

2015 saw Helping Hands return **almost \$1.8 Million dollars** in aid back into our Benton County community. These resources came from both **donations and sales, at the Thrift Store**. Thrift sales account for a large portion of the money available to assist individuals and families that need a helping hand, not a hand out, in this volatile economy so you can deposit items in the Helping Hands box outside the Library entrance. Winter items are greatly needed.

What you may not know about Helping Hands:

- The **“2015 Community Impact”** figure (how many total dollars Helping Hands generated in Benton County) was **\$2,156.070.00** in 2015.
- Being a **Non-Profit** organization Helping Hands can **assist in various areas because they accept no money from government sources**. This way they are able to apply monies in most any area and toward any situation that might arise in Benton County.
- **Volunteers are the lifeblood of this organization**. These volunteers work in the Food Pantry, where they give out 40-45 bags daily feeding between 80 and 160 people each day. Volunteers also help man the thrift store by helping at the cash registers, stocking the sales floor, helping out customers, cleaning and assisting at the loading dock. **Our next workday is May 28th**.
- **More than 145 Volunteers donate their time and efforts to this ministry each week** and without them Helping Hands simply would not be able to provide as many services as they **reduce the need for hired employees**.
- Besides food donations, **25 families each week day receive financial assistance**. Some of the services offered are: **1) Rental assistance; 2) assistance with utility bills, 3) help with doctor visits and limited prescriptions, 4) diapers and formula for babies, 5) food pantry, 6)** In addition we also attempt to assist those affected by fire or other natural disasters by providing them with furniture and household items. **Families can receive food once per month and financial aid once every four months**.
- **Holiday Baskets** are distributed each year and this **Thanksgiving** there were **185 baskets distributed touching 521 lives**. **Christmas** saw **253 baskets delivered touching 1062 individuals**.
- **New dental program in 2016**. In association with Washington Regional Hospital, Helping Hands is participating in a new **“free”** dental program for qualifying residents in Benton County. Once a month 12-15 people, will be treated in a mobile dental lab at Helping Hands. Applications can be obtained at the Thrift Store which will need to be filled out and returned. The applications will be reviewed and candidates will then be contacted to schedule appointments.

Please also to your **consider adding Helping Hands not only to your charitable contribution list, but volunteer calendar**. **Food calendars** are available in the Connector Hall, and suggested donation items are regularly listed in the Church Bulletin. The food donated is taken to HH weekly and cash donations are send regularly. Interesting to note is the fact that Helping Hands can purchase canned items from the **Food Bank for \$0.17 per pound** so please **consider a cash donation**. The \$1.30 you spent on the can of soup you contributed would have purchased 9 cans for that same amount.

Joanne & Paul Chitty and Gary Stumbo

