



# HOPE IN ACTION

## SAYING “YES” TO FEEDING MORE KIDS WHO EXPERIENCE WEEKEND HUNGER IN WEST MICHIGAN

because a hungry child hurts

“One Friday I was discreetly putting the food into the lockers at school when I heard a child’s voice behind me, ‘Are you an angel?’ The question took my breath away and as I looked behind me to see who it was, he continued. ‘You are an angel. Me and my family love the food you give us. Thank you!’ That quickly, he ran down the hallway and out the door for recess. It was then I realized how impactful Hand2Hand is for children who need the hands of the community supporting them.” - Tracy, Volunteer



hand<sup>2</sup>hand<sup>®</sup>  
capital campaign

# SAYING “YES” TO A HUNGRY CHILD.

Child weekend hunger is real for approximately 80,000 West Michigan kids. Hunger impacts every aspect of a child’s life. Hand2Hand seeks to improve students’ physical, academic, and social development, and gives kids a greater opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

## HUNGER IMPACTS KIDS...

### PHYSICALLY:

- Lower immunity
- More likely to develop chronic health conditions
- Increased illnesses
- Higher hospitalization rates

### ACADEMICALLY:

- Struggle to focus in class
- Retain less of teaching
- More likely to fall behind
- More likely to not graduate

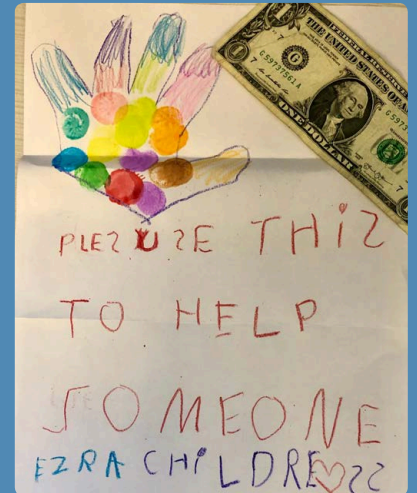
### SOCIALLY & EMOTIONALLY:

- More likely to express behavioral problems including aggression, anxiety, and depression

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recently examined 60 food-insecure children to understand their emotions. The following themes emerged\*:

- They worry about their parents’ well-being
- They experience anger, frustration, anxiety, and sadness about not having enough food
- They feel embarrassed about their family’s food situation
- They perceive strain on the family’s dynamics due to food insecurity.

\*Feeding America West Michigan



## WHY IS THE HAND2HAND WAREHOUSE NEEDED?

**To feed more hungry kids:** Schools continue to reach out to partner with Hand2Hand. **We cannot grow if we do not have space for additional food storage.** Hand2Hand currently feeds 8,007 students, ages 3-18, through the school year and extended breaks, equating to approximately 80,070 food items each week, or over 3 million items each school year. Our donated space from Sound Off Signal is appreciated, but the need for more space is required to reach more kids!

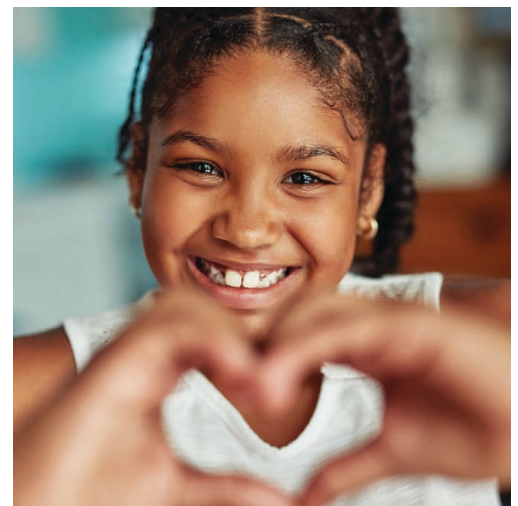
**We can potentially double in size within five years with our warehouse, adding 200 additional schools to feed and pray for approximately 10,000 more students.**

**To unite our community in a central location and establish our presence in West Michigan:**

Hand2Hand is a grassroots organization with over 6,000 passionate volunteers. Our warehouse will allow us to grow community engagement and offer a welcoming environment to individuals, businesses, schools, and churches. Our warehouse will provide us with flexibility and creativity to attract and develop more passionate volunteers and donors, which will help us reach our vision of eliminating weekend child hunger in West Michigan. Examples are community packing events, church partner trainings, child hunger awareness events, and volunteer appreciation events.

**To grow our efficiency and effectiveness as our offices and warehouse join in one location:**

Although Hand2Hand has been highly successful, a warehouse will allow for maximum impact. Many in West Michigan have never heard about our mission’s influence.



# WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO REACH \$1.9 MILLION

"I don't know where I'm  
sleeping this weekend,  
but at least I have food."  
- High School Student



WE DREAM of community connecting packing events, as we reach all students in West Michigan who experience weekend hunger.

WE DREAM about increased efficiency and effectiveness as a team while growing and maintaining Hand2Hand under one roof.

Finally, WE DREAM of training new church partners, growing our volunteer base, and inspiring others as they witness the Hand2Hand miracles and multiplication that God performs.

**Please mail donations** to Hand2Hand 2900 Baldwin, Hudsonville, MI 49426 or give online to [h2hkids.org/donate](https://h2hkids.org/donate) using the dropdown "Hope in Action Capital Campaign."

**To speak to someone directly**, please contact Katie: [katie@h2hkids.org](mailto:katie@h2hkids.org) or Cheri: [cheri@h2hkids.org](mailto:cheri@h2hkids.org).

**For more information**, please see our website at [h2hkids.org](https://h2hkids.org).

"What has been so impressive, from my perspective, is the dignity in which our students gain through access to Hand2Hand. Volunteers come in before school on Friday mornings and quickly place bags into the lockers and students can get on with their day." - Principal

"In a time of uncertainty, Hand2Hand still keeps showing and making commitments to our families." - Principal

**Building Costs** ..... \$1.1 million

**Renovation** costs to build office and meeting rooms, as well as provide warehouse and community room renovation ..... \$700,000

**Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment** ..... \$100,000

**Financial Goal** ..... **\$1.9 million**

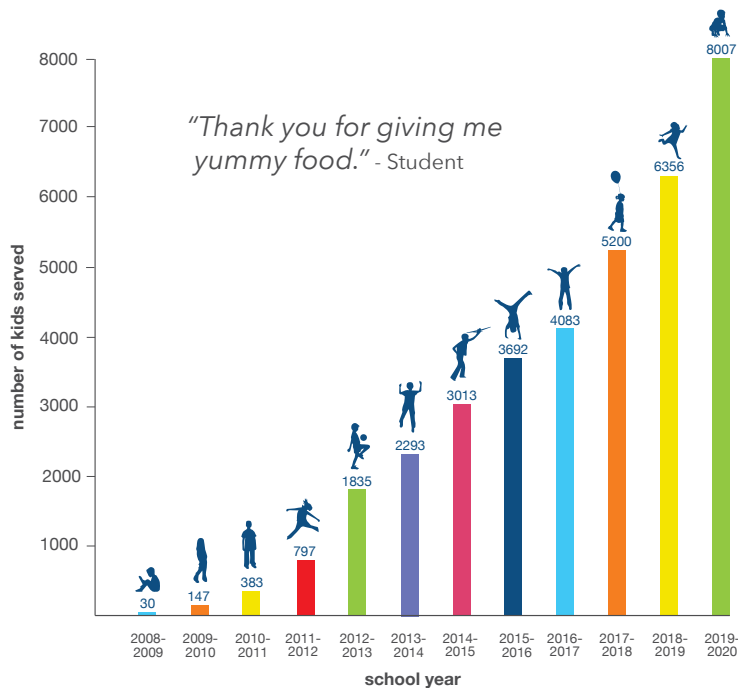
**When we reach this goal the  
Hand2Hand building will be debt-free!**

**While any gift is welcome, gifts at the following levels will have significant impact on our project:**

Amount Donated	Donors Needed	Total
\$300,000	Previous donations	\$300,000
\$250,000	Matching grant	\$250,000
\$250,000	1	\$250,000
\$100,000	3	\$300,000
\$75,000	4	\$300,000
\$50,000	5	\$250,000
\$25,000	2	\$50,000
\$10,000	9	\$90,000
\$5,000	8	\$40,000
\$3,000	10	\$30,000
\$2,000	10	\$20,000
\$1,000	10	\$10,000
\$500	20	\$10,000

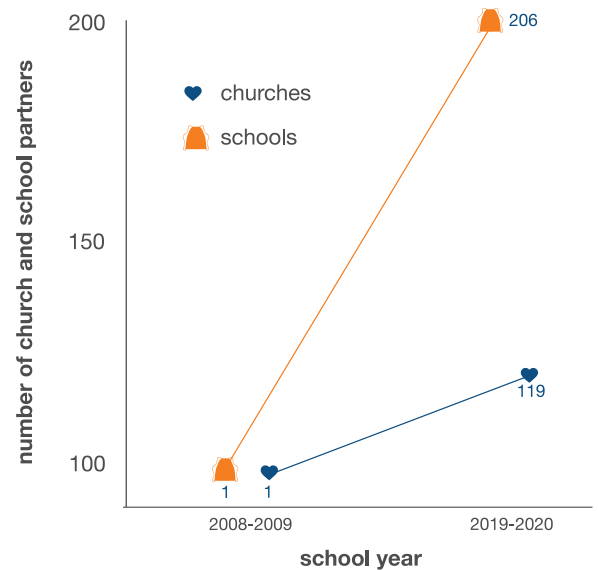
**\$1,900,000**

# GROWTH AND FINANCIALS | 2019-2020



In the school year of **2008-2009**, Hand2Hand began with a **\$1,000** budget to feed **19** students.

In the school year of **2019-2020**, Hand2Hand received **\$1.2 million** in cash and **\$3.6 million** from in-kind donations!



"Every Friday, it was like a miracle walking through the door. My grandkids would walk through the door and say, 'Grandma, we have the food!' I would take out the food and put it into the cupboard and push it all to the front so that my cupboards looked full."

- Dustin's Grandma

"I didn't realize how bad things were when I was younger, but now I do. I work now so I don't receive Hand2Hand - I'd rather leave it for those who

need it more. I like packing food and volunteering for Hand2Hand because I know how much it means to the kids and their families. Never underestimate what this food does for kids and their families."

- Dustin  
Today Dustin is a Hand2Hand volunteer and serves on the Hand2Hand Board of Directors as a Youth Advisor.



[Top] **Dustin and his Grandma.**

[Bottom] **Dustin when he was a child receiving Hand2Hand.**

"Hand2Hand gives me peace and comfort, knowing that my students are going home with some food over the weekend. The story that sticks out to me the most was how one boy collected his food and divided it up each day for him and his two little sisters. He would cook and prepare it for them each day to make sure they had food to eat each day. These were so precious to him and his sisters, I don't know what he would have done without them!"

- West Godwin Elementary Teacher

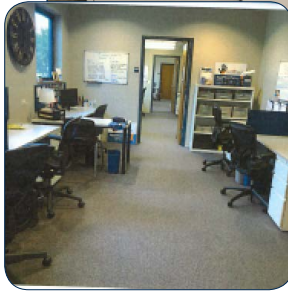


# HOPE N GROWTH

**God multiplies space.** Hand2Hand began with a small cupboard at Fair Haven Church, which grew to a small room, which grew to a larger room with offices which we still occupy. When the need for more food storage space grew in 2018, we were generously donated shared warehouse space through Sound Off Signal in Hudsonville.

**God multiplies food.** Our current donated warehouse miraculously fills up when we need it most through generous donations from the West Michigan community.

Current offices  
of Hand2Hand →



↩ Hand2Hand started out with one cupboard in the school year of 2009-2010 to feed 19 students.

A special thank you to **Fair Haven Church** for the donation of our office space since June 2016, and to **Sound Off Signal** for their donation of warehouse space since August 2018!

“Can I share this food with my brother?  
He gets hungry too.” - Student



Hand2Hand's current donated  
shared warehouse space.

## THE NEED CONTINUES TO GROW

The passionate momentum to feed kids over the weekend is stronger than ever, and we have discovered that God isn't finished. School staff members continue to reach out to Hand2Hand to provide weekend food because students can't learn when they are hungry. Hand2Hand will be prepared to say "YES" to more schools as our warehouse will provide us with critical space for food. As we live into our mission, we have a unique opportunity as people to unite and feed our local students.

# HOPE COMMUNITY



#WeAreHand2Hand



"We are thankful for Hand2Hand's leadership in our community, uniting us around the mission of making sure all students have access to weekend food."

- Lindsey VanDyken, Operations Manager, Herman Miller

"What drew us into partnering with Hand2Hand was that it was another way we could demonstrate love to the school." - Matt Yount, Pastor at Victory Point

"Hand2Hand has created some cool stories here at Cornerstone. It's been exciting to see how God used a bunch of imperfect and messy people to come together to try and love one another and then go out and show that love to our community."

- Marcus Schmidt, Pastor at Cornerstone Church, Wyoming Campus

## God multiplies people.

What began with one church and three volunteers in 2008 has grown to 120 churches, 5,880 volunteers, and 13 staff members (many of them being part time)! God has inspired and mobilized an army to link arms and deliver weekend food packed with love and prayers to 8,007 kids.



A Hand2Hand mom and her son came to a Hand2Hand community packing. After seeing the entire process she said, "I knew these bags were special, but I didn't realize just how special they are."

# OUR VISION...

for every child in West Michigan, ages 3-18, to have weekend food, hope, and prayers, so they have a greater opportunity to learn and reach their full God-given potential.

**COMPASSION:** A vision for children to have food resources over the most vulnerable time of their week - the 68-hour gap of the weekend

**CONNECTION:** A vision of partnering with every local school who requests our services to ensure hungry children have weekend food placed directly into their hands

**COLLABORATION:** A vision of partnership, innovation, and efficiency as churches, schools, businesses, and individuals collaborate to end West Michigan weekend child hunger

**COMMUNITY:** A vision of a healthier future for students and West Michigan as we link arms to end child weekend hunger in West Michigan

**CHRIST-CENTERED:** A vision for all in the West Michigan community to witness the love and power of Christ as we serve, feed, bless, and pray for kids in need

**CONTRIBUTION:** Your generous gift will turn our vision into reality as we put Hope into Action in West Michigan!

## Hand2Hand Founding Verse:

*The eyes of all look to you in hope;  
you give them their food as they need it.  
When you open your hand,  
you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every  
living thing. - Psalms 145:15-16*

"I have witnessed God move through **Hope in Action** in unimaginable ways over the last 12 years. Hand2Hand has impacted our students, schools, churches, businesses, and individuals throughout West Michigan. Students have been relieved from anxiety, delivered joy and hope, and have experienced love from their community. School staff members have been encouraged, churches have been re-energized, businesses have warmly contributed to serving their communities, and individuals have found passionate purpose.

**We need YOU to join us. We cannot meet the needs of our schools and students if we do not have the space to grow and house more food donations and purchases.**

Your generous contribution is appreciated and necessary to help us reach our vision. Hand2Hand is at a major crossroads as we strive to end local child weekend hunger. Together we can continue to shine His love and light throughout West Michigan as we put **Hope in Action!**"

Because a hungry child hurts,



*Cheri Honderd*

Cheri Honderd, Founder and Executive Director, Hand2Hand  
Ephesians 3:20-21

"Hand2Hand has reached an inflection point in our 11 year journey as we face increasing requests to enter new West Michigan schools. To meet the growing needs of our local students who experience food insecurity, we need to expand operations with increased warehouse and community spaces. As our church partners continue to respond to feeding and praying for their local students over the weekend, we are committed to providing the necessary resources to grow where our community needs us the most." - Drew Nielsen, Hand2Hand Board President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Drew Nielsen, President**  
Managing Partner,  
Syndeo Solutions Group

**Jim Meyer, Vice President**  
Retired President and CEO, Spartan  
Stores, Inc.

**Jeff Piper, Treasurer**  
Vice President of Operations for  
Performance Structures, MEC

**Lisa Uganski, Secretary**  
Registered Dietitian, Ottawa Food  
Coordinator, Ottawa County Department  
of Public Health

**Tim Cumings, Board Member**  
Attorney, Auto Owners Insurance, Co.

**Linda Likely, Board Member**  
Retired Director of Housing and  
Community Development for  
Kent County, Grant Administrator/  
Organizational Development Consultant

**T.J. Scott, Board Member**  
Talent Acquisition Specialist, Amway

**Greg VanderMeer, Board Member**  
Lead Pastor, Fair Haven Church

**Lindsey VanDyken, Board Member**  
Operations Manager, Herman Miller

**Cheri Honderd, Board Member**  
Founder and Executive Director,  
Hand2Hand

**Tom TenBrink, Ex Officio Board Member**  
Superintendent, Jenison Public Schools

**Tom Livezey, Ex Officio Board Member**  
Superintendent, Oakridge Public Schools,  
Muskegon

**Dustin Mann, Youth Advisory  
Board Member**  
Former Hand2Hand Recipient and  
High School Student



**Hand2Hand delivers nutritious food to students over the weekends and on extended school breaks by mobilizing churches, schools, individuals, and businesses to join together, providing hope and opportunity to thrive.**

“I moved to West Michigan a few years ago. I am so happy to be a part of an organization that truly impacts the lives of so many children as well as their families. The past few years I have learned more about servanthood and living like Jesus wants us to live. I have made wonderful friendships and plan on volunteering for Hand2Hand for as long as I have breath.” - Sally



**hand<sup>2</sup>hand<sup>®</sup>**  
because a hungry child hurts

616.209.2779 h2hkids.org

