



Little Hands Can

Inspiring and empowering little hands to make a world of difference!

ANNUAL REPORT



2017

In the fall of 2017 Little Hands Can, a Eugene-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, scheduled a community service event to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner at the Eugene Mission. By early October, 40 families (over 80 people) had signed up and many more joined the wait list. It seemed that everyone was excited about the chance to help those in need at a time when they were celebrating the plenty they'd been blessed with. On the day of the event, Miriam, Co-Founder of Little Hands Can, looked around at all of the faces of families with kids of all ages smiling at each other and felt a sense of pride:

“That’s what Little Hands Can is all about. It’s about bringing families together, creating a sense of community, and giving back to the community we love.”

If you are looking for ways to encourage and enable your children (even babies and toddlers) to give back to our community, and to become civic-minded, compassionate, helpful world citizens and leaders, then Little Hands Can is the group for you. Our mission is to inspire and empower children, of any age, to better their communities by connecting them with service opportunities. We have witnessed that every child, no matter how small, makes a difference!

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDERS



OUR MISSION

Little Hands Can is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering children to better their communities by connecting them with local service opportunities.



OUR PROGRAMS



Happy Helpers

Preschool-age kids meet with seniors at an assisted living facility and, together, make items to be donated to local charities.

Best for: Ages 0-6



Community Events

Community service events are organized twice a month for families to serve together at local charities.

Best for: Families with kids of all ages



After School

This program brings children in Eugene's schools together weekly to do hands-on service.

Best for: Elementary School Kids



Kindness Camp

Children have fun while growing their kindness and generosity towards themselves and others. We explore the pillars of giving through art, music, and community service projects.

Best for: Ages 3-6 for Summer 2018

OUR IMPACT

Happy Helpers:

In our Happy Helpers Playdates program, we engage seniors who are in an assisted living environment for a variety of reasons, including Memory Care. Many of the residents are Veterans.

In 2017, LHC's preschoolers and toddlers completed **22 service projects** through our Happy Helpers program, which **served over 300 people in need**. Our projects served children in Haiti, animals in local shelters, babies in the NICU and their families, Eugene's homeless population, and those who need nutritious meals delivered to their homes.

Our service projects included: creating graduation awards for children in Haiti, making Get Well cards, decorating placemats for Meals on Wheels, making dog and cat toys for the Animal Cruelty Society, making pillows for wounded soldiers, and making Christmas cards to put on every pillow at the Eugene Mission.

Community Events:

In our Community Events program, we worked with and served **16 local and national organizations** through our community service projects.

In 2017, LHC's children completed **23 service projects** through our Community Events program, which **served countless people in our community** including all of those who use our parks and open spaces and the men, women, and children who spend both Thanksgiving and Christmas without homes.

Approximately **500 people** spend Thanksgiving and Christmas at the Eugene Mission, and LHC's children and families proudly helped prep their meals and made 500 Christmas cards to put on each bed.

Our community service projects included: gardening and landscaping for the City of Eugene, Walama Restoration Project, Friends of Mt. Pisgah, The Toolbox Project, and Food for Lane County's Grassroots Garden, projects benefitting animals for three local organizations, cleaning our local parks, and making ornaments for Womenspace, an organization dedicated to ending partner violence.

After School:

LHC partners with the BEST (Boosting & Enriching Students Today) Afterschool Program to provide a community service elective at local elementary schools in Eugene, Oregon. The BEST program targets underserved students, including children who are homeless, in transitional housing, and English Language Learners. Students in the BEST Afterschool Program are more diverse than the 4J district-wide student body as a whole. **45% of BEST attendees are students of color, and almost 20% speak a language other than English at home.**

In the service elective, students learn about different issues in the community, participate in classroom service projects, and embark on field trips to learn more about local nonprofits. Lesson plans include books, music, games, discussions, and service activities related to a particular nonprofit and the community need it addresses. These activities are paired with age-appropriate discussion and multimedia on topics such as safe shelter, protecting the environment, building a strong community, protecting animals, or helping neighbors.

Around **180 students are served** in our LHC community service elective. Students benefit from the LHC Afterschool Program as they gain more confidence, self-efficacy, and tolerance as they increase their understandings of social issues. Individuals served by the local non-profits benefit, as well.

OUR IMPACT



HAPPY HELPERS: "I have loved seeing the smiles on young and old at Happy Helpers. Because of the regularity of the program, we often get regulars who we know by name and we get to see cute relationships form. One resident in particular, Richard, was particularly fond of kids and was not shy about stepping right in to give a baby's tummy a tickle or help a preschooler out with a project. When we first came to Waterford Grand, my Ellie was only a baby and I was mostly concerned about her not crying during Happy Helpers to disrupt the activity, but I quickly learned that she could be a great helper there, too. Richard would move his wheelchair right up to whoever as holding her and captivate her with his funny facial expressions and kind spirit. It made Ellie's day and I would bet that it made Richard's too." -Mandi

AFTER SCHOOL: "I am so proud of the awesome projects these kids have done and the thoughtful conversations they have had with each other on a wide range of really important issues from school shootings, to homelessness, to immigration. They have made posters to educate their classmates about endangered animals, world peace, racism and how to care for the environment. They have written to the president of the United States, State Representatives, and the Mayor of Eugene and some students even received replies! They have made toys for dogs in shelters, blankets for kids in foster care, and first aid kits for the homeless. I am most proud of the way they have practiced their powers of observation, creativity, and self-advocacy to think about what problems exist in the world around them and what actions they themselves can take to work on them." -Maria

COMMUNITY EVENTS: "During one of our first Community Events, we were putting together kits for the Eugene Mission at Skinner's Butte park. Kids who were at the park playing that day stopped by our booth and put them together. One of the little girls stopped at our table told me how she used to live at the Eugene Mission. She smiled as she made the kits for the place she once called home. Though it broke my heart to hear her story, it's then that I realized that our Little Hands Can events should be accessible to kids from all backgrounds. I'm delighted that we've been able to keep Community Events and Happy Helpers free to anyone who wants to come. I'm also so grateful for the grant funding which has made it possible for us to offer a free After School program to kids at underserved schools." -Miriam

For more stories, visit us at <https://littlehandscan.org/our-history/>

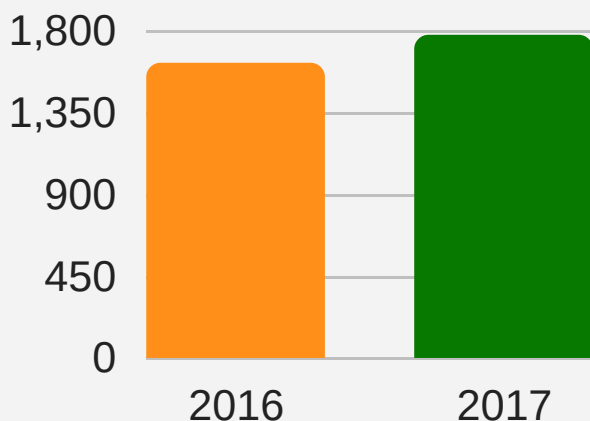
OUR GROWTH

Little Hands Can started with two Eugene moms with a passion for helping others who wanted to instill that love of service in their children. Not finding many organizations that accepted toddler-age volunteers, they decide to create an organization that would seek out service opportunities for young children and make them accessible to as many families as possible.

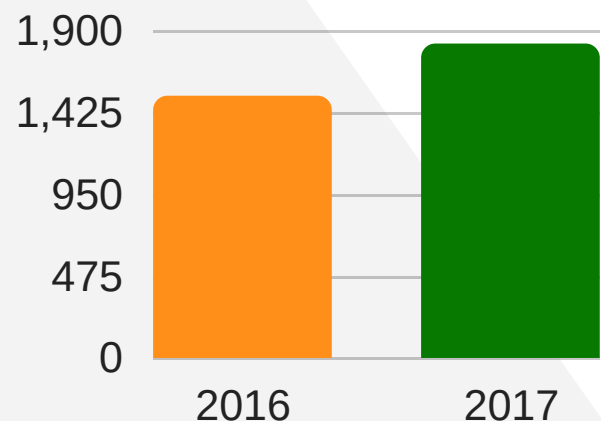
Little Hands Can's first community event was held July 2015 at Skinner's Butte Park putting together mini first aid kits for the Eugene Mission. Since then we've expanded to include many more community events as well as other programs ranging from an afterschool program to play dates to summer camps to school/church visits and more. The website is stocked with easy service ideas for families to do on their own time, as well as inspirational examples of kids engaging in service around the world, so that any child anywhere can feel like they can do something to help others.

Over the last three years, we have partnered with local charities, organizations, and retirement facilities to complete over 200 community service projects and have engaged and helped thousands of community members through our volunteer work.

Our After School program has grown to include 180 students per year and teachers have developed a Grow and CARE curriculum to be used with future classes.



Total Event Attendance/Service Hours



People Served

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31,

2017

2016

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents

\$ 15,619 \$ 13,543

Total current assets

15,619 13,543

Total assets

\$ 15,619 \$ 13,543

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable

\$ 550 \$ 530

Total current liabilities

550 530

Total liabilities

550 530

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted

\$ 15,069 \$ 13,013

Temporarily restricted

- -

Permanently restricted

- -

Total net assets

15,069 13,013

Total liabilities and net assets

\$ 15,619 \$ 13,543

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY FOR

YEARS ENDED, DECEMBER 31

2017

2016

Unrestricted

Unrestricted

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT

Grant revenues

\$ 3,259 \$ 8,110

Fundraising

- -

Contributions

6,568 5,816

Total revenues and other support

9,827 13,926

EXPENSES

Total program services

6,193 1,731

Total support services

1,558 518

Total expenses

7,751 2,249

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

2,076

11,677

NET ASSETS, beginning of year

13,543

1,866

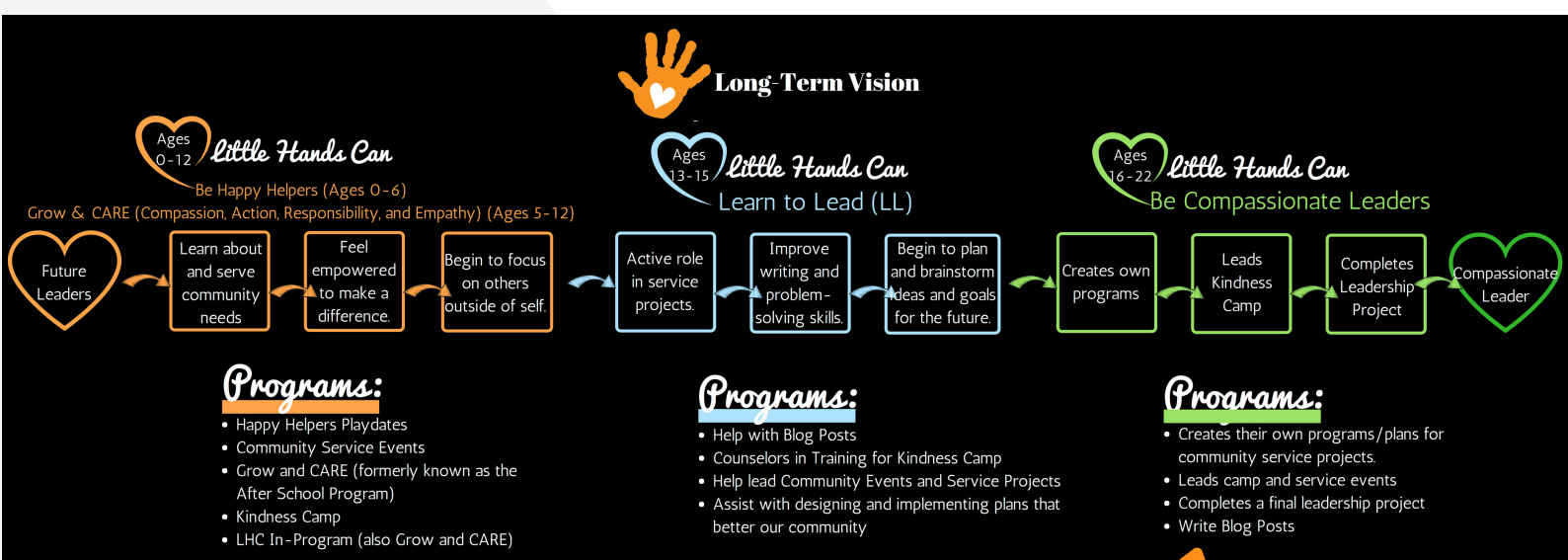
NET ASSETS, end of year

\$ 15,619

\$ 13,543

OUR VISION FOR 2018 & BEYOND

In 2018, we will focus on continuing to build our community – both physically and digitally. We aim to expand our programs to include an even more diverse group of families from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. We will continue to provide a variety of opportunities for children, no matter what age, to be involved in their communities. Our long-term vision is to provide programming that grows with our children, just as little hands become big. Our programs will provide them with the tools and support to become compassionate, socially conscious leaders.



To zoom in on this flow chart, click [HERE!](#)

Serve with us!

Join us by attending our events, learning from our website, volunteering, joining our Board of Directors, or **donating**. We count on YOU to continue to provide events that are accessible to all children and families in our community. We hope to see your family soon, because **little hands can make a world of difference!**

“I hope I never underestimate the good that kids, even (and especially) very young kids, can do in this world.”

-Mandi, Co-Founder of Little Hands Can

OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Little Hands Can would like to thank the following businesses, individuals, and organizations for their support.

MillsDavis Foundation
Spirit Mountain Community Fund
Oregon Community Credit Union
Cornucopia
Dancing Weasel Toy Store
Northwest Burgers
Hot Mama's Wings
Nathan Clark Art
Humanitize Expeditions
Eugene Emeralds
Sweet Life
Oregon Contemporary Theater
Randall's Automotive
McMenamins
UO Athletic Department
Sizzle Pie
Cafe Yumm
Mom's Pies

Emily Shepard Alder and Josh Alder
Allison Allred
Marian Azorr
Amanda and Caleb Balbuena
Liberty Barnes
Amanda Bedortha
Alison Bell
Rex Bennett
Jaime Bergeson
Paul Best
Linda Bevans
Jordan Blair
Ashley Bohanan
Ellen Bradford
Rohanna Buchanan
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Christa Cotterell
Edon Davenport
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