



OPEN HANDS  
Community Care  
*Life Abundantly*

# OPEN HANDS COMMUNITY CARE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Open Hands Community Care (OHCC) acknowledges that our Heavenly Creator God Almighty first gave the land on which we are placed, work, live and learn, to the peoples of the First Nations whom being the Traditional Owners and Custodians have walked and cared for this land since before recorded time. We thank God Almighty for this land's Traditional Custodians and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and Elders from other communities we may visit and walk beside. As an organisation, we recognise their connection to Country and their role in caring for and maintaining Country over thousands of years.

# LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS:

**When we were leaving the shores of The Gambia, our place of refuge for three and half years, never in our wildest dreams did we dream of this day.**

On arrival in Queensland, Australia December of 2001, we quickly saw the spiritual needs of our people, so we started gathering in our sitting room for counselling sessions, fellowships and connect groups. The momentum increased and demand grew, and not long after, started renting community halls for bigger gatherings. This then progressed to annual Christmas gatherings and concerts hosted for the community, kids and youth, sharing the gift, love, joy and stories of Christmas and the Good News of Christ.

Now what about the physical and the emotional needs of the community as a whole, we asked ourselves? Now that the spiritual needs of our people are been met, the big question is how do we give back to the community and the nation of Australia, a country that has opened its doors to us, and given us a refreshing new start?

This is where the scripture came to mind "open your hands to those who are less privileged, you shall not harden your heart..." Deuteronomy 15:7-8. This then saw the birth of Open Hands Community Care, founded from a hunger and insatiable desire of making real lasting differences. Open Hands first started by us sponsoring 30 less privilege children with their educational needs and feeding in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and as time progressed, Open Hands was officially registered with the ACNC as a not-for-profit organisation here in Queensland in 2018.

As we were planning in 2019 on how we should start reaching out to the

community, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, presenting many challenges for many families. We faced many lockdowns, shortages on goods and services, so we saw that there was no more time to waste in planning. We commenced our food relief services to the wider community with discounted groceries and food hampers from Neighbourhood Marketplace at Pallara in April of 2020. We will forever be proud and grateful to my family and the many volunteers that came on board to give in their ideas and time and seeing the commencement of what we offer today.

Fast forward to June 2023, we have grown a team that is now able to provide NDIS and disability supports to members of our community and we are now able to assist over 300 families within the Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan areas, continuing to provide access to discounted groceries, as well as free food hampers. Now the demand has grown, as we are challenged by the economic downturn and increased cost of living. This challenge therefore posed another opportunity to extend our food relief to Townsville, Queensland. The demand continues to grow, but at the moment our resources are stretched and limited!

Personally, we have felt incredibly privileged to be part of a community during such trying times. We have been comforted and strengthened by the positive feedbacks, the hugs and sincere smiles of gratitude's from the many families and participants that are being supported by our organisation,



week in and week out. It is the support of generous donors and community partnerships, that are helping us to continue being the source of support and strength to families in need.

We continue on in our appeal to the broader community for donations, so that we will be able to continue to open our hands to more families that are going through tough times. It has been an overwhelming success these past years, the glory and praise goes to our God, the Father of Creation. To our able team of staff and volunteers, we say "let's get cracking, this incredible work has just begun."

God bless you all.

With gratitude,

*Mr Sheriff Jalloh & Mrs Mariatu Jalloh*  
**Senior Pastors & Founders of**

**The House of Prayer & Open Hands Community Care**

# OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

## About The House of Prayer:

The House of Prayer was established through the initiative of Pastors Mariatu & Sheriff Jalloh in 2006. The divine mandate that triggered this initiative is: **Matthew 6:33 – “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (KJV).**

In 2006, The House of Prayer started as a community cell group organised in the homes of its members, with Christmas Get-togethers annually hosted for Community Gathering actively engaging the Youth and the Kids of the Community. The commitment and level of cooperation of the members climaxed into a church. Biblically, the church was established on the word of God as enshrined in Matthew 6:33.

In June 2009, The House of Prayer was officially launched with a dynamic team ready to work for God's Kingdom. Since then, we have witnessed the extra-ordinary and incredible transformations that are happening in our lives and in the life of the church.

**The Vision of The House of Prayer is to bring God's people to the Knowledge of Christ. Our mandate is to see a transformed community of Men, Women and Children living their God-given right of Righteousness and Freedom in Christ.**



The Mission is simple, **be a place of transformation.** A church that will help liberate Christians who are not walking in the freedom that our Heavenly Father has given unto us, through the death and resurrection of his son Jesus Christ (John 8:32 & 36; Galatians 5:13). As these scriptures state, we are called to 'Know, Love & Serve'.

## We at The House of Prayer are to:

- Know and Love the Father,
- To be Saved, Delivered and Transformed in Christ Jesus,
- Serve his people, in obedience to His word!

## Our Core Values:

The Core Values of The House of Prayer are:

- Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit
- Worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth
- Prayer Intercession & Holy Living
- Praise and Worship
- Strong Families Ties
- Pastoral Care and Interaction
- Partnership
- A heart for the community
- Becoming people of Love and Generosity



# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



**The past year, OHCC has been presented with a number of opportunities to grow and develop through new projects and programs, building stronger, more collaborative relationships with supporters, partners, other service providers and funding bodies.**

*The past year at Open Hands Community Care has been exciting and refreshing. The organisation has a new spring in its step, and this is a result of the partnerships and tremendous supports we have and continue to receive. We have been able to grow and develop the organisation to a new level of service provision.*

This year saw new team members joining our Administration & Management Teams, with the result from this small restructure and additions, producing new efficiencies and greater productivity. Our website was refreshed and relaunched to reflect our all-encompassing service offerings, and be more reflective of the communities we serve both Nationally and Internationally. Our social media extended to much greater reach. We have collaborated with many services and organisations, who have generously given their insight, experience and advice and we have built new relationships with Local, State and Federal Government Authorities and Representatives.

OHCC continues to focus on delivering tailored, high-quality services which meet the needs of our members, service participants and the wider community at large.

**Throughout the year, OHCC targeted the following five key areas including:**

- Meeting the Needs of Our Community
- Supporting Children and Families, Nationally & Internationally
- Supporting Aged and Disabled Members of our Community
- Celebrating Multiculturalism and Diversity
- Raising awareness and education about impacting social gaps impacting members of our communities.

Some of these areas continue to build upon those from the previous year, although the focus has shifted from supporting immediate needs occurring as a result of COVID-19, to now responding to the subsequent hardships faced by many as a direct result of the rising cost of living and homelessness.

Quite thankfully, OHCC received an increase in support from businesses and organisations via donations of items for our service users, generous grant fundings and public & private sector supports and recognition, which have all given OHCC the opportunity to bring more awareness to the community and a platform to spread the word of the benevolent work we do on the ground.

On behalf of OHCC, I extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to these key stakeholders for their immeasurable support, contributions and helping to make a difference to the lives of many. These generous donations made, have all been gratefully received by OHCC and all our service users.

It is our desire that the coming year will see us focus on more holistic supports and expansion of our service delivery, seeking to empower individuals and families of our service to achieve more sustainable goals and long-term outcomes.

**The 5 Strategic aspirations we seek to achieve from 2023 to 2026 are as follows:**

1. To make the greatest possible positive impact on our communities Health & Wellbeing.
2. To develop and utilise collaborative partnerships that add value to our efforts, cause & mission.
3. To develop strong operational practices throughout the organisation.
4. To achieve continual financial viability.
5. To build an Organisation and a workplace for the future.

*Mrs. Sherifaye Kargbo,*  
**Managing Director,**

**Open Hands Community Care**

# AWARD RECOGNITIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



**June 2022:** Mr Sheriff Jalloh – QCF 2022 Emerging Philanthropist of the Year



**July 2022:** Open Hands Community Care – QLD Day 2022 Award Recipient



**August 2022:** Mrs Mariatu Jalloh – Finalist 2022, Westfield Local Hero



**October 2022:** Queensland Parliament African Reception



**June 2023:** Mr Sheriff & Mrs. Mariatu Jalloh – QLD Day 2023 Award Recipients



# ABOUT OPEN HANDS COMMUNITY CARE

## Our Impact

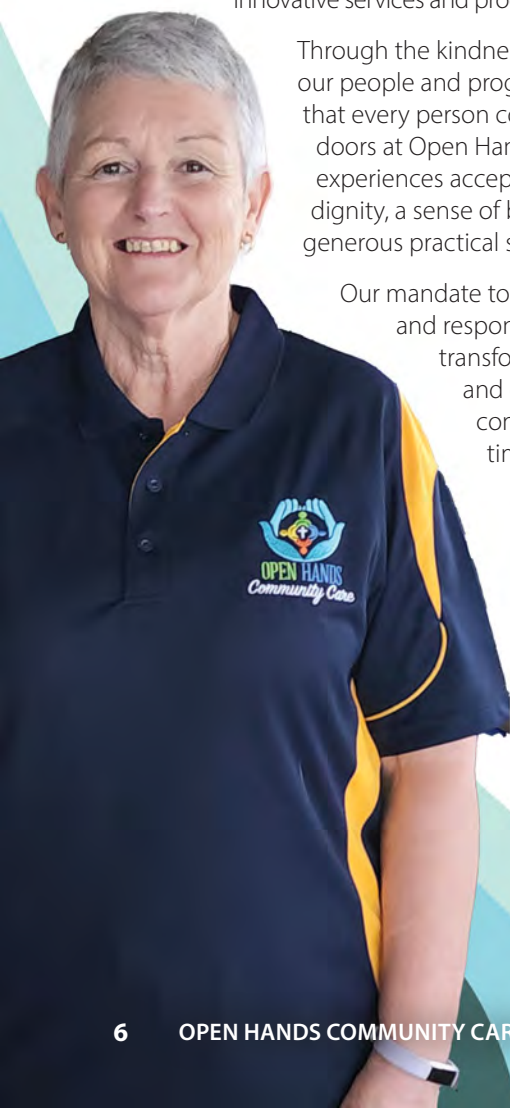
**Open Hands Community Care (OHCC) is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation providing a range of high-quality community-based services that are innovative, relevant & responsive, to benefit individuals, families and communities in Brisbane and surrounding areas of Queensland, Australia, ensuring members remain engaged and connected to the community.**

Formed as an Outreach and Social Services Ministry (officially registered in 2018), we've been providing Queenslanders with care and supports since the early 2000's. Our people are our unique point of difference, still delivering the same quality service and compassion many years on.

Open Hands has been established in response to local community demand for culturally informed, quality support services throughout South-East Queensland, and over the years, OHCC has developed to meet the growing needs of the community and service the greater Brisbane areas with innovative services and programs.

Through the kindness and compassion of our people and programs, it is our desire that every person coming through the doors at Open Hands Community Care, experiences acceptance, compassion, dignity, a sense of belonging and generous practical support.

Our mandate to provide relevant and responsive supports, transforming the wellbeing and quality of life of our community, one life at a time!



## Our Goal

As a support service organisation, we're here to address the social barriers and gaps currently being faced by walking along side members of our community and giving them a voice. We support, value and respect our clients, ensuring they have access to meaningful connections and supports.

## Our Mission

**As an outreach of The House of Prayer, we share the overarching Mission of the Church, which is proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Living out this mission of 'love thy neighbour as thyself' we will walk alongside those in need:**

- To serve with love and humility;
- To show compassion by offering care and support;
- To advocate for the most vulnerable and help them to live their lives in fullness, abundance and hope;
- To be passionate and determined in our commitment to achieve exceptional outcomes for clients, their families and the community; and
- To actively participate in and contribute to the whole-of-church mission.

We seek to add value to our community by providing high quality community care services tailored to meet clients' needs.

## Our Vision

**The name and vision of the organisation is encompassed around the following passage:**

Deuteronomy 15:11 "For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land'" (NKJV).

Open Hands Community Care aspires to be recognised as a caring community services organisation offering Open Hands to members of our community that are underprivileged and in need, creating communities where people are loved and supported.

We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our faith and hope, encouraging and promoting independence in a safe and non-discriminative environment. By doing so, we create caring, healthy, strong and sustainable communities that value personal wellbeing.



## Our Core Values

Our connection with The House of Prayer means, the overarching value we share is:

"A Heart for the Community".

We have identified six key values to which we are aligned and are proud of the key values for which we stand for!

- 1 COMMITMENT**  
Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.
- 2 LOVE**  
Becoming people of Love, exhibiting a commitment to treating all humanity and rendering service to all regardless of gender, ethnic or social background.
- 3 GENEROSITY**  
Becoming people of Generosity, exhibiting helpfulness especially towards the needy and the most vulnerable in our society, taking personal responsibility in our work.
- 4 COMPASSION**  
Becoming people of Compassion, exhibiting a Heart for the Community.
- 5 UNITY**  
Becoming people who encourage strong family ties, by establishing, supporting and encouraging relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception.
- 6 HUMILITY**  
Becoming people of Humility, by showing gratitude for the privilege of being able to provide joyful service to our community.



# OUR SERVICES

As an organisation we cater to the various and diverse needs of our community via the provision of the following comprehensive and integrated services:



## Community & CALD Supports

- We deliver a range of community-based initiatives that are innovative, relevant & responsive, ensuring you remain engaged and connected to the community.
- Help for families and individuals experiencing difficult times, through various programs, networks, supports, food, crisis and emergency reliefs being our main offering via our Discounted Groceries Store dubbed "Neighbourhood Marketplace".
- We provide a range of services and programs for individuals and families from CALD backgrounds, helping them better integrate within the society and staying connected with their community.

## Disability Supports

- As a Registered NDIS Provider, we help participants of the NDIS make the most of their approved NDIS plan, connecting them to the right supports, assisting them to achieve their desired goals.
- Our Disability Support Services offers a range of services, including:
  - » Support Connection & Coordination, assisting participants through their life stages and transitions, enhancing their ability to coordinate their own supports and navigate the NDIS.
  - » Recovery coaching and capacity building services to people with enduring mental challenges.
  - » Provision of in-home Daily Supports, Personal Care (inclusive of High Intensity) and Community Participation and Social Activities.
  - » Community Nursing Care.
  - » Supported Independent Living, Short-term, Medium-Term, and Respite care.
  - » Transportation needs and Assistance with Attending Appointments.
  - » Yard Maintenance & Cleaning.





### Mental Health Supports, Advocacy & Advisory Supports

- It is normal for families and individuals to experience a range of reactions to unexpected events. Every day we see people needing someone to lean on. Whether it's someone battling with mental illness, facing addictions, struggling with finances, young people trying to find their way, or communities reeling from disaster, we'll walk alongside you, to identify impacting gaps, assisting people identify social barriers.
- Our Psychosocial Recovery Coaches, Counsellors & Pastoral Care Team help participants on their individual journey to recovery and wellness, offering a listening ear, strategies to understand feelings, and ways to build resilience and emotional wellbeing.

### Spiritual Supports & Care

- In need of a shoulder to lean on? Seeking comfort during a time of grief? Or seeking answers to explore your spiritual side?
- We provide members of our community the relevant information, assistance and advocacy where needed to ensure they are connected to essential services.
- Our Welfare & Pastoral Care team are here to listen, support or just spend some quality time with you. A simple gift of Spiritual comfort. We provide a range of services including:
  - » Pastoral counselling
  - » Prayer support
  - » Personal reflection
  - » Opportunities for worship



# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

How we have helped Queensland families

Here are some of the stats (by services and programs) that more accurately reflect how Open Hands Community Care has responded to the ever-increasing diverse needs of the communities, since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

## Food Relief & Neighbourhood Marketplace



**195** HOUSEHOLDS ACCESSED OUR FOOD RELIEF PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST TIME  
(127% increase compared to the previous year)

OVER

**450**

FAMILIES / HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED ACROSS 120 SUBURBS ACROSS QUEENSLAND



## POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS



OVER **15,000**

Volunteered Hours

**15**

volunteers involved in ONE OR MORE

programs within 2022/23 year

**6**

VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD MARKETPLACE WEEKLY ON AVERAGE

Our amazing volunteers have helped with everything from collecting, sorting, and packing food items for distribution, member support via our neighbourhood marketplace, helping with our community outreach programs, offering a listening ear and being a friend to someone in tough situations, providing administrative support, delivering Crisis and Food Hampers, supporting our fundraising community events and appeals and SO MUCH MORE!

**Your dedication and service over the last 12 months has been tremendous. We say a big thank you, for continuing to make it all happen.**

## Community Services



**7,332** MOMENTS

OF SUPPORTS, CONNECTIONS, CRISIS & FOOD PARCEL DISTRIBUTIONS

(43% increase compared to the previous year)

OVER

**17,000** HOURS

OF SUPPORTS, CONNECTIONS, INFORMATION, ADVICE, INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY, ENGAGEMENT AND/OR REFERRALS DELIVERED

## NDIS Supports



**22** NDIS PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED CARE

and supports to remain living independently at home (assistance includes capacity building, community access, personal care, cleaning and domestic assistance to name a few)

OVER

**25%** OF NDIS PARTICIPANTS SUPPORTED IN



engaging in either studies, paid employment or meaningful acts of services/volunteering weekly, gaining self-confidence, self-esteem and employable skills

OVER **130** HOURS

of Supports delivered to NDIS participants and respite clients weekly

**8** STAFF

WITHIN OUR DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM OVER 2022/23 YEAR

(3 Part-Time & 5 Casual Support Staff)

## Housing Services

**2 COMMUNITY HOUSES**

made available with access to  
**24/7 SUPPORTS**



**5 INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED**

and provided **permanent or other long-term accommodation**, all of whom identified as having either a **Psychosocial or Physical Disability**

**~1,245**



**NIGHTS OF ACCOMMODATION MADE AVAILABLE**

## Vocational Education & Trainings



**6 STUDENTS SUPPORTED**

TOWARDS COMPLETING OVER

**350 HOURS**

**of supervised work placement and successfully completed competencies towards the following nationally recognised VET courses:**

- Certificate II in Active Volunteering (2 Students)
- Certificate III in Individual Support (2 Students)
- Certificate IV in Mental Health (2 Students)

*\*PLEASE NOTE: The statistics on these two pages are dynamic and growing exponentially, giving the reader an accurate demonstration of the adaptable work of Open Hands Community Care to meet people who have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic and the subsequent hardships and rising cost of living. These figures represent the ongoing response of Open Hands Community Care in our South-East Queensland Community.*





# PULE'S JOURNEY WITH OPEN HANDS COMMUNITY CARE

**In 2017, I first met Pastor's Mariatu and Sheriff in 2017 and extended members of the THOP organisation through the community networks and other Hosanna, Ellen Grove with a shared envision of supporting the communities, striving for unity, change, empowerment, upskilling youth, young adolescents, and the wider communities of the like.**

We remained in contact over the years on a personal and professional levels of our journeys in the community sector that we so passionately love and embrace of servicing others in need.

In July of 2022, Pastor Mariatu reached out to check in how things were going. I informed Pastor Mariatu that I branched out on my own of July 2021 to pursue working independently forming my own business. Unbeknownst to Pastor Mariatu of my personal grievances with the sudden loss of the matriarch of my family – my beautiful and heavenly sister that unexpectedly past. I placed the business on hold, losing a few clients with 1 client remaining.

During the grievances, relocating my sister's 7 children, my elderly parents, youngest brother, and his family from Sydney to Brisbane that through the heaviness and upheavals of grief and loss, that miraculously with the hands of Heavenly Fathers plans. Amongst the challenges, God sure had a plan

placed me and Pastor's Mariatu and Sheriff to reunite with opportunities to onboarding and welcoming the start of a new journey with Open Hands Community Care Ltd.

I transitioned 1 remaining client across to OHCC, with the company assisting with accommodation and lodgings. From there, things progressed onboarding myself as an employee with OHCC. From there, I graciously met the OHCC marketing, support workers, THOP members and volunteers.

## **Here's a little of what I've been up to over the past year since joining the OHCC Team:**

I began to learn the operations of OHCC service deliveries i.e. Charity for stationery school supply shipment in Sierra Leone, Africa, Community Projects, Outreach, OHCC Marketplace discounted groceries stores for Pallara and Townsville, Disability Services, Transport and Logistics. Over time, we developed the new OHCC Website with additional services Support and Advocacy Advisory Services, Housing, Information and Referral, CALD Supports. My experience with OHCC, I've had opportunities meeting key local stakeholders, meeting and greeting local community members, partook in campaigns with Councillor – Angela Owen and local MP Leeanne Enoch.

**Between August 2022 to December 2022**, we onboarded 4 – 5 NDIS participants to OHCC with services ranging from Core Supports: Community Access, Personal Domestic, Yard/ Maintenance and Transport and Capacity Building: Support Connection (Level 1) and Support Coordination (Level 2). We assisted and collaborated with key Allied Health Service Providers with assessments, increasing participant(s) NDIS Plans in support of participants needs.

**In September 2022**, I partook in a 2-day workshop organised by PHN discussing sensitive topics about Culturalism, Racism, Cultural Connections regarding from mental health in a workplace, implementing current practice and work frameworks in an organisation.

**In October 2022**, I was privileged and partook in the "Leave No One Behind" in recognition of World Food Day, with OHCC hosting a month of food hamper and relief giveaway, raising awareness for the campaign, with the project made possible by a ~\$10K donation received by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust. With the donation, OHCC organisation with my family members packed and distributed 400+ food hampers in the OHCC store, outreach to local community neighbourhood centres, Save the Children, Village Connect, Public Patrons seeking food assistance in the Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan & Capalaba corridors.

**In November 2022**, OHCC partnered with Qld Mental Health – PHN (Public Health Network) receiving a grant of \$10k whereby packs were distributed post Qld Floods that occurred in February 2022 – 'Safe Havens Project'.

**During November 2022**, we introduced the Fringe Benefits Tax Scheme (FBT) Salary Packaging for permanent and casual OHCC employee increasing their 'take home pay' in the fortnightly periods, officially launched in December 2022 and in December 2022, OHCC launched it's hosted it first Christmas Dinner for all of OHCC Staff

and Volunteers, a night of fun and cheer, good food, great company, unwinding and celebrating what an incredible year 2022 has been for OHCC, concluding the night with the distribution of Christmas gifts.

I conducted "meet and greets" with NDIS participants introducing myself and role, reintroducing the OHCC expansion of services. OHCC also attended a women's luncheon hosted by Radio 4EB. I worked cohesively with community services as Goodna Neighbourhood Centre, Qld African Communities Council (QACC) proactively attend monthly meetings in Redbank Plains, Moorooka and Geebung, Village Connect at Logan, Black Butterfly, PHN to name a few.

The goals for 2023 striving for Quality Service Deliveries across the OHCC organisation in particular providing quality care and quality supports conducting regular staff supervisions on a 6-8 weekly basis.

With OHCC's current NDIS clientele, we reviewed and identified at least 3-4 participant current NDIS plans requiring a review, with circumstances changing thus requiring additional NDIS supports in the Core and Capacity Building Categories or CALD supports.

**In April 2023**, OHCC assisted and supported 1 NDIS participant navigating through the NDIS plan review process whereby the participant was successful and plan approval for increase of additional NDIS supports from 5 hours of weekly supports to 25 weekly hours of community access and transport, increasing independency and building capacity. Concurrently, OHCC is assisting and supporting another NDIS participant with the same NDIS processes.

**Between April and May 2023**, OHCC assisted and onboarded 2 TAFE students from South Bank TAFE with placements studying Cert IV Mental Health. 1 TAFE student is now actively volunteering every Friday's for 3 hours at the OHCC Neighbourhood, with the same student now accepted to completing his 2nd placement in October 2023.

OHCC attended the 4th AfriQueensland Awards evening hosted by the QACC in support of the African Communities held in Logan. In May 2023, OHCC successfully conducted

and completed NDIS Audits in plans and preparation for further expansions of our NDIS Service Deliveries and increasing more support categories such as Supported Independent Living (SILs) to name a few. OHCC onboarded more employees to support vulnerable NDIS participants. OHCC continues to support our participants to achieve their goals, with 2 participants actively volunteering at our Neighbourhood Marketplace at least once a week, building their self-confidence, self-esteem, serving others, with a goal of gaining employable skills.

**In June 2023**, OHCC attended the women's luncheon at 4EB embracing all cultures from the South Pacific Region, India, Russia, Spain and Chile. In July 2023, at least 1 NDIS CALD participant, OHCC successfully sourced a qualified CALD support worker in support of a participant that required a CALD support worker that speaks the northern Albanian language.

Thus far OHCC's NDIS revenue has increased, increasing additional NDIS supports with the current OHCC NDIS clientele, and an overall goal of striving to increase our clientele to 50% by end of 2023.

I am thankful for being apart a team and organisation making meaning impact and differences in the lives of many. Looking forward to the year ahead and all the opportunities that await OHCC.

*Ms. Pule Salafai,*

**Operations Lead,**

**Open Hands Community Care, Brisbane**



# SPOTLIGHT ON KEY PROJECTS, INITIATIVE & EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

## Queensland Community Foundation Philanthropy Awards 2022

We were honoured to visit the Brisbane City Hall Friday, 10th June 2022 for the 12th Annual QCF Philanthropy Awards Gala Lunch.

The Queensland Community Foundation (QCF) Philanthropy Awards raise awareness of philanthropy in Queensland, honouring community members and organisations who go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference in their community. The awards recognise their significant and beautiful works undertaken in the Queensland community and encourage supporting charities and community organisations doing amazing things!

Senior Pastor and Co-Founder of The House of Prayer and Open Hands Community Care, Mr Sheriff Jalloh was not only nominated but selected as 1 of 3 finalists in the award category of Emerging Philanthropist of the Year. This category is 1 of 8 award categories being awarded by QCF.

All winners of each Philanthropy Award category were announced at their 12th Annual QCF Philanthropy Awards Gala Lunch, held at the Brisbane City Hall, with Ronni Kahn AO, CEO and Founder of OzHarvest being the keynote speaker for the event. **To God be the Glory, Ps. Jalloh WON THE AWARD of 2022 Emerging Philanthropist of the Year.**

### How Open Hands Community Care was Founded

Over the years, since the planting of the Church, Pastor Sheriff & Mariatu's call has spanned from preaching the word of God, providing essential support and developmental programs such as counselling, mentorship, evangelism and various community outreaches.

Being committed to ensuring the message of Jesus Christ is not only known but felt, whilst ensuring that lives are saved, delivered and transformed in Christ Jesus Globally, has led to the Co-founding of the Open Hands Foundation in Sierra Leone, West Africa (2017) and the Open Hands Community Care here in Brisbane, Australia (December 2018).

Open Hands Foundation (OHF) and Open Hands Community Care (OHCC) serve as a social services ministry, catering to those marginalised within the community. The mission is simple! **We exist to transform the well-being and quality of life for all, individuals and families, children and adults, one life at a time.**

### What the Award Means for THOP, OHF & OHCC

This award win recognises not only Pastor Sheriff & Pastor Mariatu, but the entire Ministries of The House of Prayer and Open Hands Community Care, and their tireless efforts and contributions to individuals, the Church, and the Community at large, especially throughout recent times for economic hardships and global unrests.







## “Leave No One Behind” – Month Long of Food Parcel Giveaway – October 2022

Project Funded by: the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust Grant

In recognition of World Food Day, 16th October 2022, Open Hands hosted “Leave No One Behind” - a month long of Emergency Relief Food Hamper Drive.

OHCC sourced food from Foodbank QLD, Morningside and 450 Emergency Food Relief Hampers with printed food relief flyers and information and vouchers were packed into OHCC branded, environmentally friendly bags were distributed throughout the month of October, to vulnerable and disadvantaged Brisbane City Council residents in need.

Our 10 volunteers packed 450 hampers and distributed 320 Hampers at our Neighbourhood Marketplace and delivered 10 hampers to older people who are unable to get to us and successfully collaborated with the following 8 other front-line providers and delivered various numbers of Food Hampers for distribution at:

1. **54 Reasons, Inala** – 10 Hampers.
2. **Forest Lake Uniting Church** – 10 Hampers
3. **Goodna Neighbourhood House** – 10 Hampers
4. **Hands of Hope, Willawong** – 10 Hampers
5. **Pacific Islands Council of QLD Inc. (PICQ), Runcorn** – 10 Hampers
6. **Queensland African Communities Council (QACC) 3x Youth Drop In Centres Moorooka, Geebung and Redbank Plains** – 30 Hampers
7. **The House of Prayer, Pallara** – 30 Hampers
8. **Village Connect, Slacks Creek** – 10 Hampers

Images Caption: OHCC Staff and Volunteers, together with community members and Partner Organisations during the month Giveaway October 2022.

### Project Impact & Outcome:

Approximately 1,400 people benefited from this project including families, youth, disabled and older people and people from CALD backgrounds including Africans and Pacific Islanders. In the past, we’ve been able to deliver a weeklong hamper giveaway annually, during which we distributed on average 100 Emergency Food Relief hampers.

A Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust grant allowed OHCC to more than quadruple our impact in 2022. By distributing 450 hampers throughout the month, we dramatically increased our capacity and impact, offering over four times the amount of Emergency Food Relief hampers to assist Brisbane City Council residents in need.

This project raised awareness of World Food Day, the vital necessity of regular access to nutritious food and the financial difficulties and insecurities that are currently being experienced by many. “Leave No One Behind” assisted to reduce the burden of the increased cost of living, nourish and increase the health and wellbeing of Brisbane City Council residents and reduce poverty and homelessness in Brisbane.



## Community Sporting Program

**Sport is a fun way to stay healthy and keep active, but it also connects communities and provides opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds all coming together to meet, play, socialise and share experiences.**

Since its formation, Open Hands and THOP has created a cohesive environment via our Community Sporting Program, which uses Football (Soccer), as a vehicle to unite individuals both young and old through active participation, with participants coming from all across South-East Qld (even as far as Toowoomba). The purpose of the program is to encourage a vibrant, engaged, and resilient community, cultivating young upcoming, promising, and prospective talents within our CALD communities through the shared love of the World game, which is universal and knows no language barrier.

### Project Impact & Outcome:

Every weekend, men both young and old from within our CALD community come together for men's talk, football trainings and social gatherings on our Pallara site. Trainings are on Saturday and Sunday evenings, with the program having been ran for over 5 years now. With the growth and expansion of the local community, we are seeing a significant increase in attendance spanning upwards of 30 young men at each session.

Our facility has slowly but surely become the weekend hub for these young men, and through the shared love of football, we are seeing that the young ones are getting to be mentored by their elderly. Not only is the program limiting social isolation for the elderly, but these meaningful connections are developed and nurtured, and these relationships are being maintained and sustained. Elders are knowledge holders, survivors, leaders, hard workers and are held in high esteem within CALD communities. Through programs like ours, valued life's lessons and advices, and even traits such as tenacity and strength, are passed on from one generation to the next.

Through our community sporting program, we are helping to keep young people engaged and connected, out of trouble with the law, reducing social isolation and increasing social participation. We see continued growth of this program having a much greater impact / reach and becoming a paramount service within our CALD communities within the years to come.

*Mr. Robert Kargbo,*  
**Managing Director**  
**Open Hands Community Care**

## Open Hands Community Cup 2022:

In October 2022, OHCC in conjunction with THOP FC had the privilege of hosting a team-bonding community men's soccer tournament over 2 days, which included teams from CALD communities across QLD including, THOP FC, Guinea FC, Elama Star, Red Scorpion, Vida FC, Best United, MBC, Liberia, Brisbane All Star and Redbank United.

All teams played outstanding games representing their various clubs, organisations and countries, showcasing exceptional form of young and aspiring talents within the various CALD communities of QLD, but most especially community resilience, collaboration, team efforts and sportsmanship.

A big congratulations to Redbank United taking 1st place, followed by Guinea FC in 2nd Place. This event not only amplified the community spirit within the CALD communities but enabled OHCC to raise funds to host the Fundraising Gala Dinner held in November 2022.





## Award Presentation & Fundraising Gala Dinner – November 2022

On Saturday 5th of November 2022, Open Hands Community Care had the privilege of hosting a charitable Fundraising Gala Dinner event in honour of our co-founder Mr. Sheriff Jalloh for the award won as 2022 Emerging Philanthropist hosted by Queensland Community Foundation (QCF).

As the Fundraising Gala Dinner was OHCC's first official hosted event, we are proud to have accommodated over 200+ people including distinguished guests and members of the community at large.

It was a night with an ambience full of fun and excitement with exotic entertainments and artwork coupled with delicious African and non-African cuisines. On the night many members of the community were awarded and acknowledged for all the tremendous effort been done in the wider community.

We wish to additionally acknowledge all the hard-working and influential people that continue to render their restless services and contribution to the wider community. The gesture of togetherness and harmony was indeed evident on the night.

A big congratulations to the recipients awarded within the categories of Community Sports Award, Community Leadership Award, Community Partner Organisations & Volunteers for Community Spirit Award.

From the team at OHCC, we are very humbled by the tremendous support from everyone, specifically our community partners and sponsors Foodbank, OzHarvest, Hon. Milton Dick MP, Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP, Cr. Steve Griffiths and Cr. Angela Owen.

This is just the beginning of greatness for all.



# New Year, New Opportunities & Equipment's

Projects Funded by: the GCB Fund, Heritage Bank Community Grant & Westfield Mt Gravatt Local Hero Grant.

The 2022/23 year brought on a lot of new and exciting opportunities for Open Hands Community Care (OHCC) as a whole. With our co-founder Mariatu being named as one of three finalists for the Westfield Mt Gravatt Local Hero's Program 2022, OHCC was successfully awarded a grant.

Thanks to the Westfield Mt Gravatt Local Hero's Grant & the GCB Fund Grant, OHCC was able to replace our second-hand, aged & energy inefficient 2 door fridge and a chest freezer with a **brand new 2 door fridge and a 2.4m x 2.4m cold room**.

These new equipment's enabled our Neighbourhood Marketplace to safely and hygienically store more cold goods, whilst continuing on in the vital work of rescuing, sorting, packing and distributing quality rescued foods, that would otherwise go to landfills.

As successful grant recipient of the Heritage Bank – Forest Lake Community Grant Round, we were thrilled to be supported with the purchase of a **brand-new ride-on lawnmower**! This has since been used in the cleaning and proper maintenance of our property located on 318 Ritchie Road, Pallara QLD 4110, exclusively used for our various community activities, programs and services.

## Project Impact & Outcome:

The impact of these projects has been tremendous! The successful commissioning of these equipment's has allowed us in part to continue our important work of supporting those in need in our communities needing a hand up, especially throughout these times.

We were not only able to double our cold storage space, but also as an organisation become more energy efficient, increasing our operational efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint. We have also been able to reduce the risk of manual handling injuries to staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to support locals with vital food relief. We are thankfully able to continue in assisting upwards of 300 households and families weekly, nourishing and increasing the health & wellbeing of our community.

The purchase of a new ride on mower has ensured our grounds be clean, visually appealing, safe and welcoming for all members and visitors. Most importantly, these projects have had a positive long-lasting effect in the lives of many and the community as a whole.



# DIVERSITY DAY: Community Family Fun Day – March 2023

Project Funded by: The QLD Government, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

**Open Hands Diversity Day Celebration: Community Family FUNDAY is an annual event that brings together families, friends, and members of the community for a day of fun and activities. The event was organised by the Open Hands Community, a non-profit organisation that works to improve the lives of people in the community by providing various forms of responsive, person-centred, and tailored supports.**

This year's Diversity Day Celebration, was a huge success, attracting more than 200+ attendees from all around the Brisbane South-East region. The event, which took place on Saturday, 25th March 2023, featured a wide range of activities and entertainment for individuals and families of all ages. With a light drizzle, the weather was beautiful with Sunshine enjoyed throughout the day.

Children enjoyed a range of games and activities, including face painting, jumping castles, animal farm and various arts, crafts and cultural African drumming workshops. There were also several other physical activities, including a sack races, pony rides and raffle competitions.

Adults were not left out, either. They enjoyed live music, African drumming performances, and a range of market stalls with varied food and drink options. There were also several local community vendors with handmade crafts, jewellery, clothing, and other items.

One of the highlights of the event was the community collaboration of all community members coming together to celebrate each other's cultures. The FUNDAY event celebrated cultural diversity, inclusivity, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone irrespective of backgrounds.

Another highlight of the event was the raffle, which raised vital funds for the Open Hands Community and our services and programs on offer. Several Government officials such as the Honourable Milton Dick MP, the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Councillor Angela Owen – Calamvale Ward, Councillor Steve Griffiths – Moorooka Ward & sponsored and donated prizes, including gift certificates, hampers, and other valuable items.





The lucky winners of the raffles were thrilled with their prizes, and all the funds raised will go a long way in supporting the work of the Open Hands Community.

Overall, the Diversity Day Celebration: Community Family FUNDAY was a huge success in bringing together members of the community for a day of fun, entertainment, and community spirit. The event was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Open Hands Community, as well as the incredible generosity and support of local businesses and our valued community members.

A huge thank you to all our Sponsors especially the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Leanne Linard MP and the Queensland Government, for supporting Open Hands Community Care with a \$5,000 grant which enabled the team to make this event possible and memorable for all. A special thank you to the Queensland African Communities Council (QACC) President; Mr. Beny Bol OAM and Vice-President; Ms. Belleange Tshibangu for gracing the occasion. A special thank you to the Core Leadership Team of THOP Church, our wider THOP Church family and of course to all community members and supporters for making it all happen. We look forward to creating more unforgettable moments such as the Diversity Day Celebration: Community Family FUNDAY, with more future events.





# OUR STATEWIDE IMPACT & REGIONAL OUTREACH

## OPEN HANDS COMMUNITY CARE, TOWNSVILLE

*Pilot Project Review - September 2022 to July 2023*

**Initiated in September 2022, Open Hands Community Pantry aimed to provide vital supports and community pantry based on the unavailability of food relief within the Townsville community. Food Relief has been provided at 3 Reitre Court, since the inception of the project, with approximately four deliveries made in 2022 from OHCC-Brisbane which kicked off the project. The project was run by volunteers and hours spent varied across the week and largely based on supply and demand.**

## Project Impact & Rising Memberships

The project has been well-received by the members of the community with people driving to the pantry to purchase goods for their families. Food Hampers distributed across populations such as the elderly and those experiencing domestic and family violence.

Banjós Bakery, a local bakery donated bread and rolls to the pantry for about three consecutive months. At the announcement of the closing of the pantry, many families were disappointed, however, remain hopeful that the pantry will resume operations.

Similar to OHCC-BNE, OHCC-TSV began operating on a membership basis, however, we soon realised this did model will not really work for our Regional and Townsville community on the onset, therefore we did not pursue.

Presently, OHCC-TSV serves approximately 150 households and families on a weekly basis.

## Community Partnerships

Foodbank Queensland supported OHCC-TSV with transportation of goods from their Morningside, Brisbane warehouse, up to Townsville for 12 months. Foodbank Queensland was also generous enough to provide the items and food supplies free of charge three times this year so far.

Goods and Food items transported by Foodbank Queensland are delivered at ADRA, which is a local Adventist Church, who generously offered their premises for delivery and have been kind enough to store some of our items until we are ready to pick them up.

Availability of transport from Foodbank provides an opportunity to continue operating the project.

## Community Involvement

More people are getting to know about the Pantry and are starting to offer donations e.g. Banjos Bakery, Fruit and Vegetables via local farmers.

To celebrate the life of the project, OHCC-TSV donated foods to local groups to assist those in need. Food items were donated to Althea Projects, to people facing homelessness at the Townsville Drop in center.

We have had four people from the community who have offered their time to volunteer at the Pantry once we are back on track, and resume operations.

## Powered by Volunteers

The project could not have succeeded without the relentless efforts of our volunteers. We wish to thank our the OHCC-Brisbane volunteers and the OHCC-TSV volunteers who offered their time to see the success of this pilot project. Ms Nyakuchena who has patiently looked after the pantry, from cleaning, restocking, fumigating and service the consumers has returned to her home for a while, therefore we are currently closing the pantry until further notice.



## Plans for Resumption

We plan to re-open the OHCC-TSV Pantry at a later date, but with a different project strategy to deal with the various constraints and challenges experienced during this year of operation, mainly:

- **Pests** - we may not stock certain items which seemed to be favorites.
- **Distance** - often some of the vulnerable people in need complained about the driving distance to the pantry and requested delivery which was a limitation / constraint, hence only offered very rarely.
- **Man-power / human resources** needed for the loading and offloading of goods.
- **Air-conditioning** in the Pantry for hot days
- **Items available to order on the Foodbank website does not always meet the demands.** Better variety, food distributions and sales were achieved when OHCC-BNE delivered specific items needed. Since then, we have not been able to stock high demand items such as nappies, household cleaning items, wipes, cooking oil, full cream milk, fruits and vegetables, to name a few.

With all these noted, what an incredible year it has been. We are tremendously grateful for such an opportunity and project. What kept us going was the love and support from members of the Townsville community, that were so receptive of such vital supports.

## What Community Members are Saying

- *"We would love to say a huge thank you! The people at the Morehead Street Drop in Centre appreciated the donations of food items, and will all go towards food hampers for the homeless and community." – Morehead Street Townsville Centre*
- *"Thank you to you and your mum for helping the community." – Townsville Pantry Service User*
- *"You and your mum have a kind heart for volunteering your time and your home for this cause. I spent \$50, and took home \$100 worth of non-perishable products." – Townsville Pantry Service User*

Finally, we extend our huge thanks to all who have contributed to the successful delivery of this project, and to our Community Partnerships, words are not enough for your benevolent support. Watch this space, as we hope to see the pantry re-opening!

*Ms. Nicholette Nyakuchena,*  
**Regional Lead,**

**Open Hands Community Care, Townsville**



# OUR GLOBAL IMPACT & INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

## OPEN HANDS FOUNDATION: SIERRA LEONE, WEST AFRICA

Open Hands Foundation (OHF) is an initiative of OHCC formed in the year 2017, seeking to contribute to the capacity, building and transforming of lives of Africans through economic empowerment schemes.

The Foundation currently operates within the Makeni City of the Bombali District, Sierra Leone, West Africa, seeking to ensure the welfare of youths, children, men and women alike.

Our flagship program that is currently in operation is the "Take a Step to Empower a Child in Need", supporting the young generations (children/youth) through a quality schooling program, offering academic scholarships every year to 30 orphaned and/or underprivileged children, with the inclusion of the following:

1. Provision of school stationery items and support supplies.
2. Payment of tuition and schooling fees.
3. Regular home, school and welfare visitations.
4. Provision of welfare, food and medical supplies.

**In 2022/23:**

**\$3,305.50**

**WAS RAISED THROUGH FUNDRAISING  
INITIATIVE FOR THE PROGRAM**

**\$10,107.99**

**WAS SPENT IN RUNNING THE PROGRAM**

## HOW WE TRACK PROGRESS

We track the progress of students receiving the Take a Step to Empower a Child Sponsorship, against three long-term outcomes:

1. School Attendance,
2. Completion of Secondary School, and
3. Admission / Continuation through Tertiary studies.

Within the upcoming and subsequent years, we intend to track and measure the following additional outcome:

4. Post-school engagement in education, training or work.

With ~35% of student within the Take a Step to Empower a Child Sponsorship program across Sierra Leone who have been supported to complete High School / SS3 (equivalent to Year 12), it is of vital importance that we see our young and aspiring scholars enabled and empowered to successfully transition into tertiary, further trainings or work, well equipped for their life and new world ahead of them.

We also assess the short-term outcomes of our programs, as these help to put children on the path to reaching the four longer-term goals.

1. Improved literacy and numeracy,
2. Increased academic engagement and achievement,
3. Increased self-management and confidence, and
4. Increased empowerment and enablement.



## KEY PROGRAM STATS

Since commencing in 2017, we have been able to provide access to Quality Education in & out of classrooms, and here's how.

**36 CHILDREN HAVE RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS**  **18** **18**

**13 SCHOOLS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR PROGRAM** and have students currently enrolled


**21 GUARDIANS AND /OR WIDOWED PARENTS SUPPORTED**

**4 VOLUNTEERS / COORDINATORS SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN**

## LONG TERM OUTCOME 1

### 1. Attendance:

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve positive educational outcomes.

**29 STUDENTS SUPPORTED DURING THE 2022 - 2023 SCHOOLING YEAR**  **34%** **66%**

## LONG TERM OUTCOME 2

### 2. Advancement:

Take a Step to Empower a Child in Need scholars who advanced through school.

	2017 – 2018 Schooling Year: Program Commencement	2022 – 2023 Current Schooling Year:	Advancements
<b>Primary School Class 1 to 6 (Years 1 to 6)</b>	14 students were in Primary School	2 students in Primary School	85% of students have advanced from Primary School into higher grades.
<b>Junior Secondary School 1 to 3 (Equivalent to: Years 7 to 9)</b>	15 students were in JSS	8 students in JSS	50% of students have advanced from JSS into higher grades.
<b>Senior Secondary School 1 to 3 (Equivalent to: Years 10 to 12)</b>	No students were in SSS	19 students in SSS	Of the 19 students in SSS, 10 students have successfully completed their High School (SSS3 / Year 12).

Over the past six years, 10 students within the Take a Step to Empower a Child Sponsorship program across Sierra Leone have been supported to complete High School / SS3 (equivalent to Year 12).

## LONG TERM OUTCOME 3

### 3. Tertiary Admission / Continuation Rate of the 10 Students in SSS3

Take a Step to Empower a Child Sponsorship students continuing from SS3 to tertiary admissions exam (WASSC) in 2022–23: **9 Students = 90%**

Take a Step to Empower a Child Sponsorship students continuing from SS3 with guaranteed entry to tertiary studies, training or work in 2022–23: **1 Student = 10%**



# MEET THE COORDINATING TEAM:

We are incredibly grateful for the amazing people that put their hand up to volunteer at the Open Hands Foundation.

They selflessly donate their time, skills and expertise, advancing the mission of the foundation, bringing new and exciting perspectives to our work, all whilst changing the lives of the future generation. They are absolute superstars & the lifeblood of the foundation! We'd like to shed light on the work these four incredible powerhouse coordinators have and continue to do.

**Coordinator 1:**

*Mr. Daniel Mao Mansaray*



**Coordinator 2:**

*Mrs. Hellen Mao Mansaray*



**Coordinator 3:**

*Ms. Kadiatu Konteh*



**Coordinator 4:**

*Mr. Benjamin Macfory*



## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: WHAT A YEAR 2022/23 WAS!

At OHF, we boldly embraced and made the most of the challenges that we faced resulting from the global pandemic and took up opportunities that came our way.

Though experiencing severe constraints with a lack of funding and donations received for the program in Australia (a decrease of 72% in donations received when compared to the previous year), the team in Sierra Leone worked tirelessly to reconnect with Scholars, close the gap after all the disruption from the pandemic and their schooling and keep the program and the dreams of the kids alive!

The project team of coordinators never once dropped the ball and we wouldn't be here without them. We say a big thank you to the team in Australia and Sierra Leone, and all the noble supporters of OHF for being here with us, and for continuing to support our work!

*Mr. Daniel M. Mansaray,*  
**Program Director,**

**Open Hands Foundation, Sierra Leone**



# A STORY OF HOPE & RESTORATION

**This is Mrs Fatmata Conteh, the mother to Ramatu Conteh, a sponsor child of The House of Prayer's Open Hands Foundation (OHF) in Sierra Leone, West Africa.**

She is a widow of 3 children currently residing in the city of Makeni. Since the passing of her husband a couple of years ago, it hasn't been an easy journey for the widow in providing for her 3 children, ensuring they have better lives than other children do.

*"Som tem den ar kin krai wae ar nor ebul ep mi pikin den wit den skul biznes, en for ivin gi dem tin for eit. Nar all dis mek ar dae sel chakole for kip bodi en wata togeda wae ar nor get beteh moni for ad pan mi bizness. Wi don uce naw for eit wan tem pan dae wae wi nor abul eit thri tem" (Krio)*

**Translation: I sometimes burst into tears knowing I'm unable to afford my children's schooling and provide them with good food to eat. This has therefore led to me selling charcoal at home just to keep body and soul together since at the moment I can't afford reasonable capital to start up a reasonable small-scale business. It has been normal for us to only eat one per day since I can't afford three square meals a day, as a widow.**

She wants to thank God almighty who has been sustaining her and her children throughout their trying times and she also thanks THOP's Open Hands Foundation in Sierra Leone for considering her daughter Ramatu Conteh to be sponsored in this Sponsorship Program. Mrs Conteh stated that this program is one of the best things that has happened to her since the passing of her husband.

As a recipient of the program, this has meant that her daughter has benefitted from the giveaway of food items, provisions and clothing, but most importantly, the payment of her daughter's schooling expenses, which has been of tremendous assistance to the widow, providing relief, consistency and hope. Ramatu (OHF's Sponsor Child) has been providing excellent performance in school with good grade scores, especially in the 2021 BECE exams, where she was placed with great aggregated results. This, therefore, meant that the young girl was elected as a Head Girl in her school due to her great academic performance.

Mrs Conteh is grateful to God and the OHF team in Sierra Leone for the timely intervention when her daughter was diagnosed with an umbilical hernia in the early weeks of May 2022. The spirit of God led her to contact the THOP's OHF

team in Sierra Leone and to God be the glory, the surgery bill was paid and it was carried out successfully.

*"Ar glad inaw wae ar ae si mi pikin well en ihn dae do fyn wit ihn skul bizness" (Krio)*

**Translation: I am really happy now seeing my daughter well again and excelling in her academics.**

May God continue to bless THOP Church, Open Hands and all sponsors for putting smiles on our faces as less privileged parents.

Ramatu is only 1 of 30 children who are currently benefiting from the "Take A Step to Empower A Child in Need" – Sponsorship Program.

The Foundation helps and continues to provide Hope to very many, ensuring they experience the Amazing Grace and precious Love of Jesus Christ. We thank our sponsors and contributors for continuing to partner with us in rendering valuable support to those in need. This is Love in Action.



# OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS OF OPEN HANDS COMMUNITY CARE

## Financial Donations

- 15 Generous supporters and donors who gifted to Open Hands Community Care, contributing to \$6,865.62 in total financial donations. **(50% increase on the number of donors compared to the previous year)**
- Of the total financial donations, \$3,305.50 was raised towards our International Mission Project: Open Hands Foundation, Sierra Leone. **(72% decrease of funds raised for OHF compared to the previous year)**

## Fundraising

- \$10,694.50 raised at Fundraising Gala Dinner '22 & Community Family Fun Day '23.
- CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE: 9,000 containers and cans recycled, and \$900.00 in refunds raised.

## Grants

- \$87,754 in Grants and Subsidies to support 10 Community Outreach Projects and Programs in QLD.

We acknowledge the following organisations for their role in supporting Open Hands Community Care's Project/s throughout the year.

## Community Partners

Foodbank  
Neighbourhood Centre Queensland  
OzHarvest  
Secondbite  
The House of Prayer

## In-Kind Donors & Supporters

4EB Radio  
4ZZZ Radio  
Coles - Ripley  
Coles – Redbank  
Creativus Design  
Designated Web  
GIVIT  
Ikea  
Kerrellyn Mahoney  
Mr Thai Dang & Mrs. Diamond (Tran) Dang  
Nandos – Redbank  
Nestle' Professional  
Public Trustee of QLD  
Queensland Communities Foundation  
Serbian Australian Centre

## Service Providers:

54 Reasons, Inala  
Forest Lake Uniting Church  
Goodna Neighbourhood House  
Hands of Hope, Willawong  
Pacific Islands Council of QLD Inc. (PICQ), Runcorn  
Queensland African Communities Council (QACC)  
The House of Prayer  
Village Connect, Slacks Creek



## Government Authorities, Representatives & Grantors

- Australian Government:
  - » Department of Health & Aged Care – NDIA.
  - » Brisbane South PHN (Primary Health Network).
- Queensland Government:
  - » Department of Employment & Workplace Relations.
  - » Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.
  - » Department of Justice and Attorney-General.
- Brisbane City Council:
  - » **Councillor Angela Owen** – Councillor for Calamvale Ward, Brisbane City Council & Lord Mayor's representative for Multicultural Communities
  - » **Councillor Steve Griffiths** – Councillor for Moorooka Ward
- **Hon. Milton Dick MP** – Speaker, House of Representatives & Oxley Electorate Member of Parliament
- **Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP** – Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts & Algester Electorate Member of Parliament
- **Heritage Bank** – Forest Lake Community Branch
- Lord Mayors Charitable Trust
- Lord Mayor's Community Fund
- Westfield - Local Hero's Grants



# TESTIMONIALS

What Our Service Participants, Clients, Members & Stakeholders Are Saying!

*"...from food relief and transport support, the team are doing a great job at supporting vulnerable families across more than a dozen local suburbs. Thank you for all you do!"*

**Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP - Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts.**



*"Open Hands has truly been a blessing to my family."*

*"Working for Open Hands as a Disability Support Worker has been a great experience for me personally and professionally. Being placed with clients and supporting them in reaching their goals, has been an extremely rewarding career choice for me."*

**Mr. Leroy Paye – Team Leader – Disability Support Services**

*"This place is an awesome place to get groceries & the owners are lovely people."*



*"I love coming here. The volunteers are very pleasant and lovely to talk to and interact with."*

*"Thank you for all you do for the community & the needy."*





*"...so much food, that I am able to share with my neighbours and friends."*

*"They do a great job providing services for people who can't afford very much. Should be more places like this. Great support people."*



*"The work that Open Hands Community Care does in our community is so critically important for the grassroots, socially isolated, and economically disadvantaged communities."*

**Mr. Beny Bol OAM – President,  
Queensland African  
Communities Council**

*"Through Open Hands, I've saved so much on my groceries. This is truly amazing!"*

*"You have provided me with suitable accommodation at an incredibly challenging time in my life and for that, I will forever be appreciative and grateful of your service."*

**OHCC NDIS Participant  
& Housing Tenant**

*"Friendly understanding service for our local community giving a helping hand to those who require assistance."*

*"You have saved me from moving for the 18th time in the last 2 years, ultimately homeless. Providing me accommodation has allowed me to flourish in my recovery. I'm so grateful!"*

**OHCC NDIS Participant & Housing Tenant**









An outreach of  
The House of Prayer

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