



HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Issue 1, Spring 2022



On the Cover:

Relief Efforts for Ukrainian Refugees

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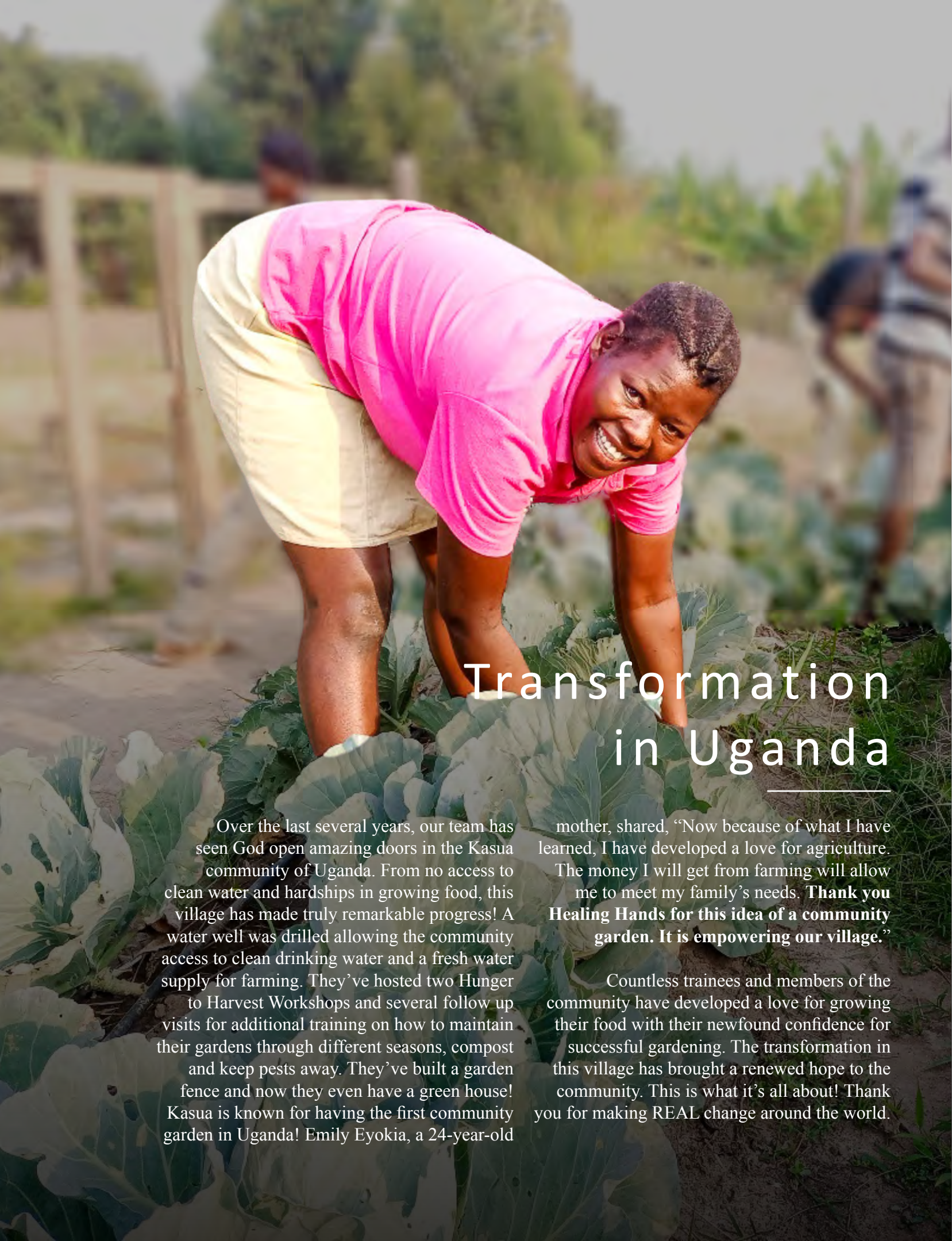
RELIEF EFFORTS — FOR — UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Like you, our hearts have been breaking for the people of Ukraine. Over the last month and a half, many of you have asked, “How can we help?” Through a longtime partnership with SeaStar Kids and trusted relationships with churches in Eastern Europe, 10,000 buckets were purchased in the beginning of March. These buckets were collected by churches and families within the Nashville and surrounding areas, and they were filled with essential items for Ukrainian refugees. The month of March consisted of collecting those buckets back to our warehouse and preparing them for shipment to Poland. Our team is overcome with gratitude for the ways that each of you immediately showed up to see how you could help. To help with immediate needs, Healing Hands International has provided funding for housing, food, transportation and medicine to trusted partners in Ukraine, Poland, Croatia, Moldova, and Romania. In Moldova, monetary aid has been sent to purchase food and water to be taken into a hard-hit port region of Ukraine, where they are without power and resources. Transportation has been acquired to take food, water and medicine into Ukraine from

Poland and also to transport people back out of the country. Additionally, monetary aid was sent to assist men who have stayed in Ukraine to provide for the elderly and for those who cannot or do not want to leave. Support has been given for churches who are providing housing and provisions for refugees who have made it to Croatia. Here at home, YOU have filled thousands of buckets with relief supplies which will be sent to Poland and distributed to refugees.

The ministry of HHI first began as an outreach to the people of Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall, and we have found ourselves again compelled to minister those being impacted by conflict. We will continue to closely monitor the unfolding situation in Ukraine and the surrounding countries. Time and time again, we are reminded that our greatest weapon is prayer. The battle belongs to the Lord. Let’s fight this battle on our knees for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia and the surrounding countries.





Transformation in Uganda

Over the last several years, our team has seen God open amazing doors in the Kasua community of Uganda. From no access to clean water and hardships in growing food, this village has made truly remarkable progress! A water well was drilled allowing the community access to clean drinking water and a fresh water supply for farming. They've hosted two Hunger to Harvest Workshops and several follow up visits for additional training on how to maintain their gardens through different seasons, compost and keep pests away. They've built a garden fence and now they even have a green house! Kasua is known for having the first community garden in Uganda! Emily Eyokia, a 24-year-old

mother, shared, "Now because of what I have learned, I have developed a love for agriculture. The money I will get from farming will allow me to meet my family's needs. **Thank you Healing Hands for this idea of a community garden. It is empowering our village.**"

Countless trainees and members of the community have developed a love for growing their food with their newfound confidence for successful gardening. The transformation in this village has brought a renewed hope to the community. This is what it's all about! Thank you for making REAL change around the world.



HUNGER
TO
Harvest
A MINISTRY OF HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

HUNGER TO HARVEST

Do you love to garden? You are invited! Join us on April 21-22 for a two day, hands-on workshop at the Healing Hands International office in Nashville, TN. This workshop is for anyone who wants to be a part of moving people from hunger to harvest. The proceeds from this event will go towards empowering communities around the world to fight hunger. This is done by providing instruction on basic gardening techniques that can be used even in drought prone areas. Be ready to get your hands dirty and connect with like-minded individuals as we practice our gardening skills!

This training is great for:



Church leaders who want to reach their community

Mission team leaders who want to grow their outreach

Anyone who wants to be a better gardener!

Scan the QR code to register today!



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EMPOWERED TO SAVE

Women of Hope

“Like stars high above the mountain, so is our group.”

This is how Chairperson Mrs. Netsai Maisvoreva described the Kubatsirana Sewing Group in Nhedziwa, Zimbabwe. HHI’s Women of Hope Ministry helped this group of 18 women from the Nhedziwa Church of Christ to launch a sewing co-op in November 2018. Since then, Women of Hope has partnered with them to provide sewing machines and macrame training to empower them to continue developing. Their products have gained such notoriety

that they have been commissioned to make traditional attire for local celebrations!

Most recently, Women of Hope invested in training for these women to form Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). For rural women with no access to banking or insurance, creating community savings groups is a key tool that helps women break cycles of poverty. In these groups, women meet once a month to put savings into a shared lock box and request loans from their savings to pay for



immediate needs. At the end of the year when all of the savings have been deposited and all of the loans repaid, the women will receive back all of the money they have saved in a lump sum, which allows them to pay for larger expenses they could not normally afford.

WOH Zimbabwe Coordinator Ngonidzashe Mudzani says, “Surely, the VSLA is a source of light to the women. It turns the ordinary to the extraordinary through helping women to see business as an important opportunity to do away with poverty.” The Kubatsirana group said they

were blessed by this training and were confident that it would lead to more people becoming financially stable, more businesses starting, and more people coming to their church.

In just a few months, we have already seen this to be true.

The Kubatsirana women have been increasing their savings and using additional funds to support other women or other people in need. Another group at the church who has participated in a Hunger to Harvest Workshop also launched a VSLA group and will soon be working with Healing Hands to launch a chicken business. Nhedziwa is where we are getting to see our “Transformational Village” vision come to life as all of our different ministries come together with this community to make a holistic, positive impact.

The women with whom we are partnered are truly like stars above the mountain. With all of their strength, they are reflecting the light of God that has shined upon them, and lighting the way so that others may see.



Thank you to everyone that made this year’s Women of Hope Weekend a huge success! Hundreds of women from different walks of life gathered together for inspiring worship and powerful stories of hope. Our team looks forward to this weekend all year long! Want to rewatch the speakers from the weekend? Visit the Women of Hope Library online to stream the sessions!

The Women of Hope Library: 



LIVES CHANGED in Zimbabwe

Clean water always changes lives! However, when paired with other ministries like Hunger to Harvest and Women of Hope, the change is exponential. Six-year-old, Talent Musonza, is pictured here with the newest water well in his village, Village 25 in Zimbabwe. This village is located in Ward 26 of the Masvingo Province. Ward 26 is a perfect example of this community transformation model working well to serve the people in the area.

HHI has been working in Village 25 for some time. John Dube, the Country Director for Zimbabwe, has overseen multiple survival garden workshops, a bread-making coop, and several water projects, culminating in the installation of a brand new water well to support all these other endeavors. This well is the only local water source capable of providing enough water during the dry season to keep these projects functioning.

Winnie Chingema, a member of the community, shared, “It’s like we are crossing over the Red

Sea to the land of Canaan. Our garden will start to perform well and be evergreen. Today should mark a moment of peace, prosperity and hope.” Another community member, Nyasha Mudzimureka, said, **“I never believed in bible stories but today the bible stories have been made alive. Thank you for making me believe in the bible.”**

This is exactly why community transformation is important: to give more opportunities to share the good news with people in the community. During the three years John has been working in Ward 26, two churches have been established and are growing. Community transformation through clean water and other ministries not only changes physical lives, but spiritual lives as well.

The well in this community was funded by those who participated in last year’s Enterprise, Alabama Walk4Water! Thank you for impacting the lives of thousands of children, just like Talent!

WALK4 WATER

A PROGRAM OF HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL



Each of us are accustomed to simply walking into our bathroom or kitchen for quick access to clean water, but this is not the case for many people. **A typical day for millions across the world consists of spending all time and energy towards finding a water source.** This means walking by foot for miles until a stream or pond is found. The search continues until the last hint of daylight is gone—only to repeat again the next day. This pattern is not sustainable and stunts the growth of families and individuals everywhere. **This is why we Walk4Water.**

Pure water is tasteless, colorless, and odorless. People without clean water often find themselves hopeless, as well. Through partners just like you, Walk4Water 2022 will help people be hopeFULL again by providing clean water in their communities.

Your participation in a Walk4Water has the potential to change hundreds of lives. Check out the dates on the back of this newsletter to see where the next Walk4Water event is happening in your city! Don’t see a walk near you? Start one in your area! Simply contact our team at w4w@hhi.org.

WORLD WATER DAY 2022

Our team is thrilled to share that **\$19,585** was raised for clean water on #WorldWaterDay! Thanks to your generous gifts, clean water filters and filtration systems will be sent to Ukrainian refugees who are without water. Thank you for your trust and partnership with Healing Hands International!

YOU RAISED
\$19,585!



30 YEARS OF HHI



1991

HHI begins as a class project at Lipscomb



1998

HHI responds to first natural disaster - Hurricane Mitch in Honduras



2001

Clean Water program begins



2005

HHI responds to Tsunami disaster in India

1997
MAGI box program begins



1999
Agriculture program begins



2003
HHI purchases current warehouse/office headquarters in Nashville, TN



2007

First Walk4Water event



2010

HHI responds to earthquake in Haiti



2012 - 2015

Education ministry in Haiti



2018

First transformational village in Kisii, Kenya

2009
First Women of Hope Weekend



2011
Women of Hope ministry begins



2018
Celebrate drilling of 1,000th well



2020

HHI Responds to COVID19 pandemic in multiple countries including U.S.



In the fall, we introduced you to Brittna and Ale Yegros, in Ascuncion, Paraguay. Last year, Healing Hands International brought the Yegros' aboard as new MAGI partners on the ground who would be distributing MAGI boxes in Paraguay. Brittna has a unique MAGI story in that she used to be on the giving end of MAGI back home in Tennessee and now she's on the receiving end in Paraguay! Today, we are excited to share her story directly with you in her own words after having received their first allotment of MAGI!

by Brittna Yegros

“We recently received our 150 MAGI boxes here in Paraguay after their long trip through the Atlantic Ocean and down to South America! Journeying through the process to simply get the boxes here to Paraguay for the first time has been a beautiful roller coaster of emotions, abundant gratitude, awe and we praise our good God! Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in each MAGI box prepared with so much compassion and generosity.

in a MAGI box and place it into the hands of a precious child. Witnessing the smiles and jumps for joy, seeing the laughter of excitement on their faces, receiving their hugs and hearing their words of thankfulness to all of you who shared your generosity brought me so much joy.



The majority of the 150 children receiving the MAGI boxes live in various children's homes around Asunción. Through our church, we've been connected with them for years. We are looking forward to this newfound partnership with MAGI in the years to come!

We have greatly anticipated their arrival at our church building. Right away, we placed the name of the sweet child who would receive each box on every box. It was a beautiful sight to behold as I watched the joy and listened to the giggles on the kids' faces in our own congregation while they made a special extra gift for each child who would receive the MAGI box. It is such a pleasure to gift the love of Jesus wrapped up

Our Father who sees us, calls us by name, knows what we need, provides for us as He knows best, shows us a community where we are loved and to which we can belong. Thank you again to all who have helped make the MAGI project possible for our sweet children in Paraguay!”

Learn how you can get involved with MAGI today!



2021 impact



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Everyone who visits the Healing Hands Nashville headquarters for the first time is always amazed by our 30,000 square foot warehouse. Each year, 50+ shipments are staged and loaded here with everything from MAGI boxes, to school desks, to medical equipment and so much more. This is where so much of the action happens and it couldn't get done without our faithful male volunteers.

Many of our volunteer stories feature females sewing for the Dorcas ministry or sorting MAGI boxes, and we are so grateful for

their contribution! But, the men behind the scenes are also a crucial part of making this work successful.

This group of men from the Maple Hill Church of Christ in Lebanon, Tennessee come several times throughout the year to help load pallets that will go on containers to be shipped around the world. Though they often leave here sweaty and tired from a hard day's work, they always have a smile on their faces from the joy of serving!

If you or your group (of men, women, or both) are interested in volunteer opportunities at HHI, please reach out to Nancy Markwood, our volunteer coordinator, at nmarkwood@hhi.org.

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Gifts were given in memory of the following from September 2, 2021 – February 28, 2022. Donors are in light-faced type.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear HHI Family,

The scope and scale of Healing Hands International today is certainly more than any of us could have ever imagined. It all began 30 years ago as a class project on the campus of Lipscomb University. The goal was to display the love of God to those in need as the Berlin wall was coming down. With this simple idea, fueled by the passion of Drs. Randy and Chris Steger, HHI has extended its reach and expanded its grip as we seek to be the hands of Jesus to a world that needs the saving message of Jesus Christ.

In 2021, the board of directors and leadership team at HHI began a strategic planning process that will launch this ministry boldly into the future. As a part of that process, it has been our dream and goal to establish an endowment fund. The sole purpose of this endowment fund is that the income generated would fully fund all administrative and fundraising costs of HHI. In order to achieve this goal, the fund would need to be a minimum of \$25 million. This would enable 100% of all future gifts given to HHI to be used directly for ministry. This bold vision excited us as a board! Not only would it honor all those who have faithfully given over the years, but it would allow for each gift to make an even bigger impact. This ministry belongs to the Lord, and we are seeking to be the best stewards of what has been entrusted to us.

Little did we know that in 2021, a large estate gift from a faithful donor would be the start of an endowment fund. Today, more than \$7.5 million is committed to this fund with a board policy that all estate gifts will be directed to the fund, unless directed otherwise by the donor. We believe good stewardship of your generosity is paramount, and this fund is another way we can reassure you that an investment in the lives of others through HHI is something every donor can have confidence in.

On behalf of the board at HHI, thank you for joining us in this work! I hope you'll continue to support this ministry and even consider investing in this endowment fund through your own estate plans.

For the board,

Bill Merry, Chairman



Healing Hands International News

Aid, Equip, Empower.

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On the Cover: The ministry of HHI first began as an outreach to the people of Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall, and we have found ourselves again compelled to minister those being impacted by conflict.



Healing Hands International

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- 4/10 Tuscaloosa, AL
- 4/22 Peachtree City, GA
- 4/23 Sweet Gum Head, FL
- 4/24 Florence, AL
- 4/24 Richmond, VA
- 4/30 Edmonton, KY
- 4/30 Birmingham, AL
- 4/30 Clarksville, TN
- 5/6 Fayetteville, TN
- 5/7 Troy, OH
- 5/13 Columbia, TN
- 5/14 Franklin, TN
- 5/15 Heath, OH
- 5/20 Signal Mountain, TN
- 5/21 Sanford, NC
- 5/22 Old Washington, OH

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