

The Master Weaver

An old woman, a weaver, bends over her loom, sending shuttles of colored threads back and forth as she creates an intricate tapestry of blended colors and subtle detail. As the tapestry grows, the tiny threads meld together in a grand design, one row at a time. Each thread has its purpose, as row upon row they create a work of art at the hands of the expert weaver.

The Lord God is the weaver of our lives as His servants. He connects the threads and forms the patterns in a fashion far too intricate for earthly eyes. Here at Hands in the Community, we are honored to be a small thread in the tapestry of grace He weaves. We are regularly amazed at how He connects us to one another, how one thread touches another, as He weaves His will.

Hands in the Community (HNC) was founded to meet the needs of people. Its beginnings were more than humble: We had no office space, no furniture, no equipment, virtually no staff at all. But, we had the Master Weaver. An important need, a vital thread in our tapestry, was a location, a home base.

In October of 2008, as part of establishing the ministry, HNC founder Lester Moon presented to a local church his vision for a volunteer organization which would meet the needs of people. He spoke of the need for an office, a central hub, where coordinating the needs and the solutions could take place. A few weeks later, he spoke at another church, presenting the same need. The tapestry was beginning, as two brothers, one attending each of these churches, came together and offered office space as a donation. It was two weeks before Christmas, 2008.

The space offered was perfect for the needs of the ministry: A small office for Lester and an adjacent room with space for four or five work stations for phone volunteers. But no furniture. How would the Lord provide it? No one knew how, only that He would.

In a conversation with the property's manager, Lester mentioned the need for office furnishings. The manager cocked his head and said, "Lester, I may be able to help with

that." Not long afterward, there was a phone chat with a local businesswoman who had recently closed a 70 person office. She said, "Lester, it's almost Christmas. Make up a wish list and I will see what I can do."

Humbly, Lester made his list. Five work stations, five chairs, five computers, five of everything it might take to make an office run. No luxuries, just the basics of an efficiently designed office space. He submitted the list, and waited. With a "go" date of January 1, 2009, the wait seemed long! But a week before Christmas, the call came and HNC received as donations every single item on the Lester's "wish list". The Master Weaver was deepening His design.

After the opening of the office, a call came in from a local Christian school. They were upgrading their computers, could HNC use their old ones? Absolutely! But what to do with the perfectly good, but slightly outdated units already on site? Was there a need somewhere that HNC could meet?

After a couple of calls, eight computers, five printers and 12 monitors were in the hands of an area Boys and Girls Club. As a result, the club has upgraded their computer lab, has put some of the equipment to use in their administration, and has refurbished two units as gifts to their Youth of the Year winners. God's children have been blessed.

Today, the offices at HNC are buzzing with activity. Phones ring at the donated desks, and volunteers are there to answer them. File cabinets bulge with notes of need, as well as evidence of needs which have been met. Data bases are updated on the donated computers and as a result, connections are made that meet crisis needs.

The tapestry of Hands in the Community continues to be woven, as the Father uses simple, willing servants to changes lives. The hands of the Creator are busy, intertwining people, churches and the community at large into a work of art that meets needs and touches hearts. There is much to be done, and many opportunities are present to be a part of God's tapestry. All "threads" are welcome, both volunteers and donations, each a vital part of this creation of grace in the hands of the Master Weaver.

By Kris Watson