



The Sower's Hands

Newsletter by Hope Seeds

A Quarterly Publication For Our Faithful Patrons

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Exciting Matching Fund Opportunity!

See Back Page to learn how you can
Be the One to Bring **Hope** to the Hungry!

Challenging Times

-David Balsbaugh, CEO

As our nation comes together in a time of uncertainty and many encouraging acts of kindness are taking place, it's time to turn off the news and get outside. Not only is it a time to share with our neighbors and bring Hope to others, maybe it's time to **plant a garden in your own backyard!** Gardening is very therapeutic, it gives great satisfaction, provides good, fresh nutritional produce for your family, and you can be a blessing by sharing your tasty accomplishments with your neighbors.

In WWII our nation planted **Victory Gardens** to help relieve food insecurities as much of the nation's food supplies were being sent for the war efforts overseas. We need to do our part in challenging times just as the generations did before us! Gardening can be



Time to Grow!

as simple as planting a few tomatoes around the home or planning out an entire garden bed, if you are up to the challenge. I'm not saying you will become self-sufficient, and maybe we should rethink how we feel about this idea as Americans, but the fact is, we need each other, plain and simple. Hope Seeds is currently looking for and responding to opportunities to help in this time of need in our local communities here in Florida and elsewhere; wherever there are needs. Please contact us if you need ideas or support to help plan a **Victory (Hope) Garden** or to start a **Community Garden** through your local church or community center. This can be accomplished without breaking the guidelines given by the CDC. **Hope Seeds stands ready to provide garden seeds, education, and encouragement!** When we are perplexed, we can trust in the wonderful promises of our loving God and Savior.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8: 35, 37 (NIV)



Plan of Action: Covid-19



There is no need to go into detail concerning the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic. **Hope Seeds stands strong, ready for action.** **First**, we will not have a spirit of fear which would paralyze the ministry, but we intend to continue serving. **Second**, we will work diligently to meet current needs here in the USA and worldwide. **Third**, we have **temporarily** suspended volunteer events to protect our volunteers who are so dear to us. Hope Seeds will continue to follow guidelines established by the CDC and will resume volunteer events when appropriate. Check out our Facebook page, **Hope Seeds, Inc**, for important ministry and volunteer updates.

Hope Seeds Update on a Season of Change - Spring 2020

One year ago, Hope Seeds Board of Directors published a plan of action for the future of Hope Seeds, recognizing the past 20 years of accomplishments and strategically repositioning itself for the next 20 years. Part of the strategic plan focused on establishing a centralized **base of operation**. We are currently working with Hope Lutheran Church (where the vision of Hope Seeds was born) in Bradenton, FL, to use the former parsonage and surrounding property, transforming it into an international headquarters for Hope Seeds. This facility will serve many functions, providing office space, seed storage, a visitor reception and education center, housing for interns and visiting missionaries, community gardens, practical demonstrations, seed trials, and research.

The intern program is slated to begin this summer with a focus on testing current seeds in the inventory in addition to newly identified seed varieties for warmer climates. The intern program is designed as a support component of Hope Seeds to accomplish many goals and to provide **mission training** for those seeking a mission assignment. **Seed trials** will be conducted alongside of a **community garden** project designed to produce fresh vegetables for the community and local food banks. This is part of a greater effort by Hope Seeds to offer our services to those in need in the US. We are currently receiving requests for seeds from veteran groups and local outreach programs across the country seeking to help communities grow their own vegetables. We are excited about the doors God is opening to serve our neighbors near and far.

Hope Seeds will continue to operate at Trinity Methodist Church in Bradenton as our main campus for assembling family packs, while numerous churches and groups across the country will continue offering their facilities for packing individual seed packets. In essence, Hope Seeds is a network of churches and individuals helping those who hunger both physically and spiritually. Our goal and commitment to our supporters and recipients is to continue to operate in such a way as to keep our expenses low to better serve those in need. **Thank you to all our donors, volunteers, and churches for enabling Hope Seeds to accomplish the mission!**



Take Root & Grow



Hope Seeds, Agape Flights, and International Faith Ministries: A Cord of Three Partnership

Hurricane Dorian was one of the strongest hurricanes on record to ever hit the Bahamas. Once it made landfall in September of 2019, the storm moved very slowly across the Islands, just 1 mph for a total of 48 hours. While causing devastating effects and decimating many parts of the chain of islands, many people who were already living in vulnerable situations are now facing food shortages. At a recent **Agape Flights** event, guest speaker, Reverend Rudolph Roberts of **International Faith Ministries** in the Bahamas, reached out to **Hope Seeds** for help, and we stand ready to answer the call. Plans are being made to respond to the needs of the people of the Bahamas with **seeds**, **education**, and to establish a **center for sustainable food production** with our new partner, **Int'l Faith Ministries**.

Hope Seeds and Chapin Living Waters



Hope Seeds and Chapin

Living Waters once again are strategizing to bring our organizations closer together. Not only are we working internationally together, but we have also expanded our outreach in the US, serving communities during these difficult days. Keep watching for exciting updates as we plan for action. We are stronger together as we combine efforts to **reduce hunger together!**

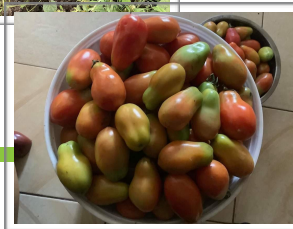
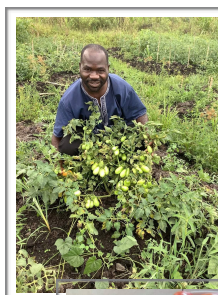
The Message of Hope

Recently, **Psalm139LOVE** held outreaches in numerous villages in Haiti. Seed saving seminars were held, family packs of seeds were distributed, and the **Message of Hope**, provided by **Hope Seeds** in each family pack of seeds, was used for evangelism. For the very first time, **Psalm139LOVE** missionary and founder, Amanda Pecott, read the **Message of Hope** in Haiti's native language of Creole to a village where many heard the Gospel and rejoiced. *(Check out the video on our facebook page!)* Lives are being transformed for Christ!!! Thanks to our strong partnership, **Psalm139LOVE** recently facilitated a large, vital seed shipment through **Missionary Flights International** into Haiti during this difficult time. These seeds will be shared with Hope Seeds for Haiti (directed by our Agronomist Josias J. Romeus), Ephraim Orphan Project, and Operation Outpour!!! Praise God!!!



Uganda Update

Seed Saving Techniques are saving lives in Uganda and providing a variety of crops for a balanced diet for families. Keep Uganda in prayer as this county faces many challenges: the devastation of crops from locusts earlier this year and now Covid-19.





Matching Fund Opportunity 2020

Wondering how you can help in this challenging time? You can **Be The One** to bring **Hope to the Hungry** by **doubling your gift**, which **doubles your impact** with Hope Seeds through the 2020 Giving Challenge. The Giving Challenge is an exciting **24-hour giving event** taking place from Noon to Noon (EST) on April 28th and 29th that connects 700+ nonprofit organizations with donors and community members to build relationships, support diverse causes, and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties. To strengthen giving during the 2020 Giving Challenge, The Patterson Foundation will provide a 1:1 match for all unique donations, from \$25 up to \$100 per donor, per organization. All donations made during the Giving Challenge are unrestricted gifts to the nonprofit organization of your choice. Hope Seeds was approved to participate once again!

To **double your gift** via The Giving Challenge, please go to: **givingpartnerchallenge.org** and search for Hope Seeds, Inc. You will need a valid credit or debit card and email address to receive your tax-deductible receipt. If you do not have internet capability, please call our office with your pledge. Our staff is trained with PCI compliance and your information will remain safe and secure. Please direct questions to Maxine Balsbaugh, Hope Seeds Office Manager, by phone: (941) 228-5660 or by email: maxine@hopeseeds.org

The 2020 Giving Challenge is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation. **Thank You!!!!**

Thank you to the individuals who made these meaningful gifts to Hope Seeds:

In Honor of:

♥ Sue Shambaugh
♥ Art & Karen Pabst
♥ Kate & Ron Schoenfelder
♥ George & Luella Franke
♥ Judith Plescia
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♥ Doc Chaney
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♥ Edna Huddle
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Plant A Seed!
Feed A Soul!



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