

Hand2hand is based on Psalm 145:16: You open Your hand and provide for the desires of every living thing. Hand2hand is a ministry to help combat hunger in the community by providing healthy food to children over the weekend so they have a greater opportunity to succeed academically, emotionally, and physically. Chapel Pointe partners with Georgetown Elementary School. CP is part of the h2h network of 45 churches partnering with 63 schools where 600 volunteers serve 2100 children.

Families eligible to participate in h2h have meet federal income guidelines by applying for free or reduced hot lunch through the Jenison/Hudsonville Food Service program. Qualified families are sent an invitation to participate in h2h. During the first half of 2013, 77 children were invited to participate with an average of 23 participating. In the second half of 2013, 61 children were invited to participate with an average of 13 participating. Several participants are in the Special Needs program.

2013 was our third year providing food to Georgetown Elementary students and their families. We delivered 603 bags of food. Once a week qualified students were given a small drawstring backpack filled with food for the weekend: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, dinner for the family, fruit, juice, milk and snacks.

Spring Break, Thanksgiving and Christmas are special events given special attention. We provided special event food for 52 families consisting of 136 adults and 97 kids. Our goal was to provide breakfast and lunch food to last the duration of a break plus some staple items for whole families. Since we weren't limited to the size of a small backpack, we were able to give full size boxes of cereal, jars of peanut butter and jelly, and perishable food like eggs, cheese and meat. Families enjoyed a full course meal at Thanksgiving with a turkey and at Christmas with a ham. We reduced our Summer food distributions from six in 2012 to one in June of 2013.

The Chapel Pointe community generously supported 25 h2h kids and their siblings for the Back-To-School event by donating brand new full size backpacks, gym shoes, lunchboxes, water bottles and school supplies. This event is probably the biggest blessing to our families and certainly the one the kids get the most excited about.

A Georgetown Elementary teacher's connection with an anonymous donor provided brand new winter coats to 14 h2h kids and their siblings this Fall.

This Christmas we were able to match four h2h families with two Chapel Pointe families, one CP Point Group and one corporate sponsor. The h2h families provided wish lists and the sponsors fulfilled wishes 😊.

How does this all happen? First, h2h is completely supported by donations. Food and money are donated by the CP community. Time and time again, God has provided in many truly remarkable ways. Monetary donations for 2013 exceeded \$3,200. AWANA had a food drive in the Fall showering us with lots of food. We had one large corporate monetary donation. Fair Haven Church, h2h's ministry home, occasionally shared donations with all of the church partners. The Jenison Meijer gave a one-time donation. Drawstring backpacks imprinted with the Hudsonville Eagles logo were donated by a local promotional products company. We have tremendous purchasing power at Feeding America of West Michigan Food Bank. Over 2,500 pounds of food was purchased for \$1,552. Thankfully the h2h account has a balance of \$839.38 as of 12/31/13 because it's time to restock the pantry!

Second, we have great pantry space in room 218 and 219. Additional storage was built in room 219 with donated materials and labor making large scale storage and preparations doable.

Third, we have fantastic volunteers! We are blessed with a small, highly efficient core group of 5-10 packers: Shelly Telfor, Jane & Jerry Mohr, Kathy and Jessica Boelema, Lynn Randolph, Gina Jaent, Tami Victory, Andrea & Rod Rood and Lynda Zichterman. These packers are assisted by a few others, often whole families like the Burgets and Allers, for special event packing. Additionally, the youth group packed 100 food bags at an August Mission Monday event that carried us well into the school year. We were blessed with four delivery people throughout the year: Shelly Telfor, Renee Burget, Jeff Allers and Lisa Shearer. We have used as many as three people to just one person for the weekly school delivery. Cyndi Heath and Kristin Scheppers support food pickup at church for special events as well as copy and stuff mailbox flyers. Ellen Chouinard picks food up from the Feeding America food bank and delivers it to Chapel Pointe.

We plan to continue this valuable service to Georgetown Elementary throughout this 2013-14 school year and into the next. The number of children served will vary as we invite qualified families to participate. We have proposed adding another small school in Ottawa County. This school population is unique and needy and we hope they will partner with us for Fall, 2014. Summer 2014 plans have not been determined. I hope to see the Back-To-School event continue as it meets a specific need for these families that directly benefits the children. We hear appreciation from the Principal, teachers and parents for this program. I am so blessed to be a part of this ministry. God has proven over and over His love for these kids by providing in unexpected and generous ways – and I get to see it all happen! How cool is that!