



Generous Hands, INC.

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JANUARY, 2009

# 2008 IN REVIEW

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The mission of Generous Hands, Inc. is to benefit hungry children by addressing their physical, emotional and educational needs.

## BOARD MEMBERS

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### BOARD MEMBER

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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach Generous Hands' Five Year Anniversary, I am awed at how much has been accomplished by the work of our community!! I would never have predicted that a simple service project initiated by our Bible study would grow into a program serving 180 students each week; that hundreds of community volunteers, many of them children, would offer their help in this mission; and that a new "baby Generous Hands program" would begin in Sheldon, Iowa as of April 2008. And yet we must look forward as well. Generous Hands exists today because several foundations took a chance on our idea and provided start-up grants for our program. And although foundation grants help Generous Hands run, one of our financial goals is to have an increasing amount of support from individuals: we want the people of Vicksburg and greater Kalamazoo County to "own" this program. As we see more and more children in need, Generous Hands provides a way for all of us to help hungry children in our community. We can't help every hungry child in Michigan, but we can help these children. The Board of Directors of Generous Hands thanks you, and invites you to join with us as we work to feed children and increase "hunger awareness" in our community.

Paula Schriemer, M.D.

President, Generous Hands Inc.

## GHI PROGRAM UPDATES

Not only are kids on the "receiving" end of our services but on the "giving" end as well. Kids of all ages play an active role serving. Here are some examples:

- **Girl Scouts** – packing crews, inventory crew, food solicitations/donations, assembling hygiene kits and holiday treat bags, cookie donations
- **Boy Scouts** – packing crews, donations, one scout earned his Eagle Award by putting in a driveway and updating our kitchen
- **Kids Fore Kids Golf Outing** – managed and run by kids raising \$900 for us!
- **Community Service** – teens complete service hours at GH
- **Back to School Bonanza** – volunteer kids served food, painted faces, played games, helped with set-up, clean-up and supply distributions
- **Vicksburg Middle School** students – organized a food drive, donated funds
- **One VMS student** raised funds and donated food as a philanthropic requirement in order to perform at the Olympics in China on behalf of competitive cheerleading
- **Elementary students** – packing crews, food drives, FFI volunteers, donated funds through the Kids-to-Kids Marketplace
- **Church Youth Groups** – packing crews, making Holiday cards, assembling hygiene kits
- **Girls on the Run** – packing crews, food donations
- **Girls on Track** – packing crews, food donations

## FINANCIALS

### 2008 Financial Briefs:

- 500 Campaign resulted in a total of 206 donors contributing \$32,301
- Total Food purchase expense was \$43,050 including \$14,950 for the Spartan milk, bread and eggs coupon program.

### 2009 Goals:

- Reduce the reliance on foundation grants and become sustainable through community driven support.
- 500 Campaign goal is to secure 500 donors for a total of \$60,000

Contact us at 269-370-7965 or 269-370-7967 or visit us on the Web: at [WWW.generoushands.org](http://WWW.generoushands.org)

## GENEROUS HANDS IN THE COMMUNITY

The year 2008 provided GH the following community connections:

- A grant received from **Perspectives Consulting Group** surveyed the Vicksburg School district to determine the effectiveness, impact and recognition of GH allowing us to better serve the community.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fresh Food Initiative (FFI)** – South County Community Services and the Vicksburg United Methodist Church teamed with GH to provide fresh produce and non-perishables to 128 families, a 43% increase from 2007.
- **100 Years of Caring – Kalamazoo County State Bank** employees adopted GH for the month of August and provided 100 minutes of service. They also collected school supplies for GH kids. To celebrate the year a chili cook-off was held for all participants. It is important to note that GH has the bragging rights as to the WINNER of the best chili!
- **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Back-to-School Bonanza** – South County Community Services, Village of Vicksburg, Vicksburg Rotary, Vicksburg Schools Foundation, Sculptures Salon and GH hosted the event in Clark Park. Food, fun, free school supplies and hair-cuts were given to south county area children in need.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual GH Summer Camp** – local teachers and community volunteers offered Friday Pack elementary-aged children the opportunities to brush up on spelling, math and reading skills during this 2-day, 3-hour event. Hot lunch and social time are the highlights for everyone, including the volunteers!
- **Junior League of Kalamazoo Festival of Trees** – GH was honored to be featured as the 2008 Giving Tree. Festival attendees met with GH “tree tenders” to learn more about Friday Packs and give monetary donations. GH received \$2,115 from the Festival and gave out information to several other schools interested in piloting their own programs!
- **Vicksburg Secret Elves** – local community members partner with Vicksburg Spartan Store to give holiday food boxes to the GH families. This past Christmas over 96 families received boxes. The head Elf organizes all details and deliveries.
- **Total Logistics Control of Mattawan** – employees gave the gift of toasty toes to the Friday Pack kids by purchasing over 360 pairs of socks, wrapping them with a candy cane and sending them home in the packs.

## COST & NUTRITIVE VALUE OF AN AVERAGE FRIDAY PACK

People always ask what is in a pack for the week and how good it is – it is very interesting to see in black and white

| TYPICAL BACK-PACK FOOD BAG     |               |              |             |              |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| ITEM                           | COST          | PROTEIN (gr) | CALCIUM (%) | CALORIES     |
| Canned pasta w/meat            | \$0.87        | 20           | 4           | 260          |
| 2 juice boxes–100% fruit juice | \$0.44        | 2            | 20          | 200          |
| Applesauce                     | \$0.24        |              |             | 100          |
| Fruit cup                      | \$0.41        |              |             | 80           |
| Easy Mac                       | \$0.32        | 7            | 20          | 230          |
| 2 Slim Jims-Beef jerky         | \$0.22        | 4            |             | 80           |
| Hot cocoa mix                  | \$0.10        | <1           | 2           | 80           |
| Granola bar                    | \$0.17        | 2            | 10          | 100          |
| Instant oatmeal                | \$0.18        | 4            | 10          | 160          |
| 2 individual boxes of cereal   | \$0.44        | 2            |             | 210          |
| Animal crackers                | \$0.18        | 2            |             | 110          |
| Tuna to Go                     | \$0.78        | 22           | 2           | 280          |
| Dried fruit packet             | \$0.44        | 1            |             | 80           |
| <b>Totals</b>                  | <b>\$4.79</b> | <b>66</b>    | <b>68</b>   | <b>1,970</b> |

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009

Everyone is feeling the pinch of job uncertainty and higher prices. \*Rising unemployment – now over 9% in Michigan – and spiking food costs, up around 6% over a year ago, are making it increasingly difficult for families to put food on the table. \*(*Kalamazoo Gazette*, Nov. 28, 2008) Families are struggling to make food stamps last until the end of the month, visiting food pantries or taking their families to soup kitchens. At the close of 2008, 95 families including 183 children were receiving GH services. We, too, at GH are feeling the financial crunch. In order to meet our budget and not compromise the quality and integrity of our food packs, we have placed a limit of 180 food packs on our program. This has resulted in a first-ever waiting list for Friday Packs. While this deeply saddens us, we remain optimistic and trust God will help us as we diligently search for cost-effective ways to ensure that every child coming to Generous Hands receives our services. Generous Hands remains committed to our mission and with your help we can continue to ensure that the children of our community do not go to bed hungry.

We appreciate your trust, investment and belief in Generous Hands through your donations and volunteerism. Thank you for helping us feed the children!