



Summer 2020

2527 W. Rohmann Ave
West Peoria, IL 61604

Dear Friend,

Well, your reaction to our new newsletter format was encouraging in so many ways—financially, kind words, and more questions. We're glad you liked it. Our goal is to keep you aware of all that is happening with His Helping Hands, but to do so in a shorter, more bite-sized style. More of the “at-a-glance” stuff that will inform but not take too big of a slice out of your day. Please email me at info@HisHelpingHandsInc.org to let us know if you like it.

Q.1 Do you have new dates for the 2020 Ramp Build and RTR?

A.1 Due to the pandemic, we are building and installing ramps as we get teams willing and able to do so. For safety's sake, however, we are forced to skip this year's community-wide *Ready to Roll* effort. Next year, hopefully, we will be back at it.

Q.2 Is homeownership necessary to qualify for a wheelchair ramp?

A.2 We have two (2) criteria for a ramp. The home must be *owner*-occupied and the owner (or member of the family) must have a physical disability. Both are for practical *and* liability purposes.

Q.3 Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected His Helping Hands?

A.3 As with almost all for-profit and nonprofit businesses, our ability to deliver services as in the past has been *severely* affected both financially and practically. We had hoped to see a significant decrease in numbers of new infections so that we could begin direct client contact within a few more weeks—precautions assumed. As of this newsletter, we're not so optimistic.

Our Home Maintenance and Repair (HMR) offering to low-income homeowners has been most directly impacted by the disease since volunteers cannot go into houses to make repairs. Unfortunately, *not* providing these repairs can directly affect personal safety, security, well-being, and relative physical comfort. Please pray that we can soon resume this critical offering.

Q.4 Do you anticipate that His Helping Hands will change organizationally because of the virus?

A.4 That's a very forward-thinking question. Although we're still early in the process, we acknowledge that to reach the most in-need we cannot *assume* that what worked in the past will work equally well in the future. In other words, we have put on our “thinking hats” and are trying to be totally open to where God might be leading us as we approach “tomorrow.” (Presently, much of what His Helping Hands now does is direct person-to-person and very hands-on. Going forward, we are asking ourselves if the current constraints on *how* we provide services might actually provide yet-to-be discovered new paths for doing more *online*. Sound crazy?? The whole world is crazy right now . . . but it is also an exciting opportunity to ask equally crazy questions.)

Q.5 A short time ago I heard that you are working on a Home Ownership Program (HOP) home in the Chillicothe area? Is that true? Are you close to being done? What happens next?

A.5 It's true. As for what is next, we will be looking for an appropriate first-time purchaser who might be able to use the program to qualify for a loan and purchase the home. Aware of a possible candidate? Let us know at info@HisHelpingHandsInc.org. (Check out the Chillicothe project photos we placed on our website at: www.HisHelpingHandsInc.org/photo-gallery.)

Q.6 I might be interested in serving on your Board of Directors. Any opportunity? If there is, what steps do I need to take?

A.6 Absolutely. Contact me (Jeff) at info@HisHelpingHandsInc.org and let me know you're interested. I'll do the rest. I would love to hear from you.

While mentioning volunteering, let me highlight some new opportunities for *anyone* to consider.

- **Facebook.** We need a more active FB presence and are looking for someone who would love to make that happen. It can all be done from your home.
- **Mail crew.** Would you, your group or club like to help us with mailings 4 or 5 times yearly? It is a great way to help HHH save on costs—and you can have fun in the process. Each job is not large so 2 – 3 persons can complete in less than 3 hours. Please let me know if interested.
- **Administrative Assistant.** We are looking for someone to run the office and handle the details that will make us effective with our clients, the public, and *you*. Most of it can be done from your home.
- **Organizational COO.** We need your special skills.

Q.7 Does HHH do work during the winter months?

A.7 Yes, though for obvious reasons most of our offering at that time focuses on the Home Maintenance & Repair program which allows volunteers to work inside.

And finally, three (3) brief notes.

- We are still looking for 150 - 200 ft² of office space. If you have or know of any appropriate space that can be available at no—or low—cost, please let me know.
- We have a new 3rd Party Referral form for the RAMP program. Simply download/scan/email.
- Do you know of an HHH-relevant community need that no organization is addressing . . . and you think it might be a perfect fit for His Helping Hands? Please let us know if you do.

Well, I hope you enjoyed this brief update and that you find it informative. Remember to send me any questions you have at info@HisHelpingHandsInc.org. We might share your answer with everyone.

As always, a great BIG thanks for caring about the individuals and families we serve during these trying times. His Helping Hands is a totally volunteer-driven organization—which means that we can be only as helpful as our area's willingness to get involved. I am happy to report that the Peoria Tri-County area is fully engaged, and I am truly grateful for *your* part in that!

More blessed than I deserve,



Jeffrey A Heft
Chief Executive
HIS HELPING HANDS

("Dear children let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" – 1 John 3:18)