



Helping people with disabilities achieve

# Maximum Independence

Like all people, individuals with disabilities desire and have the right to live in dignity and be responsible for their own welfare and destiny.

The Northern Michigan Helping Hands serves people with disabilities regardless of cause, type or length of the disability or economic status. The Northwestern Region works with community groups in a 24 county region, minimizing service duplication.

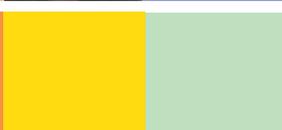
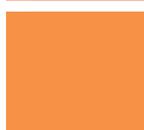


Grand Traverse Regional

community foundation



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"NMHH is a valuable community resource providing services directly to those in need."

- Barbara Solomonson - AT Consultant/Speech Therapist, TBAISD

# MAKE AN IMMEDIATE Impact on a Person's Life



Helping Hands works with the Grand Traverse Regional Foundation, local hospitals, schools, physicians, physical therapists and community groups within a 24 county region of Northern Michigan to meet the needs of the disabled and aging population.

## WE LISTEN. WE ACT. WE CARE.

We service hundreds of people every year and the need is growing. Without Helping Hands, many would not have access to the equipment needed to remain independent or support for their families and caregivers. Regardless of the cause and length of the disability and economic status, Helping Hands is there to serve.

## How to Get Involved:

All of the funds raised in this area return to serve the children and adults with disabilities in our Northern Michigan community. Programs depend upon gifts from individuals, clubs, organizations, industries and corporations. Contributions may be of a monetary or in-kind nature.



Personal contributions can be as basic as writing a check or as active as volunteering your expertise. The growing demand for services in Northern Michigan ensures that both types of donations are needed.

### **VOLUNTEERING, EQUIPMENT DONATION, MONETARY SUPPORT, FUND RAISING - EACH INDIVIDUAL CAN HELP MEET OUR GOAL.**

Equipment donations are also welcome. Medical equipment such as wheelchairs, bath benches and walkers as well as office equipment and supplies help reduce costs, and are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Contributors frequently perpetuate the Helping Hands mission through requests in wills, annuities or insurance plans.

### **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN**

Through the most active program of medical equipment loan, maintenance and storage in the state, Helping Hands services thousands of people annually. This program is designed to meet the needs of anyone who may need a wheelchair, walker, bath bench, etc. for less than a year. A nominal monthly rental fee is charged to partially cover costs.

### **WHEELCHAIR CLINIC**

Like cars, wheelchairs require periodic cleaning and maintenance. Annual Wheelchair Clinics throughout Northern Michigan offer professional cleaning, minor repairs, chair maintenance and educational materials.

### **SCOLIOSIS SCREENING**

Many schools in Northern Michigan do not have their own school nurse. Helping Hands provides Scoliosis Screening to all 7th grade students in a tri-county area where a school nurse is not available. The 30 second screening provides a lifetime of dividends. Early detection of spinal deformities can prevent surgeries and other radical treatments.

### **SUMMER SPEECH THERAPY**

The Summer Speech Therapy Program is designed to assist children with their understanding and use of language. The program focuses on a child's ability to communicate effectively in social contexts. The purpose of this program is to maintain the speech level a child obtains during the academic school year.

### **SIBLING DAY**

Providing services to brothers and sisters of children with disabilities is an essential component of the Sibling Day Program. These children express special concerns and experience a full range of feelings related to their siblings, parents, peers, themselves and the community. The Day Program offers educational and emotional support to families.