HELPING HANDS PROJECT ORGANIZATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement:
To empower and elevate the lives of the most under served, focusing on communities of color, by providing resources and access to programs that ensure an equitable opportunity for success.

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501(c)(3) Organization EIN 84-3913395
Helping Hands Project Organization envisions a thriving community where prevention is possible, and recovery from mental health and substance use disorders is the expectation. We envision a community where homelessness and suffering become a thing of the past. HHPO and its providers are committed to this vision by providing evidence-based prevention, intervention, and treatment services that are innovative, person centered, well-coordinated, and easy to navigate. HHPO is proud of the services it provides and its recent programmatic accomplishments, including our work to address homelessness, poverty alleviation, expand behavioral health services, and the plan to create a new Community Response Team that would prevent Emergency Department visits.

These efforts, while powerful, are not enough. There are nearly daily reminders of the impact that mental illness and substance use disorders are having on individuals, families, and communities across our communities. Recent assessments and community engagement efforts have identified the need to reduce fragmentation of services; better integrate mental health, substance use disorder, and primary care medical services; and expand access to peer support, trauma-informed care, and recovery support services. Our challenges are clear, and it is no surprise that mental health and substance use disorders are a leading health problem facing our health system.

This Strategic Plan is evidence of our continued commitment to address the challenges we face and transform our overall system. Together with our providers, we are making notable progress—but we must continue to innovate and refine our services in ways that promote prevention and early intervention, expand access and engagement in care, improve care coordination and service integration, and foster recovery and resilience. This Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for HHPO and its providers to align our collective efforts with our vision and guide HHPO's continued efforts to become a nationally recognized entity.

This plan is a critical step in our efforts to lead change.

Vivian Obah, CEO
EVICTION Rental Assistance Program

- COVID-19 continued to take a toll on our local communities. We extended our Partnership with the Department of Commerce and Volunteers of America to prevent evictions and provided rental assistance to people who have lost income due to COVID-19.
- We targeted outreach to immigrant run businesses, places of worship and property management companies that serve communities of color.

885 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.

$5.2 MILLION OF RENTAL ARREARS WERE PAID TO CLIENT LANDLORDS TO PREVENT EVICTION.

COVID-19 Food Assistance

- Partnership with African Supermart and JD’s market in Lynnwood, WA to provide culturally appropriate food assistance to those financially affected by COVID-19.
- This program is unique as it allows our clients to receive help in a discrete way, without facing stigma from other community members.

300 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.

$24,000 OF FOOD ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED.

AFRICAN SUPERMART

JD’S Market Inc
**BLACK CRIME**

**Victim Services**

- With our contract via the Department of Commerce and Office of Crime Victims Advocacy, we continued to help address emergent victim service needs in the Black community. We have helped our clients escape domestic violence by providing emergency financial assistance, rental deposits, furniture, and finding access to counselors to ensure stability and healing.

**RAPID**

**Assistance Program**

- Our Rapid Assistance Program was targeted to those who have disproportionately been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, people of color. The help was provided regardless of immigration status and allowed families facing eviction to stay stably housed.

11 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.

87 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.

$191,000 OF FOOD AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED.
**EQUITABLE**  
System Design

- With our partnership with Building Changes we support families of color experiencing homelessness. We assist clients with Rapid Rehousing, locating employment opportunities, criminal record sealing, household essentials, food assistance, work supplies, gas assistance and resource information.

51 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.  
76% OF CLIENTS ARE STABLY HOUSED.

**VACCINE**  
Equity Project

- The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected people of color. We have been focused on providing equitable access to vaccines as well as testing. We offer education and transportation to ensure an equal access for care. We offered gift card incentives to cover the cost of lost wages and transportation to our clinic.

1,600+ HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.
We have been supporting unhoused individuals in Snohomish County over the age of 60 with mental health concerns, substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorders. We provide Housing Services, Behavioral Health Counseling, Intensive Case Management and Flex Funds.

20 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.
We recognized a gap in distribution of back to school supplies for communities of color located in Oak Harbor. We were able to coordinate a large delivery of back to school items to ensure all youth will kick start the year with great spirits, ready to learn.

180 ITEMS.

TOTAL OF SHOES, COMPUTERS, SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS AND BOOKBAGS DONATED TO PUGET SOUND AND OAK HARBOR YOUTH.
With the power of our generous donors, we were able to provide turkeys, gift baskets and Fred Meyer gift cards to local Puget Sound families.

50 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED.
INTERNATIONAL
Mission

- International Mission Supplies - These much needed supplies will be sent to the newly rehabilitated health centers in Opoji and Uromi Local Government Areas of Edo State, Nigeria. This initiative will be 100% run by volunteer providers from Providence Medical.

$22,000 IN FOOD ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY AID.

OVER $350,000 OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES SHIPPED.
SUCCESS STORIES

CRISIS Management

- We first met our Crisis Management client while doing outreach. He was very apprehensive receiving help at first, but our staff repeated contact until he eventually felt safe to come into the office. He first came to us in October seeking Housing and Mental Health services. He is close to 70 years old and has been unhoused for over 25 years. He did not have identification or any support from any agencies or government funding.

- Our Case Managers helped him navigate the system. We housed him in a hotel while we worked on securing housing. We worked at getting proof of identity such as high school yearbook, transcripts, and a divorce decree. After numerous attempts with the DOL they provided our client with identification.

- With this ID, our client was approved for Aged, Blind, or Disabled cash assistance, Medical, and Food assistance and received all their mail to our office.

- He has been remaining in constant contact and has been in our office almost every day to check in and continues moving forward. He has had a positive experience and continue to bring in his friends to come to our office to use our services.

- Our staff is still working with him for their next SSI retirement appointment. Because he was not born in this country, we have been working on getting a copy of his birth certificate or naturalization documents to continue to help him secure stable housing.
Our Black Crime Victim Service client came to us after suffering a cycle of abuse from different offenders. Her and her child were being exposed to violence on a regular basis. We were able to help this client with relocation fees such as deposit, rent, U-Haul and furniture to a new area unknown to her abuser and registered her in the Washington address confidentiality program.

We assisted this client in creating a plan for where she was moving and how she would get income. Provided client with information for counseling and support services to deal with the trauma they have endured. Client was able to get employed and should be successful in her current housing and employment plan. Client is working on getting back into school and living a healthier life.
Our outreach connected us with a African American 70 year old Veteran who was living in a motel. This client was unable to locate housing because his income was being consumed by hotel fees. Through working with our case manager, our client was able to gain proof of income, birth certificate, and a copy of his DD214. He was able to transition into a house rental and the stress of his current situation affected his health greatly. He was able to begin working with a caregiver and obtain stable affordable housing. He reports that his health is more stable, and he is feeling healthier now due to all the support we were able to provide.

A mother of 3 was displaced due to a domestic violence relationship and she was staying in a shelter. She was feeling hopeless and alone without her children. We assisted her with basic needs such as gas and assistance in getting work clothes to remain employed. We worked together to local housing and covered the costs of moving in. We were able to assist with basic household needs. This enabled her to get her home ready for the children who returned home to her care. She reported feeling excited and having a renewed sense of hope for her new life as a single, being able to provide for her children, and making up for priceless lost time.
A world where there is equitable access to resources to ensure all communities have the tools needed for success.