



HANDS
together

**New
Year
Appeal
2018**



executive director's message



Dear Friends and Fellow Missionaries,

I'm writing to ask for your help in response to this New Year Appeal mailing with whatever gift you can give.

Many months have passed since Hands Together last shared printed news of our efforts and our appeal to you for help. These past few years have been very difficult for all of us working in Haiti. I have asked Fr. Tom to write to you as well and I include his message following this letter. The countless obstacles to our work have been a great challenge to both Fr. Tom and to me. Because of this, I've had some serious health problems. Thanks be to God we continue to face and meet the many challenges Haiti presents to us. Fr. Tom and I very much thank you for all your prayers and support.

Hands Together has grown a great deal over the past several years and our small staff can barely handle the daily operations.

It is impossible to exaggerate the human misery faced by the people we are helping in Haiti. There are many days when Father Tom and I question whether we should continue this work. There are so many frustrations! There is so much violence and stealing. The very people that we are helping are stealing from us. They are so desperate! At times we simply feel so overwhelmed!



Recently, I was in a small hut in Haiti. I was visiting a poor woman who had asked me to bring food for her family. While I was talking to her, one of her children who goes to our Hands Together school suddenly ran up to her carrying a coloring book that she had just received at school. She pointed to a picture of a butterfly that she was about to color and excitedly asked her mother: "What is that?"

Her mother looked at me and asked me what it was that her daughter was coloring. I told her:

"Why, that's a butterfly!"

Her mother said: "It's beautiful!"

"Mommy," the little girl yelled, "can I see one?"

The mother looked at me and put her hand up to stop me from speaking and said to her daughter with a stern face said,

"You will never see one! There is no way butterflies could live where we live!!"

She took the coloring book from the child and stuck it under her arm.

I suddenly found myself praying that things could change and that the children could see beauty in their world of the slum.

I found myself feeling determined that with God's help we will be able to bring butterflies into the lives of the children. I know that we can never give up and we can never abandon these good people!

I ask you now for your help. I beg for your help! Let us dare dream that we can bring butterflies into the lives of the children!

God bless you,

Doug



“It’s possible...the children in Cité Soleil can believe that something beautiful can exist in their world --- there can be butterflies in the poorest place on earth.”

~Doug Campbell



fr. tom's message

My Dear Friends!

I'm sitting here in our little chapel in Haiti. It's very early and the sun will not rise for at least another hour. I did not sleep well last night as it was hot and buggy. Maybe also that today is my birthday and I am now 76 years old. I find it hard accepting my age and I am indeed an "old codger" now.

But, I am absolutely filled with gratitude to God for the life that He has given to me. Doug Campbell, our executive director, has asked that I write this letter for the New Year's Appeal he is preparing.

I just want to say that I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you for your wonderful and generous support over these years.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I must say that living and working here in Haiti has been difficult for me over these thirty years. Even though I volunteered to come here, I missed greatly being back in the USA especially working with young people on campus. I missed the football games, etc.

As the years passed, I struggled just being here! The culture is so different! Also, there has been so much violence! So many people that I truly loved and depended upon have been murdered. There also has been the dishonesty and the stealing! I found myself feeling so often overwhelmed by the misery and the suffering that is in Haiti.

Yet, too I found myself loving these good people and I always admired their strength, their resiliency and their strong determination to survive.





They are desperately poor. I want us to help all of them. The line at our gate is always there, it never shrinks and we never have enough.

Now as I have become older I see myself staying here till the end of my life. There is such a great need! Maybe I just am beginning to like it here.

“Our faith is not in our minds, nor even in our hearts. Our faith is in our feet, here in the present moment, where we stand and act upon what is immediately in front of us.”

~Father Tom Hagan,
O.S.F.S.

What helps me greatly is the time I spend here in prayer. It is truly prayer that keeps me going. I know that God wants me to help His very poor.

I find myself now thanking God for all of you who have helped us so much. Thanks! Thank each and every one of you!!

I also would like to thank Doug Campbell who has served as our executive director. He selflessly joined me when he was just 19 years old and has never abandoned our mission. He has made great personal sacrifices. Yet, at the same time has been able to raise three wonderful children.

I beg you now to help us in any way you can. We desperately need your help! But, above all, I ask that you pray that we can continue the mission of Hands Together.

Most of all I ask that you pray that our world will become closer together and that we will all embrace the bond of love that binds us all together. Let us resolve to imitate Jesus and shatter all categories and be able to see all people as brothers and sisters.

Also, on this birthday of mine I humbly ask your pardon to any of you out there that I may have offended over these past years in any way.

I know that I have at times and for this I am sorry.

Once again, I say thanks for all you have done and I beg you now if it is possible to help us again!

God bless you and love you!

Father Tom

compassion & empowerment

EDUCATION

catholic schools, adult literacy

We dedicate nearly one third of our resources to Hands Together schools. Our schools serve the poorest children in both rural and urban Haiti. These are some of the only tuition-free schools in the country.



WATER RESOURCES

drinking and irrigation wells

Unclean water is the #1 cause of health problems and death. Hands Together's water well-drilling rigs bring life-giving clean water and hope to farmers and areas that have unclean water.



AGRICULTURE

modern farming, reforestation

Most of rural Haiti survives on simple farming that can barely sustain a family. Our 100 acre farm invites rural farmers to practice experimental planting - greatly increasing their yields and profits. In the past 15 years, we have planted over 500,000 HT-grown seedlings.





Jesus tells us 18 times in the Gospel, that if we are to know Him we must help the poor - that is where we will find Him”

Fr. Tom Hagan, O.S.F.S. - Founder



CHARITY

funerals, housing, food

We provide thousands of gifts for funerals, medicine, food and housing. We respond to natural disasters by giving needed supplies, food and water.

SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

credit, briquette fuel

Over 1000 people participate in the Hands Together credit cooperative which gives start-up loans to small business and marketing initiatives. This program focuses on giving dignity and hope to women who are struggling.

The Hands Together Alternative Fuel Program creates small fuel briquettes that replace charcoal thereby halting deforestation and recycling paper and trash. Eight of our schools operate on briquette fuel.

HEALTH-MEDICAL

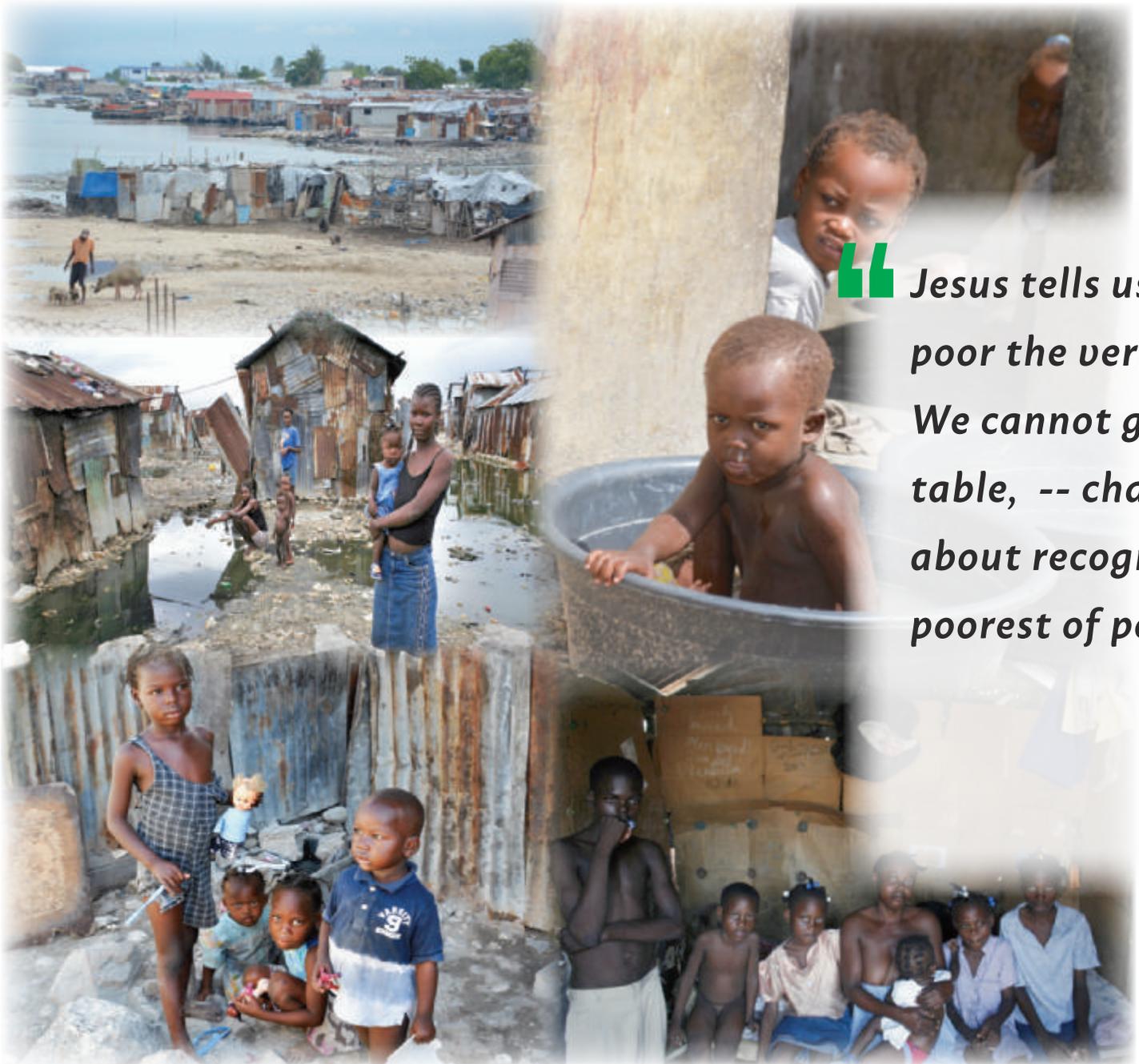
mobile clinic, urban clinics

Hands Together operates four totally free medical clinics serving the poorest of the poor. There are 42 Haitian medical staff including 3 Haitian doctors.

where we help - cité soleil

There are over 300,000 people living in a three square mile area. There is very little electricity, poor sanitation, no fresh drinking water. It is an area where there are ten times as many rats as humans.

A recent United Nations study on urban poverty described Cité Soleil as "the most dangerous and one of the poorest places on earth." Hands Together made a firm commitment never to abandon this area. We now have eleven free schools as well as two free medical clinics. We also supply drinking water to the people especially for the elderly and for the school children.



👍 *Jesus tells us that
poor the very best
We cannot give th
table, -- charity is
about recognizing
poorest of people.*

~Fr.

where we help - rural haiti

One third of our resources fund our rural program headed by Fr. Gérard who has been with Hands Together for thirty years. Rural Haiti presents much different challenges than the urban slum. We fund 7 rural schools, drill water wells, fund irrigation for farmers, operate a 120 acre farm, and sponsor several sustainable development outreach programs aimed at moving families toward self-sufficiency.

*we must give the
that we have.
e scraps from our
s about dignity,
the divine in the
,*

Gérard Dormeville
Director of Haiti Operations
Hands Together



help us keep it all going

Becky DeWine School

Hands Together operates 34 schools throughout Haiti in the poorest areas. We now have 11 schools in the Cité Soleil slum that are totally free. Our deepest gratitude to Fran and Mike DeWine of Ohio for helping the children of Haiti for many years.



School Expansions

This year Hands Together provides free education to over 12,000 of Haiti's poorest children. However, nearly 3 times that many children show up for registration each fall but sadly we cannot accommodate them all and beg you to help us expand.

Jones Day Field

This artificial turf field has been a blessing to the students and people in the slum! Many people said that this project would not work and that spending so much money on an artificial turf field was foolish and wasteful.

However, this field, built by the local population and funded by The Jones Day Foundation instills pride and brings hope to desperate and powerless people. Indeed, this project has changed the lives of many young people who are choosing a nonviolent life. United Nations officials and many other people are telling us that this is one of the most effective violence reduction programs in Haiti.



Water Projects

In the past 20 years, Hands Together drilled over 562 wells in northern Haiti providing drinking water to more than half a million people. All of our schools provide fresh, clean drinking water to our students each day.



Feeding & Nutrition

Hands Together feeds 12,000 people per day. In fact, this is the only meal that these children will eat in a day. Also, eight times per year Hands Together provides a major food distribution to 105,000 elderly.



Elderly Care

Hands Together operates four centers for elderly care. Each day they have their blood pressure checked, receive a hot meal and literacy education is offered. There can be as many as 1,700 elderly each day.



Clarke Farm

Our farm covers 211 acres with areas for experimental farming, mandalla projects and animal husbandry and provides education and training for local farmers and students. The farm provides a source of food, crops and livestock.



we can't do this without you. **thank you!!**



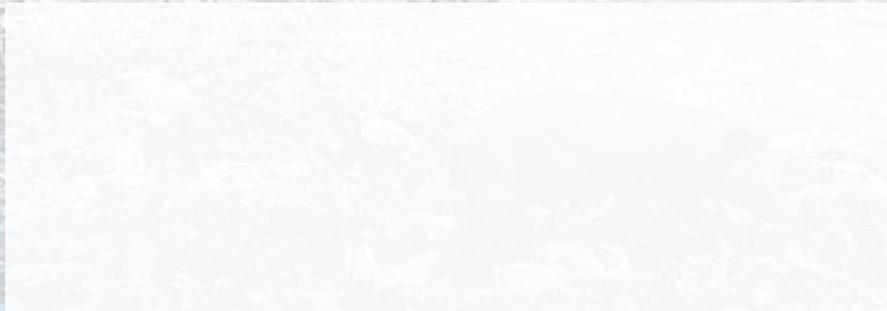


At its core, Hands Together is about human relationships. Even after the earthquake destroyed nearly everything, our relationships remained undamaged. Hands Together is all about building relationships...looking into the eyes of another person and seeing the face of Jesus.





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Hands Together attained for the sixth consecutive time Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating. Less than two percent of all U.S. organizations evaluated receive this rating.

Please help us!

God bless and Love you all!
We need you. Please pray for us.

HANDS TOGETHER TRUSTEES

- Fr. Tom Hagan, President & Founder
- Douglas Campbell, Executive Director & Founder
- Tom Beaudette
- Katherine Coleman
- James DellaValle, M.D.
- Bishop Donald Hying
- Monsignor James Kidder
- Peter Kovac
- George McCrimlik
- Michael Monteleone
- Mary Mather Nally