



HEALING HANDS
INTERNATIONAL



On the Cover:

**Hunger to Harvest
in Kisiiki, Kenya**

ISSUE 2, SUMMER 2024

MULTIPLYING TALENTS IN KISIIKI

Ten years ago, Kisiiki, Kenya, welcomed a **Hunger to Harvest** Survival Gardening Workshop, sponsored by the Greenville Avenue Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas.

Residents from 20 surrounding villages attended the training, and a story of sustainability, determination and evangelism was born. Hungry for a path out of poverty, trainees soaked in the lessons about raised-bed gardening, composting and drip irrigation.

They constructed their garden rows on the church property, and installed the drip kits perfectly. They built compost piles and recycled farm waste to feed the soil and increase its nutrient content. They tilled, planted and watered from a shallow well nearby, and they waited.





Their gardens began to grow, but the shallow well gave up its last drop. The rains never came. The sun beat down, and the plants drooped in the heat before harvests could be gathered. When the HHI team returned in 2015, they found the men of Thika manually digging another well, desperately looking for water to save their gardens. They met this mountain of an obstacle with the courage of David facing Goliath. If there was doubt within the village, it was excavated with each hand-dug shovel load of dry dirt.

At 30 feet into the gut of the earth, they still had not reached water. And all the while, they showered the HHI team with joy and with gratitude, unphased by the threat to their monumental efforts. Father and son preachers Alphonse and Johnes personally guided the team through the struggling gardens on the church property – drip buckets hung, drip lines laid, all dry as a bone. They needed water.

After coordinating, planning, surveying and funding, the Clean Water program was able to drill a well on the church property in Kisiiki. Since then, Alphonse, Johnes and the members of their community have been unstoppable. In the spring of 2024, we returned to Kisiiki to find immaculate gardens sprawling across the landscape. They have piped water from the church well to 20 homes nearby and installed a tap at the roadside for passersby. Their diverse harvests are bountiful, and they produce an abundance of the most beautiful capsicum (bell peppers), which they sell at the market to fund church projects and cover school fees for children.

The Women of Hope program has helped the women of Kisiiki with start-up projects to raise chickens and rabbits, and both men and women are studying business skills to increase their profit capabilities as they carve out new opportunities for their families. They have plans

to expand their church, which has already grown from 30 members to 100, and they are traveling to surrounding communities as far as three hours away to pay it forward with agricultural training, assistance and spreading the Gospel.

And it all began with a garden.

Kisiiki has gone from hunger to harvest in a way that highlights compassion and faith. In partnership with Healing Hands International, they have independently continued to multiply the impact by sharing what they have learned without hesitation.

Scan for more info!





CLEAN WATER STILL FLOWS

in India



INDIRANAGAR, INDIA

Supporters of the **Clean Water** program are well aware of the positive changes that blossom in a community when we offer easy access to a well or borehole in the heart of a village. Residents may have struggled with the effects of contaminated water for decades, but the day our drills are able to reach clean water is a turning point for everyone. The beauty of these projects is in the long-term improvement for families who previously faced impossible challenges.

In 2015, the Florence, Alabama, Walk4Water event raised money to provide a well in a “circus community” in Indiranagar, India. To earn money to survive, these people perform dangerous tricks and skills, living from penny to penny as nomads in tent villages. The community members hand dug a shallow well to collect rainwater, but it stayed dry. Women and young girls were disproportionately affected with little to no education

or opportunity, mostly because they are culturally tasked with searching for water to drink, which is a vicious cycle.

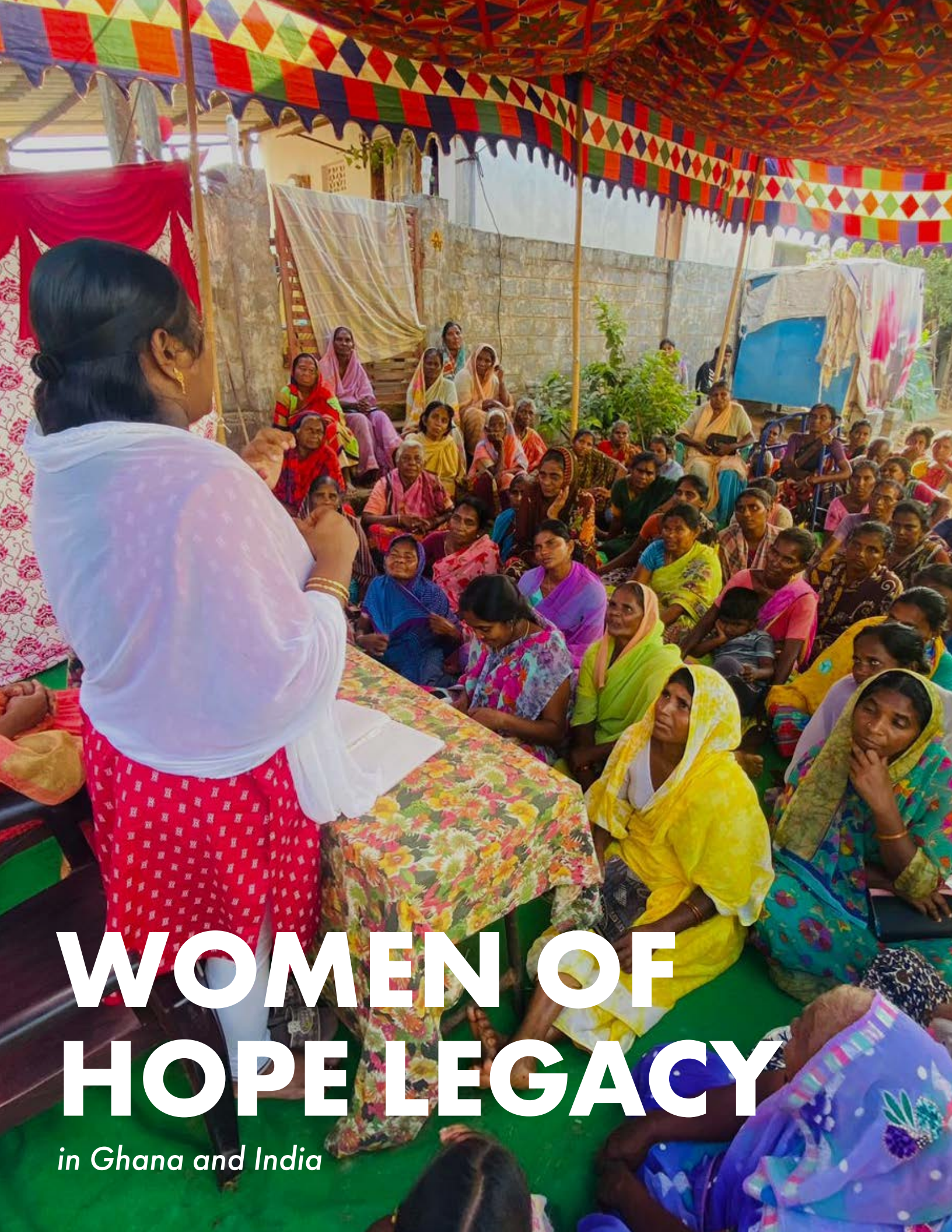
The Clean Water program successfully drilled a productive well in Indiranagar nearly 10 years ago. At least 1,500 people have been able to regularly enjoy clean water. It cleanses their bodies and has been used as an evangelistic tool for outreach beyond the community borders. Women have been able to refocus their care for their families, children have been able to return to school and the overall health of Indiranagar has improved.

Clean water also returns time to people’s lives. The women of Indiranagar have been able to participate in the Women of Hope program, taking the next big step to pull their families from the grip of poverty. They have also been so thankful to learn basic hygiene skills to help keep them and their

families healthy, and feminine hygiene education to quash the stigma of inaccurate myths and misinformation about the amazing existence of being women intentionally and specifically created by God. They have found life renewed at the well that continues to flow, and they are bravely paving new paths for their children and grandchildren.

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more info!





WOMEN OF HOPE LEGACY

in Ghana and India



Thirteen years after the **Women of Hope** program began, the next generation of trainers is following in the footsteps of the incredible women who pioneered the program. In Ghana, Healing Hands International has been blessed to partner with Elizabeth Yakubu, Director of God's Will Training Institute, for more than 10 years as she empowers vulnerable young women with vocational skills to provide for themselves and their families. Women of Hope is able to come alongside students to supplement tuition and exam fees, as well as provide a tool kit for graduates to help them launch their businesses. For many years, Elizabeth has desired to travel to farther communities to train more women, but as a school director, she was limited by time and resources.

In 2023, because of the faithful support of passionate donors, HHI was able to hire Elizabeth's daughter, Dorcas, allowing them to

expand their work. Now, they are traveling together across Northern Ghana, training groups of women in basic business skills, facilitating village savings groups and working with them to create business plans that will grant them access to revolving loan funds through Women of Hope donations.

In India, the story is similar. Prasanthi has partnered with the Women of Hope program for more than 12 years to train hundreds of women in sewing skills and provide microloans to start their small businesses. In 2022, HHI was able to hire Prasanthi's daughter, Anusha, as a part-time trainer and loan manager. Her passion for the work with HHI is evident as she has also facilitated food-relief distributions through the Disaster Response program, MAGI box distributions in many communities, and even a few clean water wells.

Dorcas and Anusha are both mothers to young girls, who often

accompany them in training. Perhaps, they are right now raising the third generation of godly women who will transform their communities in the name of Jesus!

By investing in long-term relationships with local Christian leaders, HHI is able to build trust in communities and empower sustainable transformation. Over time, these relationships lead to Gospel opportunities, and the Kingdom continues to expand. Your faithful support makes growth and sustainability like this possible!

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more info! ▶





HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

M.A.G.I.

MAGI FULL CIRCLE

in Brazil



Volunteers are truly the heartbeat of the **MAGI Project** at HHI, and Selma Raab is no exception. Selma's relationship with HHI began over a decade ago as she listened to a presentation at her church in Richmond, Virginia. From her pew, she saw the smiles on the faces of children living in poverty who were receiving a gift for the very first time, and she was moved. That week, she reached out to Cindy Herring, former MAGI Director, and let her know that she had packed a box and put it in the mail to the Nashville office. A spark had been lit. Selma began talking to her friends about this experience and quickly became an advocate for the MAGI program.

Over the years, Selma traveled with HHI to both Mexico and Honduras to deliver MAGI boxes to children. Having the opportunity to witness firsthand what she saw years earlier on the screen at her church fanned her spark into a flame. Because of Selma's passion, Richmond became a collection

point for hundreds of boxes prepared every year by many churches and civic groups in the region.

If there is anything that Selma is equally as passionate about as the MAGI program, it is her home country of Brazil. So, when she approached us a couple of years ago with the request to bring MAGI to Brazil, it was an easy answer: "of course!" After careful planning and collaboration between the Glen Allen Church of Christ in Richmond, HHI and Lar Mana (a ministry outside of Recife, Brazil, that provides foster care for at-risk children), Selma's vision became a reality as over 300 MAGI boxes were distributed to kids and their families.

When asked what it meant to take MAGI to her home country, Selma said, "At first, I could not believe it was really happening as it had been a dream for so long. They expressed so much gratitude with happiness and love. Being able to

understand their expressions in my native language of Portuguese was one the most special and beautiful moments in my life!"

The MAGI program continues in Brazil, but it doesn't stop there. HHI staff had the opportunity to visit Brazil with Selma earlier this year to identify additional opportunities for HHI to partner with the local church to be the hands and feet of Jesus. While there, the team was able to distribute food relief through the Disaster Response program, deliver water filtration systems through the Clean Water program and introduce business training opportunities through the Women of Hope program.

All of this was possible because one woman was moved to do something!

Scan for more info! ▶





COUNSELING FOR SURVIVORS

in Eastern Europe



The **Disaster Response** program at HHI runs toward the heart of a hurting community, helping in the immediate aftermath of a tragedy with life-saving food deliveries or hygiene supplies and short-term shelter assistance. As donors, you even make it possible for us to support rebuilding efforts as families heal and get back on their feet.

The War in Ukraine has unveiled exceptional ongoing challenges for everyone affected, creating an ever-changing, ever-unfolding catastrophe. The supply buckets packed by HHI volunteers and donors across the country have been well received and continue to make an impact, but the strain that is building daily is one that saps mental strength and stamina. The war has disrupted families and futures, displacing entire populations and scattering refugees in all directions ... and it rages on. People have been forced to begin new unwanted chapters far from home.

Through providential connections, the Disaster Response program has partnered with a woman of extraordinary foresight, who is both a counselor and a displaced Ukrainian mother. Julia Grischuk lives in Croatia now, having fled her homeland with her children in tow. In the depths of trauma alongside her countrymen and women, she helps them find light in the darkness. Her husband helps survivors on the front lines of the War, and she brings families together, sharing the love of Jesus while fearlessly addressing the fallout.

Julia works mostly with women and girls of all ages, holding their hands through their tears and pain. She has enveloped whole family units with understanding, giving them tools and skills to work through the components of survival and the guilt that sometimes plagues those who were able to escape. She has guided people away from self-destructive, numbing habits and helped them find reasons to carry on.

Julia is a source of ongoing rescue. Her clients come to conversations with grief in hand and leave with armfuls of renewed hope. She welcomes large groups, giving attendees a sense of camaraderie and common ground. She also works one on one with those who prefer a quiet, more direct and patient conversation. Whether in person or on Zoom or FaceTime, Julia offers counseling services as the Lord's work, healing the wounds of others while walking the same path in her own life.

Through your support, HHI's Disaster Response program is blessed to have a hand in addressing mental health for those affected by the war in Ukraine. We invite you to join us in prayer for Julia – for her efforts, for the survivors and for our world.

**Scan for
more info!**





WALK 4 WATER

UPCOMING WALKS

Kearney, NE - July 20
Ravenna, OH - July 27
Lafayette, TN - August 10
Huntingdon, TN - August 17
Castle Rock, CO - August 24
Somerset, PA - August 24
Lawrenceburg, TN - September 7
Westminster, CO - September 7
Parkersburg, WV - September 8
Brighton, MI - September 14

Lubbock, TX - September 14
Bowling Green, KY - September 15
Crossville, TN - September 21
Vandalia, OH - September 21
Jackson, NJ - September 21
Franklin, TN - September 21
Huntingburg, IN - September 21
Sioux Falls, SD - September 21
Charlotte, NC - September 28
Henderson, TN - September 28

Manchester, CT - September 28
Briensburg, KY - September 28
Lincoln Park, MI - September 29
Nashville, TN - September 29

**Register,
donate, or
start a walk
near you!**



Build a legacy of faith with Healing Hands International

Creating a will is an easy way to gain peace of mind, protect your loved ones, and pass down your faith values.



Getting started

- 1 Visit FreeWill.com/hhi to create a free will or revocable living trust.
- 2 At the "Residuary" step, select our organization and designate a specific fund or cause area you want your legacy to support.
- 3 Finalize your plans by printing and signing your document in front of witnesses.