

Because... when students have enough food they are better able to learn, play, grow, and thrive.



2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT | June 2022



hand2hand[®]
because a hungry child hurts

Dear Friends of Hand2Hand,

It's hard to believe that we are wrapping up our **14th school year of delivering hope, love, food, and prayers to students, ages 3-18, who experience weekend hunger.**

Every year I stand amazed at God's faithfulness, goodness, and perfect timing.

It's been a year of transition as we moved into our building debt-free in June 2021. *Growing Together* was our theme this year, and we have grown in many ways as an organization. One

way we *grew together* was **we began the school year serving 6,690 students and are now serving 8,301 students, an additional 1,611 students in ten months.**

With rapid growth and a new building, it is no surprise that we ran into a few challenges. Jim Meyer, who has been with Hand2Hand as a volunteer since we began, continues to bless us with wisdom and leadership. He previously was the CEO of a large grocery chain and understands food distribution. I smile to think of how God brought Jim to our board years ago - He knew we needed his insight and counsel. Along with the committed, passionate, and 'can do it' attitude of our fantastic staff and church partners, we learned, adapted well, and finished the school year stronger than ever.



Every year I stand amazed at your compassion, kindness, faithfulness, and generosity.

Recently I was talking to one of our donors. He likes to build and sell things and donate his labor income to Hand2Hand, and he hand delivers his donation every time. The other day he came in with a gift but told us that it was his insurance refund this time. After I thanked him and told him his generosity is inspiring, he replied, **"I just need to take care of my kids."**

Hearing the love in his voice as he called Hand2Hand students 'my kids' brought tears to my eyes. Since I have known him, he has also brought in two donated bags of Hand2Hand food each week to his church.

His generosity is inspiring, and so is yours.

As you look inside these pages, I pray you are blessed as you read about the **impact we are making together.**

Thank you for being a blessing,

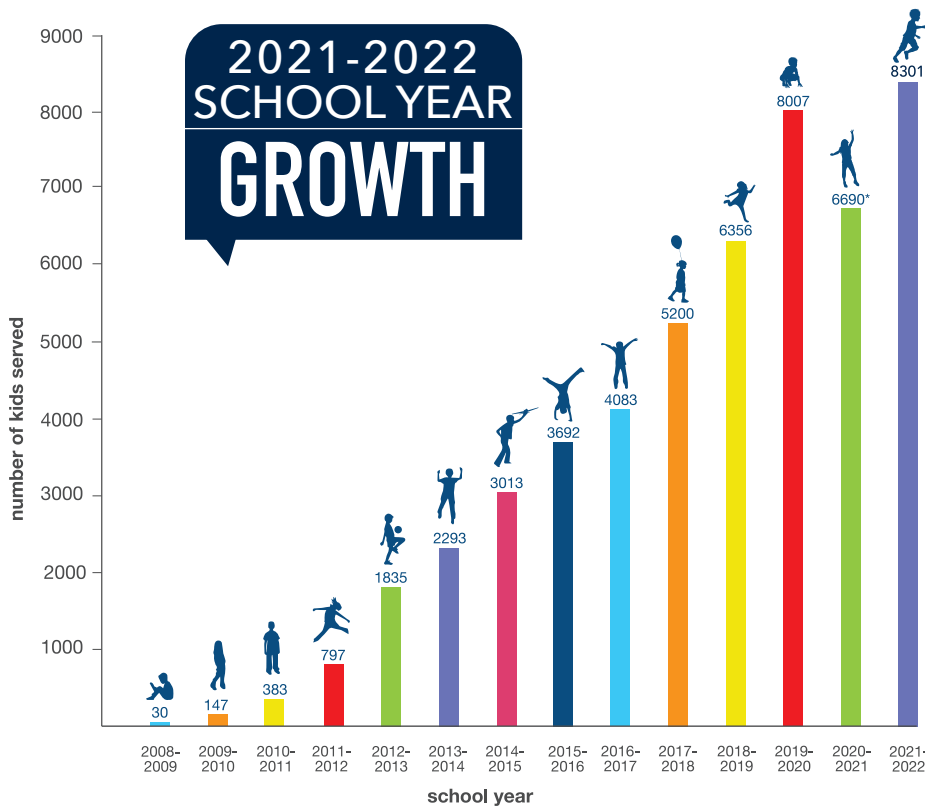
Cheri Honderd

Cheri Honderd, Founder and Executive Director, Hand2Hand



CHERI PACKING FOOD WITH
THE HELP OF HER NINE
GRANDCHILDREN

"Thank you for your mission! Our students and families benefit weekly from your service. It is very much appreciated!!!" - Principal



During this past school year, Hand2Hand has experienced:

- 1611 MORE STUDENTS** - currently serving 8418!
- 3 MORE SCHOOL DISTRICTS** - currently in 40 school districts in West Michigan! New districts: Kenowa Hills, Muskegon Public, Reeths Puffer
- 25 MORE SCHOOLS** - currently serving 256!
- 11 MORE CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS** for a total of 138 church partnerships!

CURRENTLY SERVING THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS...

**Includes Private and Charter*

Allendale	Kenowa Hills
Bloomington	Kent City
Byron Center*	Kentwood
Caledonia	Mason County
Cedar Springs	Central
Comstock Park	Mona Shores
Coopersville	Muskegon
Fremont	Muskegon ISD
Godfrey-Lee	Muskegon Heights
Godwin Heights	Northview
Grand Haven	Oakridge
Grand Rapids*	Reeths Puffer
Grandville*	Rockford
Hamilton	Sparta
Hastings	Spring Lake
Holland*	Thornapple
Holton	Kellogg
Hopkins	Wayland
Hudsonville	West Ottawa
Jenison*	Wyoming*
Kelloggsville	Zeeland*

TO LEARN ABOUT OUR CHURCH PARTNERS, visit h2hkids.org/churches.

2021-2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

EXPENSES

Administration
7.5%

Program
92.5%

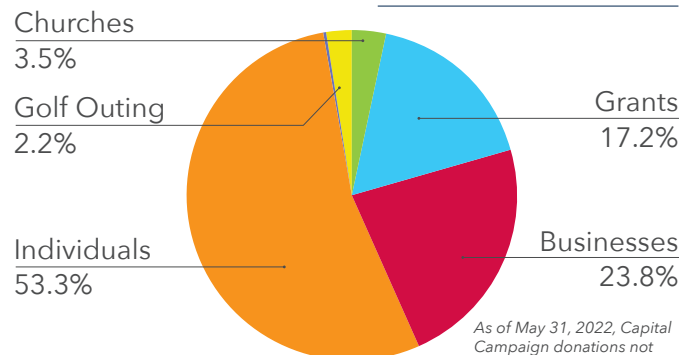
To receive Hand2Hand's 990, please contact info@h2hkids.org.



Enhancing Trust

For every \$1 given, Hand2Hand received an additional \$3.30 through volunteer hours, food donations, and other in-kind contributions.

CONTRIBUTIONS



WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE!

"Being a widow with four kids [Hand2Hand] has been very helpful in keeping food in the house." - Hand2Hand Parent

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on August 31, 2021 for The Hand2Hand Central Office and Warehouse.

Many community members and partners joined this special day, including the Joy Bus from Joy99 who served ice cream donated by House of Flavors in Ludington. We can't imagine this year without the building and are so grateful for all who contributed to our ability to say 'Yes' to more students in need of weekend food!



OUR VERY FIRST PACKING IN OUR NEW BUILDING!

Students from **Ada Bible Church** packed and prayed over the first food to be assembled in our new building.



Hand2Hand became a field trip destination. **Third grade students from Holland Christian School** got a tour of our building and offered to pray over food for Muskegon elementary students.



School field trips were a dream of ours before we had our building. Having the first busload of kids pull up to our building was an exciting moment and our team let out a cheer of joy! Some of our students who visited us this year on field trips were Hand2Hand recipients and they learned firsthand the love, joy, and prayers that go into their food each weekend.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Drew Nielsen, President
Managing Partner,
Syndeo Solutions

Jim Meyer, Vice President
Retired President/CEO,
Spartan Stores

Jeff Piper, Treasurer
Vice President of Operations, MEC

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

Cheri Honderd
Founder and Executive
Director, Hand2Hand

Linda Likely
Organizational Development
Consultant

TJ Scott
Talent Acquisition Specialist,
Amway

Greg VanderMeer
Lead Pastor, Fair Haven Church

Lindsey VanDyken
Operations Manager,
Herman Miller

Tom Livezey, Ex Officio
Superintendent, Oakridge
Public Schools, Muskegon

Thank you Dustin Mann, former
Hand2Hand Student, for your
faithful commitment as a Student
Board Member. We wish you
success at GVSU!

CHURCH PARTNERS

PACKING, PRAYING, SERVING

"We have a severely autistic son who requires many therapies and doctor appointments. Hand2Hand has helped reduce our grocery bill." - Parent



As we prepared for this school year, we began with prayer. Our church partners gathered for our **Commissioning Service** - a time of encouragement and learning how to *Speak Jesus* over our students and to those they encounter in their schools and community. We sang *Speak Jesus* over all of our attendees, as well. It's been a difficult few years and yet they have remained wholeheartedly committed to their students.



Spring Appreciation Luncheon - Celebrating our church coordinators!

Every week of this school year, our coordinators planted seeds of God's hope by delivering food to students and covering them in prayer.

"We are a family of six, including our four sons who are 10 and under. We do not receive any assistance and have a grocery budget of \$150 a week. Hand2Hand is such a massive help to us. Thank you very much." - Parent



WHAT'S IN A BACKPACK



\$1.44 MILLION
Value of food distributed

2.88 MILLION
Number of food items sent home

CHURCH PARTNERS

PACKING, PRAYING, SERVING

"I have a student who asks every Wednesday when the backpack is coming. We count down together and she is thrilled to get her food on Fridays. She says, 'This is MY food.' I can tell it's very important to her." - Teacher

The faithful commitment of our church partners ensures our **8,301 students** are receiving Hand2Hand over the 68-hour gap of each weekend. Their commitment, love, compassion, and faithfulness is inspiring.



"Whenever we have felt that it's going to be difficult to get all the food we need, something happens and we have plenty. It has happened over and over again through the years we've been with Hand2Hand."

- Church Coordinator
Volunteer for 9 years

"Prayer has made our ministry stronger and focuses more on God providing for the students."

- Church Partner

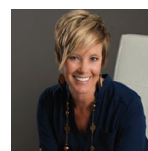
"We have never had a time when we couldn't feed all of our kids, even at the height of the pandemic when we were new and serving more than 350 students! God fills the pantry every time we start to doubt!" - Church Partner



God is faithful! Students at **Bunker Elementary in Muskegon** received their first Hand2Hand food!

"We've been working with school staff members for three years and were supposed to launch in March 2020, but COVID changed that. One of the delivery volunteers went to Bunker Elementary and all of her kids and grandkids have also attended there. Her eyes were filled with tears and joy! Volunteers from two Muskegon churches help deliver backpacks into lockers and pray for the students. These pictures represent God's faithfulness and perfect timing."

- Jodi Joseph, Program Director



FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Back to School: Hand2Hand kicked off the 2021-2022 school year by sending out **70,000 food items** to help students get ready to learn!

Christmas Break: **83,435 food items** were distributed for students over Christmas Break!

Thank you for your generosity in helping to support extra food distributions this past year!

A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

"Hand2Hand is love through service to the community!" - Principal



Thanks to **Chapel Pointe Kids Vacation Bible School** for raising **\$8,125** to provide **1,624** bags of weekend food!



\$10,696 was donated and raised for Hand2Hand as **Elhart** employees chose to partner with us for the year.

"Hand2Hand captured our hearts... we knew we could make an impact with Hand2Hand."

Hand2Hand loved getting to know Elhart employees - what an amazingly generous, compassionate, and fun team!



367 events were hosted this year!

Our Hand2Hand community engagement and warehouse teams have enjoyed packing with all of our groups!

The many hands at **First Companies** who helped create our new building came back four times this year to help us pack food!

"It's heartbreaking to know there are children in our own neighborhoods who experience the pain of hunger, but we are thankful for the team at Hand2Hand who are meeting this need."

- Matt Sink, COO, First Companies



OUR WAREHOUSE TEAM



strong body,
strong mind,
**STRONG
YOU!**

Thanks to a generous grant by **Amway**, we piloted a nutritional program in Kentwood schools over Spring Break.

"THANK YOU SO MUCH!! What an awesome way to send kids out the door for 10 days - so positive, so supportive!" - Principal



Give 'Em a Brake Safety raised **\$9,100** to purchase and pack **18,015** food items. They have raised \$43,190.89 for Hand2Hand since 2016!

"We are so proud to support Hand2Hand! You continue to do an amazing job!" - Jamie Lemke, President, Give 'Em A Brake Safety

"Thank you for your care and support of our students.
You are recognized and appreciated." - Principal



Jenison students have raised **\$59,769.95** this school year through different fundraisers!

Pictured: A Jenison Public School senior for the Senior Survivor Fundraiser and Hand2Hand team members, Katie and Emily, Jim Meyer, Hand2Hand Board of Directors, and Brandon Graham, Superintendent of Jenison Public Schools

Another answer to prayer! As we reach more students, this truck will allow us to transport larger loads of food, saving time and energy in combining these trips.

A special thank you to **SoundOff Signal, Michael Gilpin with FastSigns for the truck donation, and Jeanette Gillespie with Jam Graphic Design.**

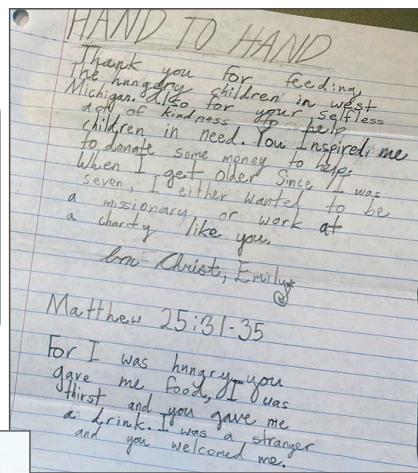


"At the end of a Community Packing Event, I got in my car to leave. When I was ready to back out, I heard a tap on my window. I rolled down the window and **Sam, who had volunteered that night**, handed me a crinkled-up **\$20** bill and proceeded to walk away. I called him back and asked him what the money was for. He said he wanted to feed kids. He had just received that money from his grandpa for his birthday and he wanted to give it to Hand2Hand." - Amy Kleinheksel, Partnership Manager



"When one of my students receives a bag of food on Friday afternoon, her eyes light up. She knows that she has something to rely on for the weekend." - Teacher

Our students benefited greatly when **Jeff Bergstrom** ran **50K** for his 50th birthday. Together with his neighbors, he collected and packed food, and raised funds for Hand2Hand. Thank you, Jeff!



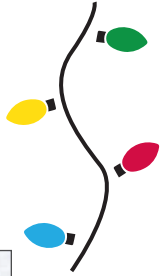
Emily raised **\$145** by doing chores for neighbors. When she grows up, she hopes to work at a non-profit like Hand2Hand or become a missionary.



"Hand2Hand is one of the many reasons I'm proud to be a part of this community. We care about each other. People are so willing to lend a hand." - Parent



The **Hughes & Sims families** raised **\$3,879.43** through their annual Christmas light show - they have raised **\$22,454.01** for Hand2Hand through their Christmas light show since 2017. Their shows are so uplifting and festive!



The newly merged **MillerKnoll** joined us for their first Day of Purpose.



A family purchases and packs food for Christmas instead of exchanging gifts with each other.



Action Water Sports

was a Hope for Kids Dinner sponsor and also collected food and packed **2,000** lunch kits.



The **Hand2Hand Golf Outing** in July raised **over \$26,000!**

Congratulations to Jon Mroz for hitting a hole-in-one at our outing. Jon is also the principal of Sandy Hill Elementary where Hand2Hand began.



Jeff and Michelle Drake, a former Hand2Hand family, blessed us with their story at our **Hope for Kids Dinner**.

"We wouldn't have chosen it but God opened our eyes to how incredibly exhausting, fearful, and taxing poverty is. Hand2Hand says, 'We see you, you're valued, we love you, we hear you.'"

The Drakes are now the successful business owners of Stems Market in Jenison. Hear their full story at h2hkids.org/spreading-kingdom-joy.

Hand2Hand was honored to be chosen as a **2020, 2021, and 2022 Charity Partner for the Amway River Bank Run in Grand Rapids**, the largest 25K in the country. More than **\$25,000** was raised during these three races!

The **Hope for Kids Dinner** is always a great evening and **\$229,000** was raised for the purpose of growing into **25 new schools** and for purchasing food.

"One girl in my class asks each Monday when she will be getting her food backpack again. She is very excited to show me her favorite foods she gets before each weekend. My students who receive Hand2Hand food are very grateful for this help." - Teacher

OUR DREAMS AND NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

According to the Michigan Department of Health, as of March 2022, **54% of Michigan children live in food-insecure households**, and the need is growing with inflation.

The Hand2Hand solution is simple yet profoundly impactful.

We have a vision that by 2027 every school in West Michigan, early childhood through high school, will have a weekend food opportunity.

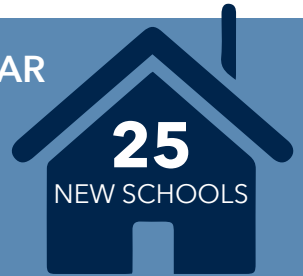
Together we can accomplish this vision, and **we are already over halfway there!**



GOALS FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

- Serve 25 new schools
- Procure more low-cost and donated food
- Increase our food distribution to our church partners
- Increase volunteer opportunities by hosting more packings each month at our building

Your faithful generosity will ensure every current and new Hand2Hand student will receive food over the 68-hour gap of the weekend.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND GIVE:

WE NEED YOU!

- **Give financially** to Hand2Hand
- **Volunteer to pack.** Visit our website or follow us on social media to sign up.   
- Donate our **requested food items** which are located on our website
- Engage **your business** to join us. We have many ideas for you!
- Sponsor and attend our annual **Hope for Kids Dinner** (October 20, 2022) or **Golf Outing**
- Host a **Change for Hope fundraiser** during the month of October
- For more information, contact katie@h2hkids.org.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE:

- Donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- Donate tax free from your IRA
- Include Hand2Hand in your estate planning
- Research your employer's matching gift programs
- Become a monthly donor

Gifts given in memory of a loved one.

Mike Arends
Lisa Bowers
John Colon
Chuck Johnson
Gretta Marks
Wayne Schuitema
Robyn Sorrell
Donald Tell
Norma Jean VanDyke
Ryan Whitney
Gerrit Zylstra

Gifts given in honor of Retirement:

Beverly Fletcher
-MillerKnoll



"Hand2Hand has allowed our kids to help plan, prepare, and serve dinner." - Parent

**Because... some of us
wouldn't have food.
You change that!**



**Take a look inside to see how you
are impacting kids in West Michigan!**



hand2hand®
because a hungry child hurts

306 Chicago Drive
Jenison MI 49428

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT #24

“

Dear Hand2Hand Team:
When I open my locker and see my
backpack of food, I feel...
Greatful
and
Thankful

From Joshua, Thank you!

”

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

