

Does it pay to Help them?

a few facts for the good citizen

AN account of The Helping Hand Institute and the surprising results that come from reaching out a friendly hand to the men and boys in that great stream of the homeless who pour through Kansas City's crowded North End — assembled for the information of those far-seeing men and women who like to see their good works projected through the years.

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WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S BUILDING, 308 GARFIELD AVE.

MEN'S BUILDING, 523 GRAND AVENUE

MANY YEARS AGO

MANY years ago, a homeless stranger wandered into Kansas City. He was a country lad, brimming over with youthful ambition and a zealous determination to make good. But he knew no one. He had no letters of introduction. There was no one to acquaint him with the complex structure of what to him was a big city. Finally, he sought the friendly shelter of the only institution that held out a helping hand to him—The Helping Hand Institute. Today, this erst-while youngster is one of our leading business men, president of one of the large insurance companies of this city. To The Helping Hand he gratefully credits the beginning of his most successful and inspiring business career.

Another lad made his way from Chicago to Kansas City on a freight train, arriving here penniless and without friends. He, too, sought The Helping Hand. Today, he is one of our leading architects, having designed some of our most outstanding structures, the most recent running well over a million dollars.

Countless stories such as these, justify the existence of the Helping Hand Institute and indicate in but a small way, its great economic value to this community. Back in 1894, when homeless and friendless men crowded into saloons and cheap lodging houses on the North Side as their only places of refuge, The Helping Hand Institute came into existence. During thirty-six years of continuous service this institution has contributed materially to the economic and social advancement of this community by guiding into channels of usefulness a large number of men and boys, who during a crisis in their lives needed a helping hand.

Why Such An Institution?

KANSAS CITY is one of the largest centers in the United States for seasonal labor distribution. This class of labor is vital to the industrial and agricultural activity of this trade territory. Our industries must have such labor readily available when needed but cannot be burdened with the responsibility of the laborer when he is not needed. With the coming of winter, the labor demand ceases and the men are turned out. They exhaust their savings and many become destitute. Their morale is gradually destroyed, they lose their self-respect, their health breaks and they slowly sink to bottomless levels.

To this group The Helping Hand offers an opportunity for rebuilding character, rekindling the fires of ambition and converting otherwise useless man-power into productive labor with buying-power. These men, through this Institution, become self-supporting consumers instead of beggars. They become assets to the community instead of liabilities. Is not such a transformation, of actual dollars-and-cents value to any community?

The Purpose of the Helping Hand

TO make more valuable to industry and society, and to themselves, this great army which drifts into Kansas City annually, is the avowed purpose of The Helping Hand Institute. It was founded on the idea of turning men from non-productive to productive channels of activity, guided by a policy of self-help as the best help. A man's need and request is his only entrance requirement. If he is not able to work, he is given food and lodging until a permanent place can be found for him through the assistance of social workers and clinic doctors. There is no red tape— no man was ever refused because of his inability to pay in cash for accommodations or food.

#### How It Operates

THE Institute's activities center around its main building at Missouri and Grand Avenues, a social center for men. Far more than a charity, it conserves the character and provides a moral safeguard for thousands of men whose self-respect has not yet been hopelessly submerged. Temporary work is also provided for men who appeal for a means to earn their meals and lodging. Destitute single women and mothers with their children are cared for at the women's building, The Jefferson Home, 308 Garfield Avenue, until a solution of their problem is found.

Disabled of all classes, including convalescents from hospitals who need a few days rest and recuperation, are given aid until suitable permanent plans are made.

Many boys from broken homes—homeless—are forced out on their own resources and come to this institution seeking work through the free employment bureau. Painstaking effort is made to find some compensating adjustment for their lonely and bewildered lives.

Aged men and middle-aged men, now being crowded from their jobs by young men by the new economic pressure, come seeking work also.

Men physically used to light trades or office work are given temporary work around the building. Some are paid money for their services, others are given meals and lodging with the understanding that their time is to be utilized seeking employment. In some cases, where jobs have been found, credit for meals and lodging is extended until the first pay day.

Able-bodied men out of employment and money find The Helping Hand open to them on the sole condition of their willingness to help themselves. During the fall and winter months, when pay jobs are scarce, stone quarries are operated without profit to the Institution, to supply sufficient temporary work until definite employment can be obtained.

Working men of small income who are able to pay for services rendered are offered a night's lodging at twenty cents which includes a shower bath and the use of laundry and dryer for washing clothing. A private room can be had for \$2.25 to \$2.50 per week. However, the man without money gets food and lodging as well as those who are able to pay. There is no discrimination.

UNEMPLOYED MEN—THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS A SCENE ON MAIN STREET, OPPOSITE THE CITY HALL, IN KANSAS CITY, MO., DURING A PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

#### Additional Services

THE Institution also provides the following conveniences:

- a lobby for the men of the North Side, with seating for five hundred men on winter evenings;
- a reading room, with current magazines and newspapers and appropriate literature;
- writing material which the men are encouraged to use to correspond with friends and relatives;
- non-sectarian religious services in an attractive chapel five nights a week with the co-

operation of many church organizations;

- the Gospel of Christ is offered to discouraged men at a time when their spiritual, mental and physical needs are emphasized;

- entertainments and musical programs given by talented musicians and musical organizations which brings inspiration and good cheer into an atmosphere of depression and discouragement;

- an industrial department that provides temporary work for unemployed men who need to be busy earning food and shelter while looking for employment;

- an active free employment bureau that secures as many pay jobs as possible for unemployed men and boys (24,401 last year) ;

- a dispensary and clinic, with doctors in charge every evening from five to seven o'clock, for the treatment of the sick and disabled and to safeguard the institution against contagious and infectious diseases;

- a lodging department, fully equipped with 500 beds with mattresses, white sheets and pillow slips and blankets, 270 windows ventilating 153 rooms and dormitories. The number of lodgings can be increased when necessity requires by opening an annex building.

- a bath, laundry and lavatory system consisting of 76 lavatories, 16 shower baths and 8 enamel laundry tubs and steam dryer;

- a repair kit for half-soleing and repairing shoes and garments:

- a baggage room where working men can check their personal belongings and have them forwarded to them by express when they have located a job:

- a repository for the safe keeping of the wages deposited until needed by the men;

- free telephone service for the accommodation of men looking for employment with an approximate number of 500 calls a day;

- a cafeteria service of good food, well cooked, for both the man who is penniless but willing to work, and for the man who has five cents or more to pay. The disabled are of course given meals as well as lodging until plans for care elsewhere can be arranged;

- a credit system that will advance food and lodging tickets until pay day to the man who has a job but no money;

- a co-operative relationship with the Police Department and General Hospital, Veterans' Bureau and all social agencies;

- the personal service of two experienced social workers who devote their time to the personal interests of the men, trying to solve their problems with an intelligent understanding of their needs and securing work for them and also aiding them in adapting themselves to jobs to which they are unused;

- a regular weekly hospital visitation to the homeless sick;

- a judicious distributing of clothing not only to protect old men against the winter's chill but to help to improve the appearance of men who are seeking employment;

- a temporary home for single women and deserted or widowed mothers with children, who are penniless and need not only food and shelter but also the friendly counsel and guidance of the experienced and Christian matron in charge;

- six portable street shower baths, operated during the hot days of the summer for the benefit of children in the poorer districts of the city.

WHO DIRECTS THE HELPING HAND?

THE Institution is an incorporated charity and its property interests are under the control of the following members of the board of directors who contribute their time and means to its problems and administration.

Russell F. Greiner	A. R. Nichols
Alexander Massey	E. E. Amick
J. A. Carpenter	G. S. Montgomery
S. B. Robertson	E. T. Brigham, Superintendent
Wm. Volker	F. W. Osborn
R. E. Parsons	Maurice Winger
E. G. Trimble	A. D. Rider
J. C. Rodahaffer	C. D. Mill
Andrew Young	Hayes Walker
John Punton, M. D.	Gustave Schmierer
W. B. Henderson	Gardiner Lathrop
J. W. Jenkins	A. O. Thompson

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

THE income necessary for the operation of this great economic enterprise is derived from three sources; first, an annual contribution from the Charities Committee of the Chamber of Commerce representing about forty per cent of the total cost of operation; second, revenue from those who pay for their meals and lodging; third, income from endowment funds; fourth, contributions and gifts from those who have realized its real value to Kansas City, as well as to deserving, needy people.

HOMELESS MEN HELPING EACH OTHER

NOT only have the homeless men at The Helping Hand been able to help themselves, but they have also paid for about sixty per cent of the operating expenses while contributions have accounted for about forty per cent of the annual income. The men who were able to pay twenty cents or more for their lodging, or ten, fifteen or twenty cents for their meals, were indirectly helping the men who were unable to pay anything. That the institution was able to carry so much of its own financial burden and at the same time supply thousands of meals and lodgings to the physically incapacitated; a free dispensary with doctors to treat the sick; a free employment service; free laundry and baths; a religious work; a home for women and children; constructive work for hundreds of individuals needing wise counsel and guidance as well as material help—all these services tell their own story of the efficiency of the institution.

WHAT THE DONATIONS PAID FOR

For the fiscal year, ended August 31st, 1930, the Helping Hand Institute received in donations \$38,623 89

The following services for which the Institution received no financial return was paid for out of these donations:

134,753 Meals	\$18,338.91
53,777 Lodgings	5,239.43
24,401 Jobs secured	2,368.95
8,038 Treatments in clinic	2,564.45
39,929 Times use of laundry and bath	2,746.75
Operation of stone quarry	1,892.21

Constructive service to 13,879 men and boys -	3,062.50	
Carfare and transportation-relief cases	534.11	
Cash relief	4,687.09	
Constructive services—The Jefferson Home—women and children—aid in securing employment—case work—medical help, transportation, etc., exclusive of meals and lodging furnished	5,668.52	
General administration and superintendence	3,382.69	
Office expense	2,617.65	
Care of building	1,728.02	
Heating and lighting	2,064.97	
Total		56,896.25
Deficit		\$18,272.36
Deficit resulting from relief operations	\$18,272.36	
Earnings from cash operations applied to deficit	12,441.67	
Operating deficit	\$ 5,830.69	
Depreciation on building and equipment	4,866.90	
Total deficit	\$10,697.59	

The above expenditures were \$18,272.36 more than the donations. The net earnings (see opposite page) of \$12,441.67 was applied to this deficit still leaving an operating deficit of \$5,830.69. The depreciation on building and equipment was \$4,866.90. making a total deficit of \$10,697.59.

#### WHAT THE EARNINGS PAID FOR

The earnings of the Institution for the year totaled		\$50,345.45
The money was expended as follows:		
Cost of serving 104,651 pay meals	\$14,333.16	
Cost of providing 94,057 pay lodgings	7,308.92	
Religious and social work	4,142.17	
Reading and game room	97.65	
General administration and superintendence	3,122.48	
Office expense	2,416.30	
Care of building	1,595.09	
Heating and lighting	1,906.13	
Repairs and renewals of building	2,981.88	
Total		37,903.78
Earnings used to reduce deficit incurred in relief operations		\$12,441.67

#### INTERESTING FIGURES

For Year Ended August 31, 1930

#### MEN'S DEPARTMENT

Number of different men and boys without funds aided	13,879
Increase over last year, 67 per cent or	5,586
Number of boys under twenty years aided	1,966
Number of repeaters from previous years	604
Total number of days men were aided	39,744

Number of men extended credit	2,913
Number of pay positions and jobs secured	24,401
Decrease from previous year	3,527
Number of different kinds of work and trades supplied	126
Number of different employers using employment service	10,440
Amount earned on jobs—aggregate of first day's pay	\$56,175.09
Attendance religious services	37,590
Average attendance	146
Number of men who expressed desire to live a Christian life	1,776
Number of sick and disabled treated in clinic	3,488
Number of treatments	8,038
Number of times men used bath and laundry	39,929
Number of pieces of clothing distributed	3,277
Number of lodgings, work or free	46,137
Number of lodgings, credit	8,353
Number of lodgings, pay	84,636
Total lodgings	139,126
Number of meals, work or free	112,842
Number of meals, credit	9,741
Number of meals, pay	91,684
Total meals	214,267
<b>WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT</b>	
Number of women and children aided	542
Number of days aid given	6,586
Number of positions secured—	142
<b>FOR THIRTY-SIX YEARS (MEN AND WOMEN)</b>	
Total number of lodgings	3,820,038
Total number of meals.	2,991,370
Total number of positions and jobs secured	400,200

#### EVALUATING THIS WORK

The question uppermost in your mind is: "Do the results justify the expense?" We have answered this question by submitting an analysis of the financial operations for the past year in comparison with the record of accomplishment. And only in part do the statistics tell the real story of good accomplished.

#### SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUE OF THE HELPING HAND

The lives of hundreds of men have been changed for good through the influence of The Helping Hand Institute and, of course, this service cannot be measured any more than you can estimate the good that a church does. The burdens raised, the heartaches lifted and the grief assuaged cannot be reduced to cold print, but nevertheless they enter into the sum total of good accomplished and constitute a powerful factor in the problem of ameliorating the condition of the poor. The spiritual and moral value of The Helping Hand Institute, we believe, fully justifies the investment of time and money put into it, but our evaluation is here limited to the tangible evidence of its usefulness—the value that figures can prove.

## WHY WE NEED A FARM

To enlarge the Institution's facilities for providing work in a better environment, away from the depressing influence of the cheap lodging houses and pool halls of the North Side.

To help men regain the courage and health they have lost, by building up their morale in God's out-of-doors.

To provide milk, butter, fruit and vegetables for The Helping Hand Institute's kitchens.

To provide a summer camp for old men.

To provide any unemployed homeless man or boy, willing to help himself, opportunity to earn his keep until he can get regular employment.

To use unemployed labor to improve the soil and property of the farm and improve the man while doing it.

The farm plan is in practical operation in other places and is feasible in Kansas City.

## THE FUTURE OF THE HELPING HAND

The Helping Hand Institute has stood the acid test of practical experience for over thirty-six years and has handled a difficult problem efficiently. An investigator for the Russell Sage Foundation of New York, in a published report on unemployment in fifteen cities, besides other favorable comment, has this to say about the Institution:

"The institutional standards of The Helping Hand Institute are of a high order."

The ambition of the Board of Directors for the future of the institution is to perpetuate its usefulness according to the growing needs of Kansas City.

## AN INCORPORATED CHARITY

Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri as a charitable institution, the Board of Directors is authorized to accept donations for operating expenses, or to receive bequests for promoting any of its activities: and has authority to accept endowment funds by which to create a perpetual income for its support. A number of bequests have been left by will and held in trust by the Fidelity National Bank and Trust Company.

## FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to The Helping Hand Institute of Kansas City, Missouri, the sum of dollars.

## Your Part in This Work

As one of Kansas City's good citizens, what part are you playing in this great work? Perhaps you cannot contribute your services but there is a definite and a most helpful service you can render. The Institute's activities must keep pace with the growing demands of an expanding city. You can do your part by contributing to its financial support, either through an annual donation or by a bequest in your will. For thirty-Six years the Institute has been reclaiming productive citizens for Kansas City and has rendered an indispensable service to this community.

Will you help us with:

- 1— an enlarged clinic and dispensary for the care and treatment of the homeless sick and disabled;
- 2— additional help in the special department for the care and guidance of homeless boys;
- 3— a farm, as outlined above;
- 4— an enlargement of our lodging facilities;
- 5— additional funds for the non-sectarian religious work of the institution;

6—the creation of an adequate endowment fund to provide an income to meet the growing needs of the Institute?

May we come and talk over this work with you?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELPING HAND INSTITUTE,

RUSSELL F. GREINER, President Missouri and Grand Avenues, Kansas City, Mo.

DOES IT PAY TO HELP THEM?