



# Community Impact Report

## PRODUCE DELIVERY 2023

Our sincerest gratitude to all those who helped in our produce program this season. We are so grateful to our partners Helen’s Acres and Vibrant Veggies. They grew amazing produce for our clients. Thank you to our amazing drivers that delivered every Wednesday. Each week 40 individuals received an abundant bag filled with that days harvest on a bi-weekly basis.



*“My family & I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the lovely produce & fruits that we had delivered over the Summer.”*

*“What a treat ... it was like receiving a ‘surprise grab bag’ every other week ... never knowing what ‘surprise’ would be inside.”*

*“We never wasted any products & always trying new recipes. Please say ‘thank you’ to our drivers. “Please tell our drivers how much this means to us that they volunteer to do this for others to enjoy fresh produce. We are forever grateful.”*



### OUR MISSION:

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

### OUR PROGRAMS:

- ♥ Energetic Hands
- ♥ Food Hamper Delivery
- ♥ Produce Delivery

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



### Meet Hal Puder — our newest board member

Hal was born in Saskatchewan (he has been a Roughrider fan since birth) and has lived in Kelowna since 1974. He graduated from Okanagan College with a diploma in Business Administration and pursued sales, most notably a National Sales Manager position requiring too much travel. Hal decided to become self-employed in order to stay in the Okanagan and spend more time with his wife Deb of 37 years and 3 children (Chris, Jeff, and Mel), and now 2 grandchildren (Duncan and Caelynn). Deb and Hal own a well-known business *The Tickle Trunk* and *TTM Events* for the past 34 years which takes a lot of their time but when not working, they enjoy camping and fishing. Hal especially loves skiing and biking. Both Hal and Deb love the Lord and try every day to make a difference by bringing joy into other people's lives.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Brenda and Elsie became friends first and then decided to volunteer together in 2021. By combining their cleaning skills and their mutual heart caring for people, these two women have brought light and hope into several of our clients' lives through our *Energetic Hands* program, providing monthly basic housekeeping to our medically- and mobility-challenged clients.

We asked both of them why they volunteer with Hands in Service (HIS), here is what they said:

"I volunteer for HIS because I respect your values, admire your dedicated staff and want to give back to others in our community."

"I know first-hand what it is like to need assistance when you find yourself in a situation you never expected to be in!"

As a result of serving their clients, both women have also remarked they have found benefits for themselves as well. "I get the satisfaction of knowing I've made a difference."

"We now share a delightful friendship with lots of joy, laughter and gratitude for each other."

What a gift to many! Willing hands and grateful hearts! We so appreciate our *Energetic Hands* volunteers!



## AND WE ARE OFF!

Our **Youth Action Teams** have been trained and are beginning their weekly cleaning services in our clients' homes, up to 30 services a month. We are looking forward to a great year with these **KCS students!**



## WHAT'S COMING Up:

### ♥ TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS

**Craft Fair: November 25th 9:30-3:30, Trinity Church Kelowna**

Featuring local craft vendors and artisans. Interested vendors visit [www.handsinservice.ca](http://www.handsinservice.ca)

### ♥ Annual *Light it Up* Fundraising Campaign: Starting December 1

Plan to participate as we shoot for our \$30,000 goal with matched funds.

### ♥ Christmas Hamper delivery: Early December

## *A note from Geoff Neufeld—Executive Director*

Wars, Fires, Earthquakes Floods and Famine...., almost sounds like a Biblical commentary on the “End Times” .... But in fact, the wars, fires, earthquakes, floods, and famine are just snapshots of the news-making headlines here on the final days of the summer/fall of 2023”. (The wars in Ukraine and Israel, fires in Hawaii and here in BC, floods in Libya, earthquake in Mongolia, lineups for food banks and soup kitchens all across North America.) Clearly, all over the world, people are facing various levels of loss, suffering, pain, hardship, and chaos. We have become used to hearing the stories of chaos in different countries of the world, but never before has this reality been more evident in our own country... and in our own city than it is today. I cannot remember another time in my life, when there have been hundreds and hundreds of people living in tents and make-shift shelters right here in Kelowna, people just trying to survive another day.

I cannot recall a time when so many have lost everything either due to a fire destroying their home or due to the economy wiping out all of their life-savings. One does not have to look far to find someone with a sad story of their painful life experiences and ongoing battles with their own demons. All around us are people who somehow went from happiness to hopelessness in very short order. Perhaps this is why Peter encourages us in 1 Peter 3:15 to “always be prepared to give an answer to those who ask you, to give the reason for the hope that you have. ( But do this with gentleness and respect.)” We may not have quick answers to fix every problem in our world, but for many of us, in spite of all we have faced, we still have hope... and in a world full of people facing hopelessness, perhaps the greatest gift we can give to those around us, is to share the gift of Hope.

It has been said that a person needs just three things to be truly happy: 1. Someone to love, 2. Something to do, and 3. Something to hope for. Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness, it is the one thing that can help us get through the darkest of times.

