

HNC Highlights

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THANKS BE TO GOD...AND THE YOUTH GROUP!

Every parent wants to look at their child and be proud of their actions. Instilling values and compassion requires that the family and the church model those characteristics.

This story represents many youth in our community that set aside their time to serve someone they didn't know.

We are proud of our youth in the Visalia Community and their servant's hearts. Parents and churches have a reason to be proud.

Kris shares this story:

On Saturday, October 10, 2009 members of a local church youth group showed up bright and early to help me finish preparing a space so that I can plant a garden and fruit trees in the spring. I had done quite a lot already. An enormous amount was left and I was just not physically able to do it. This youth leader heard about my need through HNC, and rounded up his crew.



First, let me say that I do not regularly attend church. I at-

tend another church with my daughter and her family. I did not know these kids or their leader, yet they offered to serve.

The youth group showed up at 8:30 AM on a Saturday.

I explained what I needed and then next thing I knew, it was done. They did a huge amount of work in the first hour, and they loved it. I went out back with some snacks and had a ball watching them clown around; one of the kids was way up in the trees cutting branches with a hand saw.

Then one boy rototilled the part of the yard that will be my garden. While the girls cleaned up the leaves and small branches, the boys took out two large trees and then dug out the stumps. I could not believe what I was seeing. They consistently went above and beyond what I expected. They were truly modeling the Bible.

This youth group is teaching their kids (who have already been well-taught by excellent parents with astonishing work ethics) not only to serve in foreign countries, but to look around them in their own community and see what needs to be done. They are focusing not so much on entertainment and fun, although I know those are there as

well, but they are developing character. These kids are learning how to be Jesus to the old lady down the block whose fence is falling down and who has a hitch in her step.



It was an honor and a deep privilege to meet these youth. They blessed me by being the hands and feet of Christ. They exhibited His love tangibly by working hard for someone needing help.

Thank you isn't enough. "May God bless you, care for you, keep His loving hand of protection on you as long as you live", that's better. Not much else to say, except THANK YOU to kids who, without a doubt, worked hard for someone they didn't even know.

HNC thanks you too and know our youth will continue to be the hands and feet for Christ in 2010!

Lester Moon, Founder

["Let no one look down on](#)



**In my daily prayers
I ask “Heavenly
Father use me for
your will and not
my own.”**

Community Advisors:

Rich Artis—Artis,
Hare & Co. CPA

Doug Bartsch—
VUSD

George Barnett—
EzDATAfind

Stan Bennett—Cal
Bennetts

Leslie Caviglia—
Visalia Deputy City
Manager

Phil Cline—District
Attorney

Louis Conde—Valley
Home Loans

Jody Gilman—
Faculty COS

Pete Sherwood—
Attorney

Marty Zeeb—Zeeb
Realty

Volunteer Corner—playing a vital part as a couple

My name is Rory. I first met Lester in January of 2009, he was giving a presentation about his ministry at our church. I enjoy helping people and doing volunteer work with the church. When I heard about Lester's mission at Hands In The Community, I became very excited for the opportunity to help. I started volunteering in February and have been at HNC almost every Wednesday. In my daily prayers, I ask “Heavenly Father use me for your will and not my own.” At HNC, His will is being accomplished through me as well as other volunteers. I take phone calls from people in the community and try to find ways to best meet their worldly needs (i.e. electric bills, food and clothes) and spiritual needs by bringing them to Christ. God has blessed me in this ministry by providing for my needs and making a difference in people's lives.

I am Jessica. Someone once said, “You can't help others until you help yourself.” I can honestly say, from experience, that is one of the biggest lies I've ever heard! As someone that lives paycheck to paycheck and who gets depressed easily (it's part of my nature), I can hardly help myself, yet you can find me spending all my free time helping others at Hands

in the Community (HNC).

I have a health care background and have had many health care related jobs, so on my application to volunteer at HNC, I placed a check mark next to care giving. One day I received a phone call from an office volunteer. She asked me if I could go to a lady's house that had just got home from the hospital and clean up some vomit that was on her floor. I told the lady, “Well I'm at



work so I can't come until after 5pm. Why don't you try to call someone else to do it, but if no one else can then I'll come after work.” After I hung up with the volunteer I thought to myself I should have just said, “Nope can't do it” - after all I was at work and I was dressed nicely. Maybe she won't call me back. A few minutes later she called me back. She couldn't find anyone else to do it.

When the time came I drove to her house and went in to

find two of her friends there doing her laundry (they had already cleaned up her vomit.) I went in to see her, she was so tiny and frail but she managed to smile at me. She was so thankful to see me. I asked how I could help and proceeded to do as she asked, strip her bed (with her in it) and then made my way to the kitchen that was filled with dirty dishes, moldy milk and rancid grease. I finished cleaning up the kitchen and went to say good bye to her. I asked her if she would like me to pray with her. Her face lit up like a Christmas tree. It was as if no one had ever asked her that before. I laid my hands on hers and began to pray for her and her health. She was so thankful! God turned something gross into something beautiful.

This is Hands in the Community! It's not about fulfilling only physical needs. It's not about “doing the right thing.” It's about sharing the LIVING God with people that need him. It's about allowing God to use you in ways you've never imagined. It's about giving hope, love, and grace to those who are hurting. So the next time you donate to HNC remember that you are not giving a handout to someone, you are giving them the hand of Jesus.

Please consider volunteering either 9-12 or 1-4 one day a week.

In addition, we will have other areas for you to help in the office. Filing, follow up, setting up meetings, etc.

Call the office at (559) 625-3822.

Perspective of a Teenage Volunteer

Working at Hands in the Community has been a great eye opening opportunity. My name is Katelyn. In the short time that I've had the pleasure of working here, I've learned a great deal about what this ministry does. I've seen how each role that a volunteer plays is important. I've witnessed many blessings occur with the help of hard working volunteers connecting clients with services and other people that can help fulfill the clients needs. In my case, my job is answering



phones, helping work on the content of the website, and also helping put together this newsletter.

At first I was a little worried that I wouldn't be the right person for the job, but with a little encouragement from the director, I soon realized that I could do it.

Another brilliant thing about volunteering at HNC is that it can count as community service, which looks good to colleges and future employers. One of the main things that I love about volunteering is that everybody is so welcoming, friendly, and just plain glad to have me there. It's really inspiring getting to see the blessings that go on here everyday, and knowing that I can do something to help this organization just makes it all the better. Every little job helps benefit the group as a whole, and even though answering phones and working in the office may not seem like much it helps a great deal, because anything a person can give back to help the community helps a lot.

Overall the experience of volunteering at hands in the community has been gratifying. I hope to continue coming back and helping

Supporting Churches:

Ambassadors for Christ

Calvary Chapel

Faith Community

Family Life

First Assembly

First Christian Reformed

Grace Community

Heart of the Valley

New Hope

New Life Church

Parkside Chapel

Sierra Baptist



“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, is that you have ministered to the saints and do minister.” (Heb 6:10)



HNC (Hands in the Community)

P.O. Box 6842

Visalia, CA 93290-6842

(559) 625-3822

Email: hncvisalia@yahoo.com

New Website: www.hnconline.org

Office hours:

Monday-Friday 9 AM-12 Noon

Monday-Thursday 1-4 PM

HNC is a non-profit organization established to provide crisis and short term referral services for families and agencies in the greater Visalia area. The unique strategy of HNC is to facilitate collaboration among providers in targeting and delivering help to those in need. HNC joins the hand of the helper to the hand of the person with a need.

Our objective is to assist people in becoming self-sufficient, and to strengthen the ability of families to care for themselves and their children. Nearly half of those served by our program are children.

Our goal is to minister cross-culturally to people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Praise

We currently have 705 volunteers who are available to share their time and abilities.

Current Needs

Office Needs

- Phone volunteers for one–3 hour shift Monday-Friday (9 AM-12 PM or 1-4 PM)
- Desktop computer (Windows XP)
- Phone headsets (3)
- Office Supplies—i.e. file folders, envelopes either letter/legal size
- Volunteers from your church
- Newsletter coordinator
- Project Coordinator
- Funding for ministry



Client Needs

- Queen bed
- 2 twin beds
- Vacuum cleaner
- 3 beds

If you can meet any part of these needs, please contact us by phone at our office (559) 625-3822.



Hands in the Community is a 501 (c) 3. All donations are tax deductible. Our ministry is supported entirely by donations. You may also donate by credit card via our website.