



2527 W. Rohmann Ave
West Peoria IL 61604

Spring 2020

Dear Friend,

Wow, can you believe we are so far into another year already! More and more, I understand what the Bible says about life—that it's like a vapor. We are certainly wise to be careful stewards of the time that is in front of us.

That's what we want also to be also with His Helping Hands (HHH) resources and responsibilities. Vigilant stewards. With that in mind, I wanted to take some time to talk with you about this organization—so that you, too, can be a careful steward of *your* time and financial resources. I'll call it my Fireside Chat. We will touch on several topics and hopefully, you will find it interesting. *You* ask the questions; *I'll* answer.

Q.1 What are the dates for the 2020 Ramp Pre-Build and Ready to Roll?

A.1 I *love* when you ask since it speaks to the rather massive one-day event (*Ready to Roll*) during which rather large numbers of volunteers get together to install wheelchair access ramps that were pre-built during a separate one-day effort (*Pre-Build*). For 2020, the Pre-Build date is May 16th, and for Ready to Roll, June 20th. The HHH program through which this service is offered is our RAMP program (Ramp Access Made Possible). You can find additional information in our redesigned website at: www.HisHelpingHandsinc.org.

(By the way, website and email capitalizations in the name are not important. We did it simply so you can see our name in what you type into the address or email.)

Q.2 Who gets a ramp?

A.2 Our baseline for eligibility in this program is a person who is low-income, non-ambulatory, and either elderly or a child/other person in a single parent head of household. The head of household *must* be the homeowner. These individuals might have self-referred, e.g., through our website, or perhaps were referred by Advocates for Access or another of our great medical care providers.

Q.3 Do you charge for the ramps?

A.3 NO. All of the ramps that we provide are gifts made possible by donations of time and money from caring neighbors in our Tri County communities. If you would like to donate funds to keep this program going, or to donate your time to the Pre-Build or Ready to Roll, you may do so by visiting us online at www.HisHelpingHandsinc.org.

Q.4 What comments do you hear from persons who get a ramp?

A.4 I am so glad you asked! Let me share just a few of the responses we got when we recently asked a few of our ramp recipients the simple question, "*How has getting a ramp made your life better?*"

- "I'm no longer trapped by my home!"
- "I can come and go without having to wait on someone to help me out of my house."
- "My house is no longer my prison. I am no longer isolated from my community."
- "Other handicapped friends can now come to visit *me* whenever they want. It means the world to us!"
- "I no longer fear falling—which I did whenever someone helped me out the steps of my home."
- "I can go to my doctor without having to inconvenience my family."

Obviously, we are absolutely thrilled that we could play a small part in bringing this measure of happiness to our neighbors. If not already a part of this, might you be interested in becoming so? Contact us at: info@HisHelpingHandsinc.org.

Q.5 I have some basic carpentry skills. I don't want to take charge of any particular project, but are there tasks for which you could use my assistance?

A.5 Most of our volunteers would describe themselves as you do so the short answer is yes—we would love to have *you* involved, also. Just go to our website, click on "Get Involved/Volunteer," then leave

your name, your email address, and a brief message of interest. You can also send us a letter. We'll be in touch shortly.

Q.6 Can I designate His Helping Hands Inc. as my Smile Amazon preferred charity?

A.6 You bet you can . . . and *thanks* if you do so! In case some of you are *not* aware, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. And it's easy to set up. If you want to make an Amazon purchase, go instead to Smile.Amazon.com, designate your charity, then, instead of shopping at Amazon in the future, shop Smile.Amazon.com. Your preferred charity is already on record.

Q.7 What are some of the greatest short-term challenges you face as an organization?

A.7 Interesting that you should ask. We've actually just started to look at that question again. Here is some of what we have identified.

- **Monthly Donations.** Expenses come monthly; contributions often do *not*. We need more donations more often if we are to meet the significant community need.
- **Long-Term Office Space.** For the past few years, Living Waters Church (7229 N. Knoxville) has graciously provided us with space for an office. We are mindful, however, that as a dynamic church, as well as hosting Aletheia Christian School, Living Waters could well use the space itself. We're also aware that when we invite someone to meet at our office, we impose an additional 'control' burden on staff of the school and the church. We need our own space. Any suggestions?
- **Determining Program Impact.** As part of the stewardship we feel toward supporters, it is important that we assess whether the resources that we direct to a particular community need—like our Home Maintenance Program—are actually of continued value. We want to do the most good. And that means we have to constantly evaluate our efforts and the benefits they yield.
- **Community Awareness.** Greater community awareness (equals) more needs met.
- **Volunteer Administrative Personnel.** Our need presently is in three (3) areas:
 - **Office Aide.** We're aware that we sometimes miss your phone calls and are sometimes not quick in responding. We want to change that and are looking for a volunteer to be the office face of His Helping Hands. (*Variable hours and days. Can also work from home.*)
 - **Volunteer Coordinator.** We need someone to help recruit volunteers and to manage their placement on various jobs. (*Variable hours and days. Can work from home.*)
 - **Chief Operating Officer (COO).** We get it: you have run companies or businesses and now you are retired. You're bored but you want to stay active! Maybe you should consider being His Helping Hand's chief operating officer. (*Variable hours and days.*)

Q.8 The company I work for matches my charitable gifts. Do other companies?

A.8 Yes—a lot of them! And many employers will also provide a cash donation to your designated charity if you volunteer. If you work for any of these companies and His Helping Hands is one of your charities, please check into your employer's match program. It can bring critical *additional* funds to community needs. We have listed some companies on our website (*Get Involved/Other Ways to Give/Employer Matching*). Here are others.

Best Buy	Verizon	Fresh Market
Chevron	CarMax	Choice Hotels
Bank of America	Thrivent	Costco
Home Depot	Darden Restaurants	American Airlines.
State Farm	Delta	Target
BP	Kroger	Walmart
Starbucks	United Airlines	Office Depot
Kohls	Hilton	Dicks

Please know that *we* know that none of what we do can be done without you. And for that, you have our sincerest and most heartfelt appreciation. May God's richest be yours.

More blessed than I deserve,



Jeff Heft
Chief Executive

("Dear children let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" -- I John 3:18)