



His Helping Hands

January 2012

NEWSLETTER

From the Director . . .

"I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus..."

1 Corinthians 1:4.

Thank you very much for the many hours of volunteer time that you have contributed to the community of Wichita through your labor of love at HHH during 2011. Altogether there were 46,716 volunteer hours worked last year which is a full-time equivalent of 22.5 people. Wow, good job HHH volunteers and thank you for a job well done!

The fruits of your labor produced the following results:

- **28,263 people received clothing and household items.**
- **15,585 people received food items.**
- **HHH distributed 24,719 household items.**
- **HHH distributed 324,076 clothing items.**
- **HHH distributed 159,627 pounds of food.**

The most important number is the fact that 342 individuals made a first time profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Praise the Lord for these new brothers and sisters in Christ!

During 2012 we want to meet the neediest of the needs in our community. That is tough to do when we get so many requests throughout the week. The December 17, 2011 edition of WORLD magazine defines two kinds of poverty, lifestyle poverty and catastrophe poverty.

HHH regularly deals with both kinds of poverty situations.

The victims of catastrophe poverty are usually able to regain their stability after some help is given to them. But those that are in some type of lifestyle poverty require more than just a hand-out. They need help and mentoring in the areas of their lives that are dragging them down.

"Lifestyle poverty comes about when people don't do four things: 1. stay sober; 2. stay in school at least through high school graduation; 3. stay out of bed in situations likely to lead to pregnancy or abortion; and, 4. stay with a job even if it lacks thrills. When people don't follow these basics, the result is often alcoholism and addiction, single parenting, and lack of the skills or perseverance needed to get and hold a job."

For this reason and so that we can meet the neediest of the needs, HHH is working more closely with agencies, churches, local ministries and schools as they refer clients to us. These entities have already identified the families' needs and are working with them. HHH will be a community resource to help these families with their need for food, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers and automobiles. And, we will always share the gospel of Christ with each family that we assist.

2012 will be an exciting year! Thank you again for your faithful support. We could not do this work without you! May God bless you and your families throughout 2012 and beyond!

HHH

LEADERSHIP

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His Helping Hands is a Christ-centered, benevolence ministry set up to assist families and individuals who are facing insufferable hardships. By being the Hands of Christ in Helping others, we show the love of Christ in a practical way, thus ministering both to the clients and the donors by helping people, help people.

His Helping Hands is an outreach ministry of Central Christian Church

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Volunteer Needs

We currently have a need for volunteers to assist in the office with phones, filing, and general office work on a daily basis. Office volunteer times could be 9am—5pm, 9am—Noon or Noon—5pm.

We are also in need of pick-up drivers to help with donation pick-ups Monday—Thursday on a weekly basis. If you would be interested in volunteering in either of these areas, please call Janice @ 838-8528.

As HHH continues to grow so does our volunteer opportunities. We would love to have you come and serve with us at HHH anytime you are available.

Items Needed

HHH continues to have a tremendous need for the following items to be donated for distribution to those in great need:

- ◆ Beds of all sizes
- ◆ Stoves
- ◆ Refrigerators
- ◆ Washers
- ◆ Dryers
- ◆ Microwaves
- ◆ Vacuum sweepers
- ◆ Dining Tables w/Chairs
- ◆ Sofas
- ◆ Recliners
- ◆ Coffee & End Tables
- ◆ Men & Women's Bikes

Devotions

Christ connects us with people for His unique purposes. It could be an occasion to meet someone for the very first time; it may be a new client, a casual acquaintance or a familiar friend. Regardless of the relational connection it is important to ask the Lord how to bless the one in our presence and be open to receive a blessing from them.

Our calendar of appointments can become a prayer list for us to ask for wisdom from God, as we seek to serve others over a meal, coffee/tea or in a meeting. It is uncanny how a person or even ourselves can be in a needy situation and our Savior sends someone that becomes His hands and feet of faith and hope. They provide a kind and encouraging word or an insight that give us courage and direction to do the right thing. Thank God for His inspiring ambassadors.

Hurting, hard hearts desire Jesus—when they know they have been cared for like Jesus.

Therefore, watch for God to orchestrate opportunities for you to introduce His love. Anyone you encounter throughout the day is a candidate for your intentional interest. Your neighbor, hairstylist, a client at HHH need your smile. People are not a vending machine waiting for a transaction to be taken; rather they are created in the image of God waiting for someone to show them His grace and truth.

Someone may be startled even suspect of your interest in their life—prepare for this, but do not allow another's hesitant heart to keep you from extending genuine comfort. You never know how the seed of a kind word, a listening ear, a practical idea or an encouraging prayer will germinate and grow in one seeking soul. Divine appointments are much bigger than your agenda—so see your daily encounters through the lens of eternity. *Boyd Bailey—Wisdom Hunters*

Growth Plans

With 2012 here, below are some of the plans and goals for HHH during the year:

- The metal building has been installed on our property so we are ready to commence the mattress deconstruction process. Work will begin on that during the first quarter of 2012.
- Add-on to the south side of the warehouse for additional furniture storage and staging.
 - ~7,000 square feet with balcony at a cost of \$246K, or,
 - ~10,500 square feet with balcony at a cost of \$340K.
- Find some type of building for Heavenly Treasures that can be installed on the front part of the property (east side). Please pray that we can find one to be donated or that we can find a reasonably priced building to install.

Did you know?

Every year in the USA, there is approximately 2.5 billion pounds of clothing that is thrown into the local landfills. Through the clothing distribution programs at HHH, during 2011 we kept 324,080 pounds of clothing out of the Sedgwick County landfills. This is a small drop in the bucket, but every little bit helps!

