



HELPING
HANDS
MINISTRY
OF BELTON

2018
COMMUNITY
IMPACT
REPORT



Beyond the Numbers: Meet Toya

When Toya and her husband, Shaun, arrived in Belton with their three grandchildren, their only possessions were what they could fit in their compact car. “We grabbed what we could and left in the middle of the night,” Toya said. Toya and her family fled from their home in Missouri after local drug dealers threatened their lives because of the debt of a family member.

Toya had a childhood friend living in Belton who referred Toya and her grandchildren to Helping Hands when they arrived. “We stayed in a motel for a few days until we got the keys to our house,” Toya explained. “When we got there, I didn’t have a pan, a spoon, a plate, or a glass... My oldest granddaughter was looking out for her sisters and only grabbed their clothes when we left; she didn’t get anything for herself.”

At Helping Hands, Toya’s

family received household items, clothes and food. “At first, we didn’t have furniture, and Helping Hands gave us pillows, sheets, and blankets and made sure we didn’t have to sleep on the naked floor.

It wasn’t what we were used to, but at least we were warm.”

“When I got here, I had no way to fix food for my family, much less any food to make. Helping Hands made sure we didn’t go hungry, and I don’t think we would have survived without them. Was it hard for 2 or 3 days? Yes. Did we suffer? No. Helping Hands made sure we didn’t.”

After several months, Toya and her family have settled into their new life in Belton. “We love it here,” Toya said. Toya is getting ready to start a new job and, “can’t wait to give back because Helping Hands helps so many families.”

“What Helping Hands does is God’s work. God has taken care of us, and when God’s got you, He’s got you all the way,” Toya said.

“Did we suffer? No. Helping Hands made sure we didn’t.”

-Toya

2018 COMMU



Tasha Roberts
Executive Director

A few weeks ago, a woman (I'll call her Jenny) came into Helping Hands distraught. When she arrived, Jenny backed herself into a corner with arms crossed and tears running down her face. Jenny

rejected assistance from all of us, until she saw Margie, a volunteer she recognized from visiting Margie's church. As Margie sat with Jenny, Jenny shared that she had been assaulted before coming to Helping Hands. After the police came, I sat with Margie and Jenny and listened while the Holy Spirit spoke through Margie and poured words of strength, comfort, and truth into Jenny's life.

Listening to Margie and Jenny, I was reminded of Hagar's encounter with God in Gen-

esis 16 when Hagar tells God, "You are the God who sees me." Margie was not at Helping Hands by accident the day Jenny came in and needed her.

Helping Hands provides groceries, clothing, and financial help to 3,000 individuals each month, and while that is important, what matters more is that our volunteers are connecting with people and bringing the kinship of the Kingdom of God to our neighbors. Jenny is not the first neighbor to come to Helping Hands in a crisis, and Margie is not the first volunteer God has called who feels totally unprepared for the task before her. But God heals the brokenhearted and makes His power perfect in our weakness.

When people come to Helping Hands, I don't think they're just looking for food, or clothes, or help paying their water bill. I think they come looking for Jesus. And when we, like Margie, step outside our comfort zones and into the lives of our neighbors, they find Him.



Rent, utility, and gas assistance provided
1,024 times



75 EDUCATION COURSE GRADUATES

* Numbers for the year are projected based on statistics through September 30, 2018.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

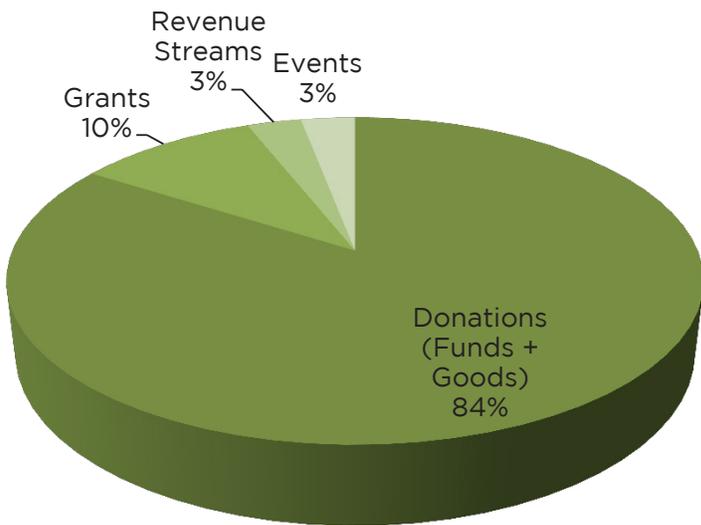
Making an Impact: Stephanie & Dave Covington - Donors



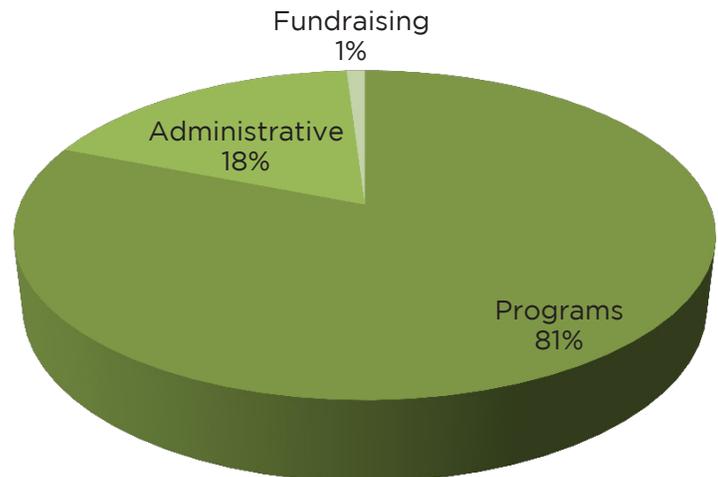
When Dave and Stephanie decided to raise their family in Belton, putting down roots and investing in their community was important to them. “One Sunday, our pastor [at Vista Community Church] gave a sermon on the Israelites in captivity and how God told them to become part of the community – raise families, start businesses – even though that wasn’t where they were going to stay. It’s like that for us. Heaven is our home, but this is where we are now, and we’re going to be all-in here,” Dave said.

After growing up in homes where giving was modeled, “instead of being reactive, we wanted to step back and figure out what was important to us and give intentionally,” Stephanie said. The Covingtons decided to give to Helping Hands because they loved seeing churches come together to take care of our community. “Even though we have different styles, we all believe in taking care of the poor,” Stephanie said.

Dave and Stephanie believe that, no matter what season of life a person is in, they are called to be part of bringing the Kingdom of God to their community. “Giving helps us be involved, even when we can’t be there physically,” Stephanie said. “Our community and our neighbors are our responsibility. We want to make wherever we are better.”



Income



Expenses



Audited financial statements and tax returns are available online at helpinghandsbelton.org/financial-stewardship/.



Making an Impact: Tammy & Mike Thompson - Board Member and Volunteers



If you come to Helping Hands on Thursday afternoons, you are likely to find Mike and Tammy Thompson in the warehouse, sorting food donations, stocking pantry shelves, and visiting with clients and other volunteers. February through April, they also volunteer at Helping Hands several hours each week preparing tax returns through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Tammy and Mike learned of volunteer opportunities at Helping Hands through their church, First United Methodist Church of Belton, when they were looking for a way to volunteer together after Mike retired two years ago. "Two things were important to me," Mike said about finding a place to volunteer. "First, I wanted to volunteer at an organization that was doing God's work by providing a lift for people who needed it. Second, because of my finance background, it was important that the organization do an outstanding job of designating donations for the cause to which they were intended, without a lot of money falling through the cracks and not going to clients." Mike also serves on Helping Hands' Board of Directors as a representative from his church.

"I volunteer because I want to make a difference in someone's life, either big or small," Tammy said. "Plus, it's fun! We wouldn't come back if it wasn't fun."



Remembering Marilyn Ankenbauer, 1935-2018: During her life, Marilyn Ankenbauer's strong faith and fierce spirit helped her overcome multiple unexpected challenges. Through her generous bequest to Helping Hands, Marilyn will impact hundreds of local families facing challenges of their own. Your commitment to making an impact in Belton can continue long after your lifetime. Please consider making a planned gift to Helping Hands to help us continue fighting poverty in East Bell County.



Save The Date!
Trivia Night
2019

Friday, February 22
Doors open at 6 p.m. | Trivia begins at 7 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Temple
Visit www.helpinghandsbelton.org for more information.



Helping Hands Ministry



Laura Mae's
RESALE SHOP

Shop brand-name ladies' clothing, accessories, and home decor! All proceeds from Laura Mae's benefit Helping Hands Ministry's programming.

Monday - Thursday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

2210 Holland Road
Belton, TX 76513



For more information or to donate, visit
www.helpinghandsbelton.org

