

An exciting fund matching opportunity - doubles your donation to Hope Seeds



2026 GIVING CHALLENGE
Be The One

Presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County
www.givingchallenge.org

Seed X 2

April 15 - April 16, 2026 • Noon to Noon

See the back page for details

Hope in Times of Fear

Hope Seeds exists to bring hope where fear and hurt are present. Throughout our lives, from birth until the day we stand before the Lord, fear is a constant presence in this world. Yet as believers, we stand firm because our hope is anchored in Christ and His resurrection. Even in our moments of weakness, we find courage in our Lord and Savior.

Thank you for partnering with us in this mission — both by providing seeds of hope and by helping us share the greatest hope of all, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of your generosity, **we successfully met our 2025 Christmas Match!**



So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. - Isaiah 41:10

United for Haiti

Recently, Hope Seeds International participated in a conference centered on the future of Haiti, bringing together 42 mission organizations and national leaders who are working and strategizing side by side. The atmosphere was filled with hope and a shared belief that this could truly be the year of meaningful change for the nation. We left encouraged to see so many prominent Haitian Christian leaders uniting to ignite a spark of hope. In this same spirit, Josias from HSI is already moving through communities, reaching some of the most vulnerable and visiting schools like the Evangelical School of Grace. Let us continue to pray—pray, and pray even more—that **God will bring transformation** and revival to Haiti through the power of Christ!





A Cord Of Three Partnership



Bill Montgomery of **Just Mercy** in Haiti, makes his way up a steep mountain to a rural village affected by Hurricane Melissa. Months later, people are still suffering from the devastation. Because HSI partners with Just Mercy, we sent seeds and aid from our Mustard Seed Program to assist this area of great need. A special thanks to Agape Flights for assisting in transportation of greatly needed supplies. This is a great example of a **cord of three** partnership!

"Here is a little perspective of the situation on the island of Ile a Vache in Haiti where JUST MERCY works. Imagine living in acute poverty where there is no gainful employment, only a little gardening if you 'own' some dirt, fishing in the sea if you have a wooden boat, and what fruit you can find in the trees that are not privately owned. A few obstacles such as these are between you and starvation. Your children are malnourished, just surviving from day to day when Hurricane Melissa arrives wiping out your food sources.

Floods and wind take trees and gardens. Fish traps and nets are lost while you wait out the storm. It must be at least a week since the rains started and you are inside your house/hut with its rusted tin roof leaking water and hoping the rain will pass, IF you aren't flooded out. No way to get food, no markets to buy anything if you have any money, and no way to cook on fires with all the wood wet. It is hard to describe the gravity of the situation and the difficulty they now face. Imagine not knowing if you will be able to eat today!" - Just Mercy



In Memory and Honor of Patrick and Kory, who gave their lives serving Christ

Thank you for the thousands of seed packets and the Messages of Hope delivered to further His Kingdom. You will be greatly missed.

"Our hearts are broken as we mourn the loss of two incredible men, Patrick Decker and Kory Elleby. Both faithfully answered the call God placed on their lives and gave themselves fully to it. They served with humility, loved without reservation, and ran their race with perseverance. We hold solace in the fact they were welcomed at the gates of Heaven with the words, "Well done, my good and faithful servants." They were more than Agape Flights pilots. They were our brothers in Christ, devoted servants of God, and men who lived out their faith with sincerity and courage.

God called these men to serve, and they responded without hesitation. Though their lives ended in tragedy, their faithfulness and obedience will continue to live long after this moment. They lived everyday with purpose, served God with conviction, and placed their trust fully in the Word of God. Today, we grieve their loss and honor the lives they poured out in service to Him. Our hearts are hurting, yet we hold fast to hope, knowing that these faithful servants are now home, resting in the presence of the One they loved and served so faithfully every flight." - Agape Flights

Please continue to pray for the families of these men who sacrificed so much for the love of serving Jesus throughout the Caribbean.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4





2025 Statistics!

19 Countries Served
150 Partner Mission Organizations served
874,950 Seed Packets Sent
65,255 Gospels Sent
7,168 Education Guides Sent
29 Mustard Seed Projects Completed
2,365 Volunteers Served
17,477 Volunteer Hours
\$3,654,325.20 Fair Market Value of Seeds Sent
Plant A Seed! Feed A Soul!

A Day of Celebrating in Kenya!

What a way to celebrate Christmas and New Years, with Hope! **Hope for a future!** We give thanks and rejoice alongside our partner, Jubilee Farms as they celebrate the completion of many projects in Africa. We work with Jubilee Farms in Zambia, Malawi, and Kenya. Many of our joint projects are focused on training in sustainable farming techniques, providing seeds, and conducting various Mustard Seed Projects, such as providing chicks for widows.

One example of a Mustard Seed Project was conducted in Malawi. Featured below is a painting from a missionary of a three year old girl chewing on a dry corn cob. Her name is Terezer. Because her mother is a widow with great financial constraints, Terezer had no opportunity to finish school. With help from Jubilee Farms and Hope Seeds Int'l, Terezer, now 20, was provided with a heifer, along with seeds to grow a market garden. This project provided a way for Terezer to generate income to finish school and to provide for her family. For Christmas, she had prayed for a milk cow. Her prayers were answered! Thank you for standing with us as we provide resources and knowledge to end hunger.



Seeds and the Message of Hope reaching people for Christ in the high mountains of Panama, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and the Philippines. Pray these seeds will take root in the soil and that the message of Christ is planted in the hearts of the people in these locations. Thank you to our missionaries!



Nothing more exciting than youth serving on a Friday night! On this night, teens packed seeds for Damabiah Foundation in Haiti. A big thanks to CYIA (Christian Youth In Action) for volunteering their time. Job well done!





2026 **GIVING CHALLENGE**

Double your Gift and Impact

The 2026 **Giving Challenge** is an exciting 24-hour giving event taking place from Noon to Noon (Eastern Time) on April 15th-16th. The 2026 **Giving Challenge** is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation. **To be matched, gifts must be made online through The Giving Challenge website, not directly to Hope Seeds.** All individual gifts from \$25 - \$100 using a major credit/debit card will be matched 1:1 and are tax-deductible.

To participate, visit HSI's dedicated page for the Giving Challenge:

<https://www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/hope-seeds-inc>

Prayer Requests

Pray for our **Uganda** missionary team that is serving currently in Africa, teaching, training, and bringing the Message of Hope.

Pray for our outreach in **Jamaica** as we send seeds, the Message of Hope, and a HopeCorps missionary to this Island in response to Hurricane Melissa.

Pray for Hope Seeds International as we follow God's leading to serve the poor and those who have not heard the greatest message of all, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pray for our friends at **Agape Flights**.

Pray for a United Haiti.

Memorials & Honorariums



In Memory of:



In Honor of:

- Ruthann Russel
- Michael Balsbaugh
- Larry Koenig
- Ruth Turner
- Shannon Hames
- Rick Ingle
- Charles (Buz) Snyder
- Genese Snyder
- David Diggins
- Michael McLaughlin

- Laura Van Dyke
- The Balsbaugh Family
- Betty Guenther
- Kathleen Engelhardt
- Jay Swick
- Ann Quackenbush
- Susan Wertman
- Luella Franke
- Christ Church seed packers
- Art & Karen Pabst
- Dwight & Arlette Shackelford
- Jamaica hurricane relief



Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. - Psalm 30:5b

Recently, one of Hope Seeds' most dedicated volunteers, Michael McLaughlin, went to be with the Lord. Michael could be seen for countless years at most Seed Packing Events in the area and rarely missed a Tuesday event. During the covid shut down, he and his wife, Nancy, continued to serve those in need around the world by packing seed packets and



assembling Family Packs at home. Whenever a special need arose, they were among the first to answer the call.

While we mourn the loss of Michael and will miss his smile, laugh, and heart for serving, we rejoice that he is now completely healed and with Jesus.



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



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