



The Sower's Hands

Newsletter by Hope Seeds

A Quarterly Publication For Our Faithful Patrons

Issue 64: 2019 Fall Giving Challenge!

Hope Seeds' Commitment to You

-David Balsbaugh, CEO

To our dear co-laborers in Christ,

Our commitment to you is to operate in such a way that every dollar spent at Hope Seeds goes toward the ministry of transforming lives. We are committed to ensuring that the work we do has a long-lasting and transformational impact on those we serve for Christ! This year alone, we have reduced our budget by roughly 30% and at the same time worked diligently to increase our impact around the world.

When I served in the armed forces, our drill instructors had a slogan, “*We’re going to turn you into lean, mean, fighting machines!*” We have adopted a similar concept and work ethic at Hope Seeds; we commit to being **good stewards, efficient, and ready for action** for Christ. Our objective is to ensure that the resources entrusted to us are not only having a real impact alleviating poverty and hunger, but ultimately transforming lives. We take financial accountability and transparency seriously, and are committed members of the ECFA (Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability). Thank you for partnering with us as we enter the **2019 Fall Giving Challenge**, continue to celebrate **Hope Seeds’ 20th Year in Ministry**, and look forward to **new opportunities to serve** as we approach 2020 with **2020 vision!**



Haiti’s Food for Life Garden Project

- Mike Sullivan, Ministry Development Director

One of Hope Seeds’ most effective strategic partnerships is made possible by your gifts to help families in Haiti grow their own food. It is Haiti’s Food for Life Garden Project.

With the help of your gifts through the **2019 Fall Giving Challenge** and hundreds of volunteers, Hope Seeds can purchase, pack, and ship 25,000 packets of nutritious vegetable seeds to Love A Child, one of our strategic partners in Haiti. They will distribute Hope Seeds’ Family Packs, each containing 10 different seed packets along with the Gospel Message of Hope, to the neediest families, while training selected individuals on how to double or even triple crop yields!

Hope Seeds partners with Love A Child and Chapin Living Waters because together we can break the cycle of poverty and dependence. Love A Child offers a three-



week course in sustainable agriculture at their Haiti Agricultural Training Center (ATC). Organizations (orphanages, schools, and medical clinics) are invited to select individuals who will learn proven ways to increase crop yields.

The training includes: Improving the Soil- using compost, crop rotation with nitrogen fixing crops, worm farming, using organic animal fertilizers, and erosion control; Organic Pest Control- by using natural oils from the Neem tree the loss of crops from insects can be reduced by 50% without harming the environment; Drip Irrigation- can reduce water usage by 70% and increase the growing season by 3-4 months; Crop Diversity- by adding trees with edible leaves, such as Moringa, fruit trees, nuts, berries, melons, and drought tolerant vegetables, crop yields can double or even triple and reduce the possibility of total crop loss.

Once the community agents are trained, they are given enough seeds for their village, drip irrigation equipment, and basic garden tools equipping them to train at least 50 families with the ideas they have learned to set up individual and community gardens. Our goal is to train 50 agents who can train 50 villages over the next 12 months. This is a long-term solution that we invite you to join, reaching as many of the 2500 families as God directs you to help each month. We estimate that over 15,000 at-risk children will be helped in this project each year.

Please see the back page for ways you can support this and other aspects of Hope Seeds during the **2019 Fall Giving Challenge.**



Haiti Partner Update

From Elizabeth Fleming, working in partnership with Medical Ambassadors of Haiti

"Hello! Your organization's ministry is so important in the country of Haiti where there are so many challenges for people to raise and find food for their families! In the past we have received just over 3000 family packets with ten different varieties of vegetable seeds, and could easily distribute double that this year (6000 family packets). Your seeds have been generously donated, which is what has allowed us to work on our side and distribute in so many communities where we have our ministry programs. Thank you in advance, and many blessings to you!"

Hope Seeds' partnership with Medical Ambassadors (MA) is reaching thousands of families this year with the Message of Hope and lifesaving seeds. We've had a very busy summer packing seed and thanks to many committed volunteers, we have been able to meet the challenge of sending 6,000 family packs to MA, each containing 10 types of seed and the Message of Hope. (That's 60,000 seed packets!) Haiti continues to face tremendous challenges as political unrest has left many without food and income. Many testimonies have been shared with us by missionaries who have stayed the course, confirming how challenging life has been since the government collapsed in Haiti.



Nevertheless, the mission continues. Through MA's use of the program CHE, (Community Health and Evangelism), the Message of Hope is being used to bring many to Christ and the seeds are being used to start many nutritious gardens. See the testimony below from one of the recipients. Continue to stay the course for our neighbors and pray for the people of Haiti! - **David Balsbaugh, CEO**



"CHE showed me how to have a home vegetable garden. I didn't know how to do one, but they showed me... I started one and it was good for me. I still have one. I plant tomatoes, carrots, cabbage, peppers, beets, etc. It has changed things for me because now I don't have to buy these things in the market." - Seed Recipient

God's Economy

-Sharon Racke, Volunteer/Editor

"God has endowed every person in the body with the same capacity to respond... In God's eyes, a widow's dollar can match a millionaire's bequest."

In *Fearfully and Wonderfully*, a new, combined edition of a couple of older books, author Philip Yancy tells the story of Dr. Paul Brand, a missionary in India who worked

extensively with leprosy patients. The book explores the wonders of the human body and compares it, like the apostle Paul does, to the body of Christ. In speaking of the amazing work of individual cells, Dr. Brand reminds us of the importance of each individual and the role they play in a faith community.

We at Hope Seeds are extremely grateful for you- an individual in our community! And we are so appreciative of any contribution you can make! Yes, we have people who can donate lots of time in seed packing and other volunteer activities. Maybe that isn't you right now. But please consider adding Hope Seeds to your prayers, holding our staff, partners, and the recipients of seed up to the Lord for his blessing. And share our story and mission within your circle of influence. You never know what kind of effect that may have.

Yes, we have individuals and foundations who can give large financial contributions on occasion. Maybe that isn't you right now either. But please consider becoming a consistent, monthly donor. The amount really isn't what matters. As the quote above indicates, God operates in a different economy and in his eyes your \$10 gift "can match a millionaire's bequest." Your consistent **monthly** giving of **\$10, \$15, or \$25** is foundational to the operation of Hope Seeds. If everyone receiving this mailing would give \$10 a month, we would have close to half our budget met. The impact of each donation cannot be underestimated!

Monthly giving can be done by mailing a check to our Bradenton mailing address, by giving through the donation link on the website, www.HopeSeeds.org, or by calling



the office to set up automatic giving. Just as one seed multiplies into much fruit, your gift, no matter the size, can multiply into many blessings of good nutrition for hungry people.

It seems popular in fundraising to suggest ways for you to carve out that \$10 per month – things like skipping Starbucks twice a month, carrying a lunch to work now and then instead of eating out, or using free library streaming for movies instead of paying for a service. Whatever may work for you, hopefully the action of intentionally setting aside and donating that money each month as part of Hope Seeds' **2019 Fall Giving Challenge** will be a reminder for you that you are indeed an important part of the Hope Seeds community! **We thank you!**

Memorials and Honorariums

Thank you to the individuals who made these meaningful tributes for their loved ones.

In Honor of:

- ♥ Mike & Ann Wade's 50th Anniversary
- ♥ Robert & Joyce Thomas' 60th Anniversary
- ♥ Leon & Ardyth Mueller's 60th Anniversary
- ♥ The Balsbaugh Family
- ♥ Aunt Karen and Uncle Art Pabst
- ♥ Bob & Lynn Schroeder's Birthdays and Anniversary
- ♥ Maxine Balsbaugh's Birthday
- ♥ Mike & Vanessa Oney's Generosity
- ♥ Gloria Muench for years of faithful service
- ♥ Luella Franke for years of faithful service

In Memory of:

- ♥ Ted Armbruster

♥ Michael Lee

♥ Carl Bergman

2019 Fall Giving Challenge

Ways to Give

♥ \$ (\$10, \$25, \$50...) Any amount of monthly giving enables Hope Seeds to operate and carry out the mission and vision by supporting all aspects of the ministry.

♥ \$10 - Provides 1 lb of bulk vegetable seed for volunteers to prepare into approx. 300 packets for distribution.

♥ \$30 - Provides a Family Pack of 10 species of vegetable seeds, along with the Message of Hope for household distribution.

♥ \$50 - Covers the cost to print 1,000 copies of the Gospel Message of Hope in multiple languages.

♥ \$100 - Provides 10 lbs of bulk seed for volunteers to prepare into approx. 3,000 packets for distribution.

♥ \$500 - Provides Hope Garden support at a school/orphanage.

♥ \$1,000 - Helps support an Agricultural Training Session in sustainable methods.

♥ Thrivent Financial Members: Apply for Thrivent Action Team Cards, and allocate them for Hope Seeds projects. Eligible members may also direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Hope Seeds. Contact your Thrivent Representative for more information. Many thanks to those who have already done so this year!



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**Plant A Seed!
Feed A Soul!**



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