

SERVING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

Serving People in Need with the Hands of Christ



Update Spring 2009 • 4607 Mission Gorge Pl, San Diego, CA 92120 • (619) 582-8200 • www.servinghands.org

Serving Hands International Highlights

- Help serve over 100,000 people every year through 30 different ministry partners.
- Over 45 years of providing aid to people in Mexico and around the world.
- All donations, both cash and in-kind, are matched dollar for dollar.
- All overhead expenses are underwritten. Every dollar goes directly to helping the poor.

Christ has no body but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth,
but yours.
Yours are the eyes through
which He looks
With compassion on this
world.
Yours are the feet with which
He walks
To do good.
**Yours are the hands with
which He blesses
All the world.**
Yours are the hands.
Yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes.
Yours are His Body.
—St Theresa of Avila

WHAT MAKES SERVING HANDS SPECIAL?

By Caleb McKinley

The mission of Serving Hands International (SHI) is to help people who are struggling in poverty to be restored to self-sufficiency, hope, and dignity. Having just joined SHI as the Executive Director I am impressed by the unique ways SHI accomplishes this mission.

First, SHI has developed a strong network of ministry partners who are completely dedicated to serving people in need. Many of these partners are local, faith-based organizations where operating costs run at a bare minimum. On page 3 and 4 we share more about these partners.

Second, and more importantly SHI is committed to helping people with both spiritual support and physical support. Every act of service is done so people can experience God's love. The people we are reaching not only receive gifts of aid but they can also receive the gifts of faith through teaching, pastoral care, and their faith community.



A family joyfully receives blankets and supplies at a Christmas distribution organized by Serving Hands.

SHI's mission is driven by generous people giving of themselves to the poor. Our goal is to use this generosity so we directly reach the poor and not build a large organization. By working through the gifts and talents of people throughout the world we are able to reach many people with great efficiency.

The hope for continuing SHI's mission is always in the friends and family God brings to help in this work. I am blessed by the opportunity to serve with such a spirited group of passionate and committed people. SHI is a special chance to impact our world with the love of Jesus Christ.

Caleb McKinley joined SHI as the Executive Director in January of 2009.



Sister Ana from the San Charbel Convent and Mike Mascari at the SHI celebration in San Ysidro.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—Mike Mascari: A True Servant

We have a wonderful volunteer at SHI who brings as much energy and heart to our work as anyone, even as he turns 80 this year! Mike Mascari has dedicated more than 10 years as a volunteer, alongside his brother Larry who has been a volunteer for 15 years. Together

they develop grant opportunities with Rotary and our international partners. Mike puts in a tremendous amount of time to make these grants happen so people around the world can experience God's love. The first thing Mike will tell you is how grateful he is to be doing

this work. As he says, "I get to give thanks for all the wonderful blessings God has given me." Mike continues to inspire us with his youthful enthusiasm and his heart for the poor. Thank you to Mike and his wife Katherine for all your love. We are blessed to have you in our lives.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS UPDATE *By Mike Mascari*

Economic Development in Uganda

At Serving Hands we pursue projects that make a sustainable improvement in peoples lives. Two of our most recent development projects are focused on the African country of Uganda.

The first is a project we are preparing for to start a taxi cab business for a children’s home in Kampala, Uganda. Besides providing jobs for several of the local families, these cabs will earn over \$5,000 annually to help support the medical and educational needs of the hundred residents in a children’s home.

Pictured with a cab, currently being leased, are children from the orphanage.

The second project was developed by a pastor in Port-Bell, Uganda to help over 600 families raise and feed piglets over a three year period. In January of this year, we received a DVD showing the first distribution to over a hundred of these needy families. The pastor has reported



Education for Orphans in Tanzania

Our most recent project was to help 15 orphans in Tanzania, Africa enroll in secondary education. The government of Tanzania has a program to provide for the education of orphans who have lost both of their parents and have passed their primary examinations.

However, in order to take advantage of the program the orphans must pay the enrollment costs of 130,000 shillings, equivalent to about \$100 US Dollars. Although not a lot for us, this cost limits many orphans from ever entering school.

Father Aloyce Urio, who is working with these orphans, brought this situation to our attention and coordinated the enrollment of the students. Through his hard work we were able to provide the funding so these students could prepare themselves for a better future.

Pictured above are 7 boys who were sponsored, not pictured are 8 girls who also received scholarships.

God is Good! - Operation Warmheart is a Success *By Maria Frausto*

When you think of Christmas Traditions many of us are blessed to recall fond memories of family, gifts and good food. I feel fortunate to have adopted a new “Christmas Tradition.” Since December 2005 I have had the opportunity to serve people in Mexico with SHI’s Operation Warmheart project. Operation Warmheart is a “Christmas Tradition” that SHI has been leading for over 10 years. The A-1 Self Storage team and many volunteers collect and distribute blankets, clothes, and food for families in Mexico.

This year we arrived at our distribution location in Tecate, Baja California hosted by our SHI partners, the Trinitarians of Mary.

Upon approaching the driveway I was in awe to see the long line of people waiting to receive their “Christmas Tradition” consisting of food, clothing, blankets and shoes for their children. I was humbled to learn that many of the people had slept outside of the gates to make sure they were able to receive the goods. It struck me that here in the US we camp-out on the eve of black Friday to make sure we get that big TV and just a short drive

away in Mexico it is camping-out for survival.

Since I first went in 2005 the need has become greater. When I saw the mass of people I was afraid there wouldn’t be enough, but then I asked God to instill faith in me that no matter what, there would be enough. That is when the troops came in; other volunteers from San Diego showed up with food, toys, blankets and energy! By 3pm almost everyone had received their gifts. I was so happy to see that we were finished and everyone would have something for Christmas.

Although I am blessed to have a great family, a job that I love and a home, my friends in Mexico instill the greatest of all treasures: Faith. Their faith and love for Christ inspired me to remember that “God is good always and always God is Good.”

I can’t wait for Christmas Tradition 2009 as I was nominated to dress up as Santa’s little helper!

Maria Frausto has been working with SHI for 4 years. She manages our main office and coordinates projects with our international partners.



This young man was ready to put his blanket to good use at the Operation Warmheart distributions with the Trinitarians of Mary.



Mr. and Mrs. Caster with Trinitarians of Mary at the celebration in San Ysidro.

This year marks the 45th year we have been blessed to work and serve in the country of Mexico. In 1963 Terrence and Barbara Caster along with their family began working in Mexico by supporting ministries that serve the poor. This work continued to grow and in 1981 Serving Hands International was created as a nonprofit organization out of the Casters' passion and generosity.

In March we had a simple yet joyful celebration with our partners from Mexico. It was an inspiring tribute to the work that continues to save lives and bring the gospel to people in need. Over 25 partner ministries came to the lunch, which took place in San Ysidro, CA.

As many of our partners and friends shared during the celebration, the work we are involved in makes a tremendous impact in the lives of tens of thousands of people who are struggling to survive. Above all these past 45 years are a story of people who have sacrificed to share love through the gifts God has given.

Celebrating 45 Years of Working in Mexico

We were also touched by the extreme need our partners shared with us. Many of the people in Mexico and the developing world have been hit by a triple threat of rising food costs, a faltering economy, and increased violence. In these times we need to point people to true hope and dignity. These circumstances require us to be proactive in reaching out to people in need.

Our 45th anniversary was also a re-commitment to the mission Serving Hands has been dedicated to throughout our history. Many thanks and blessings to all those who joined us. We will make sure to let you know about next year's celebration so you can be there to experience it!

“Yes, Lord, come and change me! I seek mercy, so make me merciful. I can never pay you back, Father, so let me instead pay the people around me with the gifts you have given to me.”

Meditation Corner: Restoring Our World (St. Mark 3:1-5)

Helping people experience the dignity and hope they have in Christ is quite possibly the most meaningful work we can do together. As we look into the face of poverty we see it afflicts people in many different ways. There are many physical affects of poverty but there are also people suffering from poverty in their relationships, in their emotional well being, and in their spiritual life.

Serving Hands is involved in many poverty fighting activities, including food distribution, medical services, and economic development. Each of these are opportunities to bring God's love to people in significant ways. But in order to break through to peoples' hearts we must be in touch with our own personal poverty and be restored.

The Scriptures remind us of how Jesus Christ brings restoration to our world. In the Gospel of St. Mark, Christ asks a paralyzed man to, "stretch out your hand." St. Mark writes that the man "stretched it out, and his hand was restored." This physical healing parallels the spiritual restoration God brings to our world. His restoration of our lives is not only able to make us complete physically but also can heal our spirit and our relationships. As people of hope we are also urged to "stretch out our faith." We can do this by offering what we have for the sake of those who are in need.

When we "stretch out our hands" in this new way we offer our lives to him. Only then can we truly be restored and bring restoration to our world.



How can you not feel restored after seeing smiles like these from young ladies receiving faith instruction with the Missionary Oblates in La Morita, Tijuana!

SHI MEXICO Partners Ministries

Serving Hands would like to recognize our courageous partners who work diligently to serve the poor in Mexico. If you would like your donation to support a specific ministry please let us know when you send your gift. This list does not include the many international partners we work with on individual projects around the world.

NAME OF MINISTRY	SERVICE WORK OF MINISTRY	PEOPLE SERVED
ASILO SAN PABLO	HEALTHCARE FOR ELDERLY POOR	35 live-in
CASA DE LOS POBRES	FOOD, MEDICINE, AND AID FOR THE POOR	25,000 / month
CASA DEL MIGRANTE	CARE FOR MIGRANT MEN	8,500 / year
CASA HOGAR AGNES LESTER	HEALTHCARE FOR ELDERLY POOR	18 live-in
CASA HOGAR SAN JOSE	HOME FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN	13 live-in
CENTRO MADRE ASUNTA	CARE FOR MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN	600 / year
ESPERANZA HEALTH CENTER	MEDICAL AID AND PRENATAL CARE FOR POOR	5,000 / year
SANTO TORIBIO PARISH	PARISH MINISTRY AND FOOD AID	5,000 families
SAN CHARBEL CONVENT	EDUCATION AND AID SERVICES	3,000 / month
MISSIONARY OBLATES - LA MORITA	COMMUNITY OUTREACH, TEACHING, AID	1,500 families
SACRED HEART HOSPITAL	MEDICAL AID AND HOSPITAL SERVICES	1,800 / year
HOSPITAL SAN FRANCISCO	MEDICAL AID AND HOSPITAL SERVICES	1,500 / year
SANTA ANA MISSIONARIES	EDUCATION AND CARE FOR YOUTH	6,000 / year
CASA DE SAN EUGENIO	MEDICAL AID AND SKILLS TRAINING	15,000 / year
MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY FATHERS	SEMINARY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH	2,000 families
GUADALUPE DEL RIO PARISH	PARISH MINISTRY AND FOOD AID	2,000 families
SANTIAGO APOSTAL PARISH	PARISH MINISTRY AND FOOD AID	1,600 / month
REFUGIO DEL NINO JESUS	HOME FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN	25 live-in
RELIGIOSAS DEL VERBO	FOOD AND OUTREACH MINISTRY TO CHILDREN	2,400 / year
MISSIONARIES OF THE CROSS	SCHOOL FOR UNDERSERVED CHILDREN	400 students
TRINITARIANS OF MARY	EDUCATION, FOOD, AND PRAYER MINISTRY	7,000 / month
CRISTO RESUCITADO PARISH	PARISH MINISTRY AND FOOD AID	10,000 families
MISSIONARIES OF DIVINE MERCY	CHURCH PLANTING AND FOOD AID	1,000 families

PRAY WITH US!

- Hope for those without work and can't provide for their family.
- Healing for the sick, dying and those suffering from poor nutrition.
- Courage for pastors, medics, and aid givers who dedicate their lives to serving others.
- Strength for those who live in fear and have lost loved ones from the violence in Mexico.

We pray all these things to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

SHI is classified as a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by the law and can be mailed to our address below.

4607 Mission Gorge Place
San Diego, CA 92120

Please contact us anytime.
 Phone: (619) 582-8200
 Email: shi@castergrp.com
 Web: www.servinghands.org

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PLEASE MATCH MY ENCLOSED DONATION FOR \$ _____

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