

June 2020

→ **MINISTRY UPDATE** ←

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UPDATE

Hand Up is doing well. Due to our enemies, who would like to prevent any help we can give, I cannot give you any details. This is annoying, since most of them consider themselves Christian leaders. They are leaders all right, but we will let God judge the other part. I'll have to give you facts after they happen.

I have promoted Ray Riddle to Oklahoma director of operations. His experience is appreciated, and his love of God and people is not easy to find. With all that, it makes it easy to train him in the different areas of this ministry. When someone responds to his calling, he becomes a wonderful asset to everyone. When you train someone who is not called by God, you have an employee with a clock card mentality. This holds true in all business and ministry. Calling and desire are worth more than you can pay.

The Bible tells us He called our early forefathers to do different things, and He gave them the talent needed to accomplish amazing things with iron and brass. Others were builders, and others raised cattle. There were others who made, and played, instruments. God freely gave out talent as he does today. Genesis 4,5. There are small children born with talents far beyond the understanding of men. It is called 'THE GRACE OF GOD.' He does the choosing and giving, and it is our choice to respond or rebel. The amazing Grace of God!

Later this year, we will be looking for someone graced with knowledge (talent) of building. We probably can't pay what it is worth, but if it is your calling and desire, you can send a resume to me at our P.O. Box, and we will go from there. You must love God and people (all people). This ministry is like none other, the first of its kind. God is always doing something new. We will not quench the Spirit of God, but promote it. 1Timothy 5:19. God is way more than we can imagine. How successful would your business or ministry be if you hired only those who are called to your work and desired to be there. We probably can't imagine.

We also need many other talents with the right qualities. God gives talent, but attitude and practice make that fruit desirable. Everyone is given a degree of talent. Are you developing yours? For whom are you using it?

I don't normally ask for money, but what ministry can match the results of changed lives per dollar donated? Other than us, no ministry of this size can say 100% of donations go to help the client succeed.

- We provide housing.
- We provide necessary food.
- We provide free laundry.
- We provide financial oversight for Social Security recipients.
- We provide a safe environment.
- We provide free clothing.
- We have an ice machine.
- We are a gated community.
- We provide structure.
- We provide counseling.

- We provide biblical renewing of the mind.
- We provide a Christian family.
- We provide fellowship.
- We provide accountability (which most Christians can't get).
- We provide transportation.
- We provide help getting and keeping jobs.
- We help people who need Social Security and can't work a full time job or can't work at all.
- We provide anything someone needs to live a peaceful life.
- We provide the community with less crime.
- We provide the state (by people working and paying taxes) with a lot more tax money.
- We provide the state with more upstanding citizens who don't have to steal to live, but who add to the economy.
- We provide peace for all residents so they can develop mentally and spiritually.
- We provide actual jobs for about 10% of the residents.
- We provide (through program fees and donations) money to add more bed space for new clients.
- We provide prayer warriors for all requests.
- We provide a clean and sober living environment with random drug testing every week.
- We have a NO TOLERANCE policy dirty UA's.
- We have a committee for review of unsolved issues and complaints.
- We are the second largest mental facility Oklahoma. The Department of Corrections is

number one.

- We have ongoing professional training for staff, and we are continually improving in every area.
- We provide maintenance for all rooms.

Most importantly, we do it with program fees of \$105 to \$140 per week.



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— *David Nichols,*
Executive Director/
President

Recently, as many of you have experienced changes because of the corona virus, Hand Up Ministries has as well. The social distancing has affected some of our programs, and so have the possible quarantines because of suspicion of infection, as well as many other things. Hand Up is near capacity at this point, and the challenges continue as we try to meet the needs of men coming out of incarceration and needing help. I'm personally proud of the staff and the residents who have stepped up to meet the needs and requests here at Hand Up. Everyone here has risen to the challenges, and that is the goal we hope for in a ministry such as this.

The Bible is full of stories of men, called by God, who met challenges head on as they came. Men like David, who, at a young age, had to learn how to fight the bear and the lion. Later, he had to face Goliath. Moses was challenged to lead an enormously large group of people who did not appreciate or support his leadership. Various prophets were called of God to face challenges in communicating to God's people the wishes of the Most High.

As the Director of Oklahoma Hand Up, I am very grateful to have David Nichols to speak into our lives, as leaders, and to offer his guidance through these troubled times. Mostly, I am grateful to God Himself for His presence and constant leadership as I have had to face a learning curve in a new position of leadership.

He has lead during times of personal worship and in times of meditating in His word. God has also surrounded me with other leaders who have been very patient and helpful to listen when I have needed to vent and seek counsel.

I am excited about the future of Hand Up Ministries, because I know He has chosen David Nichols to lead this ministry, and He has given us such a wonderful staff of people to carry out the day to day ministry that is so needed in our world today. I know God has chosen us as Pioneers in this ministry to lead the way while He continues to challenge others to help in ways that they can.



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— Ray Riddle,
Oklahoma Director

TESTIMONIES

My early childhood was rough. My parents weren't Christians, and they were both addicted to crack. I was in a terrible position, and my life was less than pleasurable. I had many emotional and behavioral issues. I was a hurt child, and I began acting out. I spent more time in hospitals than is healthy for a child.

My mother decided to clean up her life. She went to rehab, and she has been great since that time. She married a good man who has been a great influence on my life. I was given a firm foundation of morals and Christian beliefs, but it took more than half of my life to realize these things. I see our magnificent, loving God's hand in everything I have been through.

Because of my childhood, I continued down the wrong path through my teen years. I was on my way to prison when I was 17. This was the first time I went to prison, and I was incarcerated for seven and a half years. It

took going to prison a second time for me to take hold of who Christ says I am and who He wants me to be. This is a lifelong process, but I can say I am not who I used to be.

When I was preparing to be released from prison the second time, I assumed I would be homeless, but my case manager told me about Hand Up Ministries. Hand Up has been a Godsend. Not only do I have a bed and a roof over my head, but I am surrounded by likeminded men. I am truly blessed by this opportunity. I am thankful to God, and I am grateful to David Nichols for having the vision and drive to create Hand Up.

I am fighting to incline my heart to God's will, and I love being part of His army. God has blessed me beyond measure. I wish the best for you in Christ.



Not only do I have a bed and a roof over my head, but I am surrounded by likeminded men.

— Brian Grizzard

I was born in El Paso, Texas in 1983. I have two sisters and one brother. I grew up attending the Catholic Church. I started using drugs when I was 13, and I quit going to church. I ran track in middle school and high school (1600 meter relay). I was convicted of a felony when I was 16, and I had to quit school.

I lived in Juarez for ten years, and I continued to use drugs. I got married in El Paso 2004, and we had two children. I worked in construction and roofing. We got divorced in 2013, and I remarried in 2015. I had another child with my second wife. I came to Oklahoma in 2015 to live with my aunt. My wife stayed in El Paso. I was arrested in 2015, and I started going to church in prison. I was released in May, 2020.

I learned about Hand Up Ministries 90 days before I discharged from prison. My case manager told me to fill out the

application for Hand Up. I came to Hand Up on May 20th, 2020. God has done many good things for me. When I was 27, I had kidney failure, and I was on dialysis for 18 months. I prayed, and God healed me. Hand Up has given me a home and an opportunity to live a better life. I am waiting for the new things that will come.



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— Daniel Guvara

I was born and raised in the church, but my life changed after I graduated from high school and went off to college. I started to party and have fun. God was no longer part of my life. Drugs, alcohol, and sex were the center of my life. Later in life, I professed to be a Christian, but I would go to church on Sunday and return to my old ways during the rest of the week.

I did some things which hurt other people, and I am truly ashamed of these things. My actions resulted in two failed marriages. It all came to a halt in 2002. I was arrested, and I spent 15 years in prison. I knew I had to reevaluate my life. Prison gave me time to find out who God truly was. I confessed my sins to Him, and I asked Him to change my heart and come into my life. My life changed that day, and I knew in my heart that God's grace was the only way I could truly change.

When I was released, I didn't know what I would do or where I would stay. A friend told me about Hand Up ministries, so I applied to Hand Up. I was accepted, and I knew God had my back, just as He had promised. I knew I had to continue to be faithful and obey and trust God. I found a wonderful, Bible believing church which helped me through the transition by helping me with both my physical and spiritual needs. This church has helped me know the Lord and who He truly is.

I have had so many wonderful blessings since I was released from prison. The most important blessing is the blood of Christ, for which I am very thankful. Without Christ's blood, I wouldn't have a second chance. I am truly happy and blessed more now than at any other time in my life. I still remember what my mom told me. She said to pray and hold onto God's unchanging hand.

— KP

LETTER FROM SHANNON SINDT'S MOTHER

This is a letter we received from the mother of a former resident.

As I was writing the donation check to send to Hand Up Ministries, I couldn't help think how much the ministry did for our son, Shannon. He has been in the Logan Nursing Home for over four years. He always has his Bible and the Daily Bread on his dresser beside his bed.

He had a near death experience a few weeks ago, and he was in the Kearney Hospital in Nebraska. We were told he was nearly gone, but evidently God wasn't done with him. He is back in the Logan Home and doing well. I just thank the Lord for Hand Up Ministries and for our Great Lord that helped Shannon to choose his new life with his Lord and Savior.

May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jolene Sindt

We appreciate all our partners and donors. It is your support that enables us to assist individuals back into society as new brothers and sisters in Christ.

