



# Community Impact Report

*We are so grateful for the many ways our volunteers are making a difference in our community!*

## YOUTH ACTION TEAM UPDATE

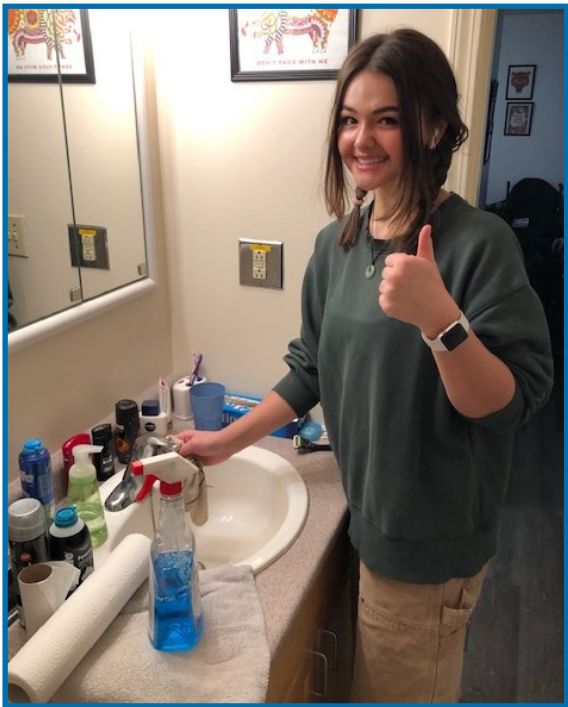
*“The students that come to my home are excellent! I wish they could come every day. They really are the nicest group of kids, they work hard, with a great attitude. I am so very thankful to them and Hands in Service”.*

A client participating in the Kelowna Christian School partnership with Hands in Service.

For those that aren't familiar, grade 12 students have been partnering with us this year providing care to health and mobility-challenged people in our community. Every Thursday afternoon the Kelowna Christian School bus has dropped groups of students to designated homes supervised by our amazing volunteer Team Leaders. The students have washed dishes, cleaned bathrooms, swept, mopped, listened and cared. We are so very grateful for how well this group has served and given to others with smiling faces and loving hearts.



**If you are interested in participating in this program, call our office at 250.861.5465.**



**OUR MISSION:**

To provide free, compassionate in-home assistance, referral services and access to food security for individuals with socio-economic, mobility, and health challenges.

**OUR PROGRAMS:**

- ♥ Energetic Hands
- ♥ Food Hamper Delivery

## MEET THE BOARD



Connie

Cathie

Lester

June

### CONNIE—Board Chair and Prayer Team Co-Ordinator

Connie graduated as Physiotherapist in South Africa. She emigrated to Canada with a job offer from KGH and became Head of the in-patient Physiotherapy staff until her retirement. She’s been on numerous education and fundraising committees. She’s been involved with Sunday School and Youth Ministries at her local church and hosts a ladies bible study. Connie is the Chair for Hands in Service and co-ordinates the prayer ministry.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

James first became a volunteer with Hands in Service in 2020. He joined the *Energetic Hands* program, providing in-home cleaning and support for a client. James recently shared that what started out as regular visits to help him, quickly grew beyond a routine volunteer service and the relationship blossomed into a true friendship. James’s son Elijah also joined in with the regular visits, and pretty soon James and Elijah became a formidable team with James doing dishes and various household tasks, while Elijah put his skills into work troubleshooting the client’s computer or fixing issues with his printer. Their teamwork as father and son has found them doing all kinds of “out of the box” tasks including sourcing and moving in a new couch, assisting his Mom with various tasks, but perhaps the best part of their time is spent sharing their faith, through prayer and scripture reading.

Thank you James and Elijah for making a difference and extending the Love and mercy of Jesus!

“Carry each other’s burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”. **Galatians 6:2**



## CLIENT COMMENT

*“When a person has a disability, cognitive and/or physical, their world is narrowed to the point where their only interactions, or most of them, are limited to caretakers. It’s very lonely and depressing. Most of these caretakers are on a time limit or are job specific and then they go, until the next time they are needed.*

*[Hands in Service is] not this way. [...They make] a person feel valued and cared for. [They take] time for us and [their] volunteers are always sunny and friendly and seem very caring.*

*[Hands in service} provides help in many ways - fresh produce, housecleaning, the living salad, meals etc. I have been so touched by the kindness [they have] shown me, kindness that I don’t receive very often elsewhere.*

*I am filled with gratitude for [their] help an support”.*

## WHAT’S COMING UP...

- ♥ **LIVING SALADS:** May 9-11—The Portable Community Garden project assembly and delivery, bringing the “outdoors” “in” for housebound and mobility-challenged community members
- ♥ **Hands in Service AGM and Appreciation BBQ** May 25
- ♥ **3rd Annual CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT:** Join us at Sunset Ranch June 16, 2023  
See our website <https://handsinservice.ca/golf-event/>  
Be sure to check out our **SILENT AUCTION** at <https://www.32auctions.com/lovegivesback2023> starting June 1 at 9am and ending June 19 at 9am
- ♥ **Save the date for TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS** Craft Fair: November 26th 9:30-3:30 featuring local craft vendors and artisans. Interested vendors contact [info@handsinservice.ca](mailto:info@handsinservice.ca)

### A note from Geoff Neufeld—Executive Director

The Bible has a lot to say about religion, honestly most of what is written about religion is not positive (seems strange coming from the book which represents the foundation of the Christian religion). I suppose there is such a negative reaction to the term “religion” because the term has been used to defend so many oppressive and abusive actions over the course of history. Most wars have been started because of a clash in “religious” values. Most genocide occurred as a result of religious idealism. Most racism is due to a rejection of other’s religious practices. Religion has become a tainted word in current society, however perhaps it is not so much “religion” that is at fault, but rather some of those things that have come to be associated with religion that is the problem.

*James 1:27* tells us that the kind of religion that our heavenly Father finds as “pure and faultless” is to look after orphans and widows in their distress. Pure and valued religion is not about ideals, or rituals, it is about action. Putting one’s faith in a loving, gracious, heavenly Father is about investing our time and care into those around us who are without the help of friends and family, in need of practical, tangible help in their time of difficulty.

For me this passage summarizes our mission at *Hands in Service*. We exist to help those who need our help the most. We do this because we ourselves have been helped by others and by God himself. Most simply put: **Love Gives Back**.

