

ReachOut International Partnerships 2020/2021 Highlights

Pivots and Pauses

Deep Water served existing and new partners this year in the midst of the challenges of Covid. Many partners struggled through the necessary transitions in serving in new and innovative ways. ReachOut worked through partners to create new churches, share the good news and serve the poor and marginalized.

International Partnerships Updates:

World Hope Canada (WHC)

Deep Water's funding contributed to WHC caring for over 1,000 victims of trafficking in the country's only Anti-Trafficking in Person (TIP) Recovery Centre in Sierra Leone. As well as awareness training, online safety orientations & therapeutic interventions etc. as part of the "PAVE", program "Protecting At-Risk Children Vulnerable to Exploitation" in the Philippines. Disaster relief funding helped assist with Hurricanes Dorian, Laura, Eta & Iota & with wildfires in California & Oregon.

Mongolia/Ellisons

Deep Water supports missionaries Jennifer and Cory Ellison in their work in Mongolia. This year, due to Covid-19 limitations they had to be furloughed in Michigan, yet they nevertheless provided theological education for Mongolian pastors and helped local church leaders set up Wesleyan governance structures via online means. Funding made it possible for 9 church leaders to attend an online leadership conference. They are in the process of launching several churches, one on the border with China, another in a poor district of the city, and another for remote nomadic herdsman. They are hoping to gain access back into Mongolia soon to continue their work in person.

Nicaragua/Schmitzs

Several years ago Deep Water provided funding for the development of a new church in the country. Finally, this year, the deed for the land purchase for the new church plant/build in the remote community of El Pochote was secured. We sent additional funds this year for the construction of a church building. The construction is in progress & expected to be completed by June meaning they will no longer be sitting under a tree with no roof over their heads!

In the upcoming year we plan to expand our partnership in the region with additional support. The missionary family in the area, the Schmitz's, have been leading efforts to create a new Wesleyan High School. The Grade 7 is now in operation and the building is being expanded to accept Grade 8 students in the upcoming year. They also have provided disaster relief for Hurricanes Eta/Iota by cleaning wells, distributing water purifiers, doing home reconstruction & food distribution in remote communities of Punta Fria & Alamikamba.

Martens Falls

Martens Falls is a remote Native Canadian community north of Thunder Bay, Ontario. We partner with Transformation Church, a new church in Thunder Bay, to serve this community. This year a couple from Martens Falls, Deon & Dolores, who were discipled via Deep Water's original funding, recently drove to Thunder Bay to get baptized. Transformation Church is exploring possible opportunities for subsidizing summer counselling camps for Marten Falls' youth at Eagle Cove Camp just outside Thunder Bay and for travel to/from Marten Falls to Thunder Bay for Deon & Dolores for continued discipleship/leadership training.

Compassion Nicaragua

Deep Water has continued our ongoing maternal health initiative in the Hilario Sanchez Neighbourhood Survival Program in Nicaragua through Compassion. Your support is helping 15 moms, including 1 pregnant woman and 14 babies from 0-12 months old. In the last year* 21 cases of moderate malnutrition were treated, 21 cases of severe malnutrition were treated, 1 baby was born at full-term, 1 baby was born at a normal weight, 1 baby was born with the help of a skilled birth attendant and 5 women are breastfeeding. Please pray for the moms and babies, that God would provide for their needs. Also pray that God would give wisdom to the Survival program implementers to guide each mother and child.

Haiti

In August 2020, our partner church, Petionville Wesleyan, celebrated their 25th anniversary. Feeling God's call to reach new populations, the church decided to plant a new church in the neighbouring area of Juvenat. During weeks of outreach and evening services, church members met and shared the gospel with the community, with over 50 individuals dedicating themselves to Christ. The new church opened on January 17th, 2021, and continues to grow.

Local Partnerships Updates:

Recovery Partners

Recently we brought on two new partners focused on recovery. The Helm is a local addictions recovery program for men, anticipated to open later this year. Hope House, located in Cape Breton, is a live-in recovery home for women with drug and alcohol addictions. We look forward to growing our relationships with both organizations over the coming year.

Youth Unlimited

Youth Unlimited (YU) had to pause many of their in-person programming at various points throughout the past year. However they were able to launch a tutoring program in February. This initiative allowed YU to establish a strong relationship with a local youth and his family. YU's Board has grown over the past year. They have been working to develop a strategic plan of growth for the organization over the next 3-5 years.

Souls Harbour

Due to COVID-19, Souls Harbour transitioned from offering sit-down meals to take-away bagged lunches. They have seen the need for their services increasingly grow. Over the past year they have been serving 300 individuals per day, which has grown from 150 the year prior. Souls Harbour is also opening a live-in men's recovery program, which will have room for 11 individuals and a staff counsellor.

Open Doors Centre

The centre remained open throughout 2020 and has also been experiencing an increased need for their services. Over the past four months, Open Doors has met with 256 clients, helped two women get "off the street" through an emergency housing program, and provided over 40 counselling sessions to youth who have left their trafficker. A retired police officer has recently started volunteering with the exploited youth division, and is helping the organization to better partner with victim services.

Racial Reconciliation

Working in collaboration with Deep Water's Racial Reconciliation team, ReachOut adopted Trellis as a ministry partner. Trellis' mission is to seek the peace of the city from the ground up as grassroots leaders by supporting each other in loving our city into greatness from the margins to the centre. We are providing support for a dance and art initiative that is working to build bridges between races within the community.