with One Body One Hope. Melissa worked in education for over 35 years, with experience as a grade school and special education teacher. She also has previous global mission experience, working with organizations in Mexico and Uganda. In Uganda, Melissa served on teams working with children and villages and as a board member. The couple is excited to put their experience to good use in Haiti and had already begun preparations even before starting their roles.

“When I was down there last spring, I had the privilege of teaching on brain development, speech development, and social-emotional development for children,” shared Melissa. “I was able to show pictures and act out things with the moms and to try to engage them and how important it is to engage their little ones. I love that I can put my skills to use in these ways.”

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin serving in Haiti. If you feel called to support the Kauks, please visit their support page on the Many Hands website at www.mh4h.org/kauks.

To watch the Kauks’ video or to donate, please visit mh4h.org/kauks or scan the QR code:



New Mini Hands in Haiti!



Many Hands congratulates David on the birth of his son, Mark! David is an Agricultural Technician on our Agronomy team. He was widowed five years ago, raising a family on his own for a long time. Married last year, David was very excited to be a new father again.

“David was SO PROUD and happy to be having another child,” shared our staff. “He was brimming when talking about it, as it was going to happen anytime.”

Furniture for the Future



Fran De Haan, a long-time volunteer and supporter of Many Hands, just finished up some critical projects for our school expansion in Sylvain.

Fran spent much of February building the furniture for our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classrooms in the Fundamental School.

Before he left, the students surprised him with thank you pictures for him to keep. We are so thankful to Fran for his time and dedication!

NEW FACES IN HAITI

Scan the QR Code to see the impact our staff is having in the First 1,000 Days program:



Many Hands continues to be blessed with a strong staff. Two of the latest additions to our team in Haiti introduce themselves:



Monette Dehilaire, Program Nurse

I am Monette Dehilaire from Pignon. I am 34 years old, married, and have no children yet.

In 2011, I went to Port-au-Prince to continue with my study after graduating from 12th grade. I have chosen to be a nurse from the drama on January 12th, 2010, when the earthquake hit Haiti hard and many people died. Many survived but did not find enough care they were supposed to have. I said to myself, I need to learn how to help people with healthcare. I spent 4 years in Port-au-Prince for my studies to become a nurse. Then in 2017, I felt that I needed to know more about baby delivery and how to help pregnant moms. I went to Hinche to study with Midwives for Haiti for my maternity study. On August 15, 2018, I started working for the Hospital of Bienfaisance in Pignon in the maternity ward for 3 years and 6 months.

Now I am hired to work with Many Hands for Haiti to show the moms and babies the love of Jesus by taking good medical care of them. I love working with Many Hands already!



Kethlin Vilbon, First 1,000 Days Program Manager

My name is Kethlin Vilbon, Evangelist of Christ. I am from Haiti, Pignon. I am married to a beautiful lady named Ghana C. Vilbon. We have 2 boys, the oldest is 6 and the youngest is 3. I am a broadcaster on radio, television, and Facebook. I have 4 years of experience working at the radio station Radio Lumiere in Pignon. I also worked for 6 years at Project Hope as an Administrator Assistant, three years working at LTI (Leadership Training International) as an instructor of pastors. I worked as a pharmacist for several years at Project Hope. I have a certificate in English Advanced to translate.

I am the new manager of the First 1,000 Days program. I work alongside Liz Clarke the Director of the First 1,000 Days. I help manage the day-to-day operations of the program. That includes overseeing all staff, Miss Lerosane, and Pastor Wilna, along with program helpers and cooks. I enjoy working for Many Hands so far. This employment helps me to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ daily with the moms and community.

CELEBRATIONS AND AWARDS



Our recently opened Merle Hay thrift store



Staff and volunteers at Clive enjoy a Christmas party



Staff and board members at the CityView Best awards night

The last 12 months have seen incredible growth for Many Hands' US operations. God has given us the vision for the thrift stores to be the generosity engine that fuels life transformation locally and globally. Striving to do our absolute best with the resources entrusted to us, our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to be Love in Action.

We celebrated our new Merle Hay location with a Grand Opening event on January 29. Our metro locations saw a combined total of 2,004 people walking through the doors during the event! With the popularity of our stores increasing, we were excited that Many Hands was recently recognized with several awards. In Des Moines Metro, we were voted 'Best Thrift Stores' in both the CityView Best and Best of the West people's choice awards. On top of this honor, Many Hands was also voted Best Nonprofit in the Des Moines Metro area. With a population of over 700,000, this was no small feat!

Not to be outdone, the Many Hands Market in Spencer also won recognition in the SRG People's Choice awards, taking Gold in the 'Shopping and Thrift' and 'Antiques and Collectables' categories. This is our third year winning the Gold in the 'Shopping and Thrift' category, cementing Many Hands Market's reputation as a best-in-class thrift store.

"I couldn't have been happier with winning these awards. What an honor," shared Steve Lucas, District Manger. "Thank you to the amazing staff and volunteers that give endlessly to make our stores so loved by the customers. Winning these awards is proof that the hard work our teams are doing, and the great experience we are giving our customers every day, will provide us the fuel we need to ignite generosity around the world. Congratulations, team!"

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Return Service Requested



THANK YOU FOR CHANGING LIVES THROUGH
YOUR END-OF-YEAR GIFTS IN 2021!!

SENSELESS PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD

Tim Brand, CEO | An excerpt from his weekly email and blog, *3...2...1 Impact*



"That is what compassion does. It challenges our assumptions, our sense of self-limitation, worthlessness, of not having a place in the world, our feelings of loneliness and estrangement." - Sharon Salzberg

On December 14th, I received a text from our Director of Ministry in Haiti. "Saintoshper, Anospher's oldest, seated behind his sister Milinda in this picture, died this morning from an injury suffered at the site of a sugar cane press. The funeral will probably be tomorrow morning."

Saintoshper was nine years old. This family is one of the economically poorest families I know in Haiti. The parents have suffered years of trauma, malnutrition, and now are a bit mentally slow, so finding well-paying work has been few and far between. We've known this family for a long time, as Anospher (the father) has a collection of homemade instruments from throwaway objects he uses for praise and worship at church. I'm sure Saintoshper was working to earn some extra income for his family and Haitian sugar cane presses are notoriously dangerous for crushing accidents. None of this is fair, as this family was dealt a tough hand in one of the world's toughest places. What do you do when none of this adds up and it all seems overwhelming? How do you make sense of the senseless?

For me, I first thank God I have the ability to hurt for this family. I know this family, and I've been in their house. I felt the pain when I read those words because it meant I cared. Second, I trust in Jesus to make all the wrongs right in His time. I have enough faith to look beyond this life into something greater, and I believe Saintoshper is part of this plan. Lastly, it is from the deepest wounds where God carves into my soul the reservoir to retain more joy to fuel me to help create a better future for tomorrow. This was not God's design, as this world has been tainted and stained through the sin of greed, power, and oppression. There is more than enough in this world to help care for Anospher's family, but we haven't figured out a way for it to flow to all who need it.

This won't be the last child who dies senselessly in places like Haiti or the United States, but it doesn't mean we don't have an obligation to do something to prevent it in the future. What is one of the senseless problems of this world that has your name on it? How do you continue to move forward, even when tragedy happens? What are you doing about it today?

For more stories of impact from Tim, visit mh4h.org/321-impact or scan the QR code:

