



IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023 | July 2023

Dear Friends,

I have had a sign in my office for as long as I can remember that reads, ***"Sometimes I just look up, smile, and say, I know that was you, God. Thank you!"***

As we finish our **15th** school year of Hand2Hand, I think of all that God has done. ***Since 2008 we have blessed, encouraged, and provided weekend food to 61,192 students in West Michigan.***



When we began feeding 19 kids 15 years ago, I never dreamed we would be where we are today, feeding **10,365 students in 273 schools**. I have watched in amazement and joy as I have seen God provide ***immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine according to HIS power at work within us*** every year.

This year is no different. We knew inflation was high and that the need might increase. We budgeted for 750 new students, but God had other plans, and ***together we have been able to say YES to an additional 2,064 students in need of weekend food and prayers.***

Words can't express my gratitude for your faithful, compassionate, and generous financial donations to Hand2Hand this year.

As our **145 church partners** stepped out in faith to feed more kids, we provided them with more food, ***thanks to you!*** We began monthly food

distributions where churches met us in their community to receive food for their program.

We have also been blessed to meet with families as we hosted Focus Group Breakfasts at some of our schools to learn how Hand2Hand helps them. One mom said, ***"Hand2Hand gives me peace,"*** and another said, ***"Hand2Hand is a breath of hope that encourages us to keep fighting to overcome life's adversities."***

Friends, what a blessing YOU are as we bring the ***peace and hope of Jesus*** into the lives of students and their families. So much has happened this year, and as you look through this Impact Report, please ***join me in praising God*** for all He has done.

With gratitude for you and all God is doing.  
Because a hungry child hurts,



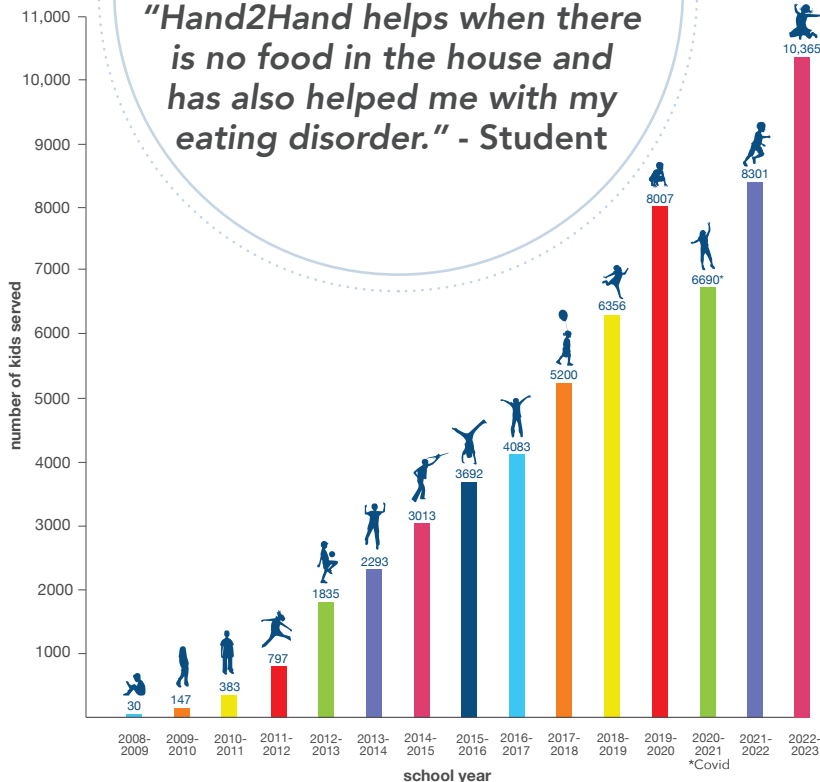
*Cheri Honderd*

Cheri Honderd, Founder and Executive Director, Hand2Hand

The first delivery to Burton Middle School (Cheri and Jodi with school staff who are excited to begin Hand2Hand.)

# Growth and Financials

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



**2,064**  
More Students  
Currently serving 10,365!

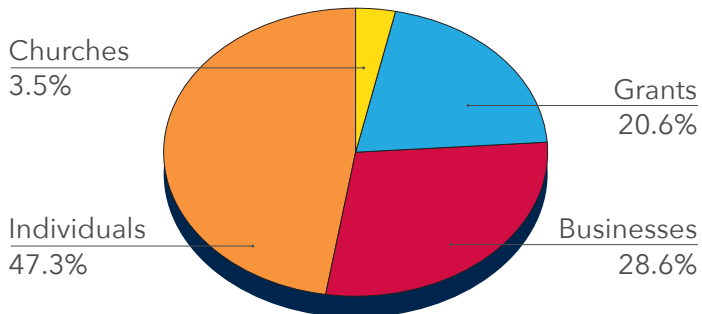
**4**  
More School Districts  
Currently in 44 school districts in West Michigan! New districts: Delton-Kellogg, Fruitport, Lowell, and Paw Paw

**19**  
More Schools  
Currently serving 273!

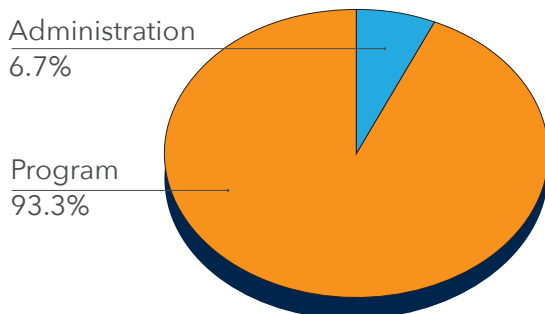
**12**  
More Church Partnerships,  
for a total of 145!

For every \$1 given, Hand2Hand received an additional \$3.49 through volunteer hours, food donations, and other in-kind contributions.

## CONTRIBUTIONS



## EXPENSES



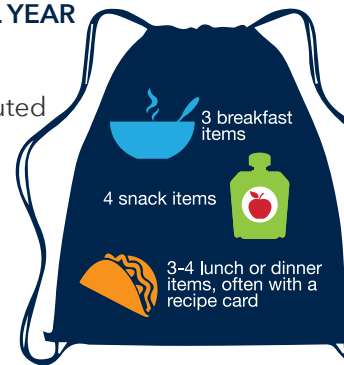
\*As of May 31, 2023

To receive Hand2Hand's 990, please contact [info@h2hkids.org](mailto:info@h2hkids.org).

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

**\$2 MILLION**  
Value of food distributed

**4 MILLION**  
Number of food items sent home



*"My job at Hand2Hand is a daily reminder that love and compassion can change lives, and I am grateful to be part of a team that nourishes both bodies and souls." - Rhonda Stanton, Director of Administration*

ECFA accredits leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully comply with the ECFA Standards for financial accountability, fundraising, and board governance. [ecfa.org](http://ecfa.org)

Hand2Hand is proud to be recognized for financial transparency and responsibility at the highest level.



**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.**



# Church Partners

PACKING, PRAYING, SERVING



*"Our 145 church partners continue to say 'YES' to feeding kids! They are some of the most faithful, compassionate, and prayerful volunteers. Together #WeAreHand2Hand!" - Jodi Joseph, Program Director*



A special thank you to Karen Donker, who brought weekend food to West Ottawa Public Schools and served as a coordinator for 14 years! Karen was instrumental in helping us grow into the West Ottawa school district as she went from church to church asking them to join Hand2Hand.



Parent focus groups encouraged families to give feedback on our programs. One parent shared,

*"Hand2Hand gives me peace."*

*"We get big smiles and high fives from kids we pass in the hall. You can see their eyes light up when they see our wagons full of bags. One teacher saw us, stopped teaching, and came to the door to thank us because it makes such a difference for the kids in her class." -Hand2Hand Coordinator*



At our 19 **Hub Distribution** sites across West Michigan, church partners received 156,205 backpacks of food to help feed kids.



**Living Life Church** is a new partner helping to feed and pray for students in Muskegon County. April Strick was our coordinator in Allendale, and when she moved, she had to take Hand2Hand with her! Her kids help sell eggs to raise money, and their family delivers the food together along with Pastor Jeff and their volunteers.





# West Michigan Businesses

GENEROUSLY GIVING BACK

A special thank you to our 2023 Provider of Hope Sponsors, **First Companies** and **FOAMit**, for their gifts of \$25,000 and year-long commitment to helping eliminate child weekend hunger in their communities!

**First Companies** generously packed food four times throughout the year. Take Your Child to Work Day meant we had a lot of extra helpers!

*"After three years of partnership with Hand2Hand, we are more passionate about ending weekend hunger for students than ever before. We are honored to work alongside such an amazing organization, and feel blessed to be a part of this worthy mission." - Matt Sink, Chief Operating Officer, First Companies*



*"Hand2Hand helps me get through the day without being hungry and think about class and not my stomach." - Student*



**FOAMit**  
EQUIPPED FOR CLEAN

FOAMit employees gathered in their warehouse to pack 23,677 food items this school year!

WE EXIST TO

*make it better*



**Noodlepig** has donated 25 cents for each ramen bowl sold to support Hand2Hand students! *"As a father of four, it breaks my heart to think of my children ever having to experience true hunger or starvation, and I would very much like to help." - Chris Wessely, Founder & Executive Chef, Noodlepig*

*"Our mission has always been to 'make it better.' Partnering with Hand2Hand, providing nourishing food for our children, certainly helps 'make it better.' It is an honor to work with you to feed our children. Thank you!" - The FOAMit Team*



**Metal Flow** hosted a corporate match fundraiser where employees raised \$14,000 and helped pack food for kids.

**Extol** partnered with us to host three volunteer food packing events for their employees throughout the year!



**265 PACKING EVENTS WERE HOSTED THIS YEAR!**



*"I am in awe of our generous community. Because of YOUR compassion, thousands of students have access to weekend food. Thank you for all that you do to help us with our mission of delivering love, hope, food, and prayers to kids in West Michigan." - Katie Bartels, Director of Giving*





## A Community that Cares

A beautiful picture of our Hand2Hand mission!  
Painting by local Artist Heather Persch.



Scott and Michelle Agers, owners of The Lighting Corner, and family of Howard Glupker.

**New to our fleet is "White Lighting".** This minivan was donated after the owner, Howie Glupker, passed away. Howie was passionate about kids and served as a Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Athletic Director. He was also a much-loved husband, father, and grandfather.

On the van's maiden voyage, 160 bags of food were delivered to Burton Elementary in Grand Rapids Public Schools. We later discovered that Howie once attended Burton Elementary School and that he would have been thrilled to know his vehicle was used to bless kids there.

"It brought tears to my eyes because he was always trying to make a difference in the lives of his students," said Howie's daughter Michelle. What a God-wink for the family as the van's first voyage was to their loved one's elementary school.



New this year, **Community Packing Events** at Hand2Hand Central! 373,807 food items, were packed by 1,689 volunteers this school year.



When volunteers are needed, **David's House Ministries** shows up with smiling faces, ready to help!



"I'm continually amazed to experience the love God has for kids. He shows us the need and then equips us with the community and resources to meet the need."  
- Mike Shapiro, Director of Food Operations



Tiffany shared that her family received Hand2Hand a few years ago, but that life is much better today. They couldn't wait to give back and pay it forward! **"We were so grateful for the food we received. We know how much it means to those receiving it,"** she said.





As a single mom, Rena was the first COVID patient in Ottawa County and was hospitalized for a month. Hand2Hand stepped in to help her kids with weekend food. Rena shared, ***"God has blessed me so much, and Hand2Hand was there to help me when I needed it the most."*** When she learned that her church was looking for a Hand2Hand volunteer, she quickly said YES to the call. Hear her full story: [h2hkids.org/renas-story](https://h2hkids.org/renas-story).



Rena and her pastor sing *Million Little Miracles* at our Hope for Kids Dinner.



At the **2022 Hand2Hand Golf Outing**, participants and sponsors raised \$59,000 to help with program costs.

At our **2022 Hope for Kids Dinner**, \$256,779.55 was raised to serve more schools and purchase food to help bring hope to hungry kids!

## Schools



### Change for Hope Fundraisers:

Jenison Public Schools: **\$27,631**

Byron Center and Grandville High Schools: **\$11,656**

Hudsonville Public Schools: **\$8,488**

**YOUR SCHOOL** can host a Change for Hope Fundraiser. Contact [katie@h2hkids.org](mailto:katie@h2hkids.org).

**Jenison Public Schools** high school students raised \$12,261.45 through their Senior Survivor Fundraiser. Their generosity and compassion continue to inspire us!

**Godfrey-Lee Alternative High School** students spent months on a Marketing and Fundraising Campaign and raised \$250 for Hand2Hand.



The 6th-graders at **NorthPointe Christian Schools** assembled 1,000 breakfast packs!



**Ottawa County superintendents** enjoyed packing food for students at their schools.



***"This school year was the first time my kids have received Hand2Hand. I was diagnosed with cancer last summer and I'm still going through chemo treatments. My husband was hesitant, he thought it was asking for a handout. So often we were short on cash or didn't even have the time or energy to get to the grocery store. When the Hand2Hand bags came home, the kids and I were thrilled with the easy dinner, breakfast, and snacks for them. Even my husband quickly realized that it was okay to receive help and could see the benefits."*** - Parent

# Looking Ahead

OUR DREAMS AND NEEDS  
FOR THE FUTURE



According to Feeding America West Michigan, **1 in 8 children in Michigan face hunger.** The Hand2Hand solution is simple yet profoundly impactful as we link arms with churches, schools, individuals, and businesses to ensure every child in West Michigan has access to weekend food. Our vision is that by the 2027-28 school year, 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 NEXT YEAR

- **CAPACITY TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 STUDENTS** in the counties we currently serve



**STOREHOUSE**  
because a hungry child hurts

- **THE HAND2HAND STOREHOUSE** will launch this fall. The Storehouse will be our wholesale grocery distribution center for church partners. Due to our growth and buying power that comes with it, we will purchase large quantities of food wholesale and pass the savings on to our church partners.

- **INCREASE FOOD DISTRIBUTION OF FULL BACKPACKS TO OUR CHURCH PARTNERS**
- **INCREASE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
- **NUTRITIONAL PACKET SENT HOME WITH EACH STUDENT.** Hand2Hand continues to stress the importance of nutrition. Every student this year will receive a water bottle, nutritional information, peanut butter, apple, and trail mix. Thank you to **Amway** for financially donating and packing 12,500 nutrition kits!

**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. [f](#) [i](#) [t](#)
- 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 Fundraiser** (October 17, 2023)
- For more information, contact [katie@h2hkids.org](mailto: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

## Board of Directors

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Managing Partner,  
Syndeo Solutions

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

**Jeff Piper, Treasurer**  
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Department of Health Registered  
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Director, Hand2Hand

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Budget Blinds

**Christian Molette**  
Youth Advisory Board Member

**Breanna King**  
Youth Advisory Board Member

**Thank you to Linda Likely for three years of service, and our exiting student board members, Christian & Breanna!**



# Christian's Story

Because of Hand2Hand, "I knew I would have breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and I wouldn't have to go hungry. Even as a young kid, I knew there was a God and He was looking out for me. Today I have begun a relationship with Jesus." - Christian, Hand2Hand Student Board Member

We celebrate Christian as he graduates high school this year and already works as a certified Diesel Mechanic.



Hear Christian's story at [h2hkids.org/meet-christian](http://h2hkids.org/meet-christian).



## Save the Date!

Hope for Kids Fundraiser  
Tuesday, October 17, 2023

The funds raised at this dinner will help start Hand2Hand programs in new schools and sustain our current schools.



306 Chicago Drive  
Jenison MI 49428

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## Is Hand2Hand delivering hope to kids in your school district?

Serving Every School | Partially Serving | No Hand2Hand Programs  
\*Includes charter schools

### ALLEGAN

Hamilton  
Hopkins  
Plainwell  
Saugatuck  
Wayland

### BARRY

Delton-Kellogg  
Hastings  
Thornapple Kellogg

### KENT

Byron Center\*  
Caledonia  
Cedar Springs  
Comstock Park  
Forest Hills  
Godfrey-Lee  
Godwin Heights  
Grand Rapids  
Grandville  
Kelloggsville

### Kenowa Hills\*

Kent City  
Kentwood  
Lowell  
Northview  
Rockford  
Sparta  
Wyoming\*

### MASON

Mason County Central

### MUSKEGON

Fruitport  
Holton  
Mona Shores  
Montague  
Muskegon  
Muskegon Heights  
Muskegon ISD  
North Muskegon  
Oakridge  
Whitehall

### Orchard View

Reeths Puffer  
Ravenna

### NEWAYGO

Fremont

### OTTAWA

Allendale  
Coopersville  
Grand Haven  
Holland  
Hudsonville  
Jenison\*  
Spring Lake  
West Ottawa  
Zeeland\*

### VAN BUREN

Bloomington  
Paw Paw

