

Let's connect the dots.





# ..........connected!

Over the past eleven years we've learned that raising child literacy levels is a team effort—and that means connecting the dots

Hands Across the Sea has put over 464,000 new, amazing books into the hands of 103,000 Caribbean children, and we've created or rejuvenated lending libraries at 352 primary and secondary schools. Along the way we've built relationships with many organizations and people who are making a difference in the region. As Hands keeps evolving we'll connect more dots, we'll grow and solidify more relationships, and, thanks to your loyal and generous support, help many more children in the Eastern Caribbean to grow up reading.



# new amazing books

Hands sends only new books to schools, the titles specifically asked for by educators and children go to: Hands Wish Lists page

# loyal hands donors

Eleven years ago we started with a dream that was no doubt way too idealistic: Give every child in the Eastern Caribbean the chance to grow up reading. And now loyal, generous Hands donors are making that dream come true



# hands literacy links

Professional, experienced, and passionate, Hands Literacy Links create and rejuvenate libraries and mentor librarians and educators go to: Hands Literacy Link page



Training teachers and librarians in how to utilize the Hands Remedial Reading Toolkit and the *Teachers* Resource Guide to the Library





## remedial reading toolkits

Hands's multifaceted "reading rescue" system for high school students who are struggling with reading. To date, we've sent Hands Remedial Reading Toolkits to more than 60 secondary schools go to: Hands Remedial Reading page

### early learners program

Hands has connected with this US-AID/OECS effort to revolutionize the teaching of reading—and Caribbean children are the winners

# hands literacy support resources

Our support materials are commonsense and bottom-up—which is why they are effective

go to: Hands Literacy Resources page go to: Teachers Resource Guide page



### hands student librarians

Hands Literacy Links have trained 650 Student Librarians to run their school libraries go to: Hands Student Librarian page



# united states peace corps volunteers

Our partners in many, many school library and reading program projects, Hands has worked with over 125 U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers

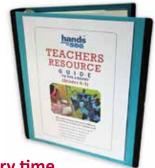
# principals and teachers

How are we doing? We take our cues—and look for a reality check— from educators at every school go to: Teachers Resource Guide page



# Groundbreaking Inspiration

A 179-page evolving workbook, the Hands *Teachers Resource Guide to the Library (Grades K–3)*, gives teachers strategies and techniques to connect their classroom to the school library—and help their students excel





# section one: best practices

Caribbean educators and librarians tell how to utilize the diverse, Hands-supplied books in the school library section two: library time

From read-alouds to working in groups, ways to make the library a multifaceted learning opportunity



### section three: book blurbs

Forty-three mind-opening "snapshots" of new amazing books that will challenge and excite students



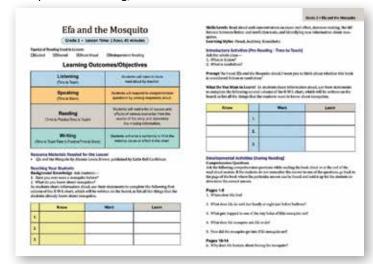
# section five: library resources

Over 270 books for anchor texts, shared reading, guided reading, independent reading, reluctant readers, and cross-curriculum lessons. Plus, 42 literacy/library activities



### section four: lesson plans

Twenty lessons for delivering guided reading, shared reading, independent reading, and read-aloud lessons









# New Ways to Teach

The USAID/Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Early Learners Program is quietly changing the way teachers teach reading—and Hands is on board

We are so pleased to collaborate with the \$10.4 million USAID/OECS-funded Early Learners Program (ELP). The goal of the ELP is to make every child a reader by Grade 3 by training teachers to deploy a broad range of teaching techniques, including reading books aloud.

Caribbean children are very good at sounding out and decoding words they see on a page or on the blackboard. The greatest challenge is in understanding and deriving meaning



from what they read. Big books, picture books, leveled readers with lots of pictures—these are the resources that children need to comprehend what they are sounding out, and these are what we've been sending.

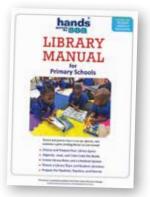
Now we need to encourage more teachers to read these books aloud and to check for comprehension. Hands's books and libraries are providing a valuable resource to help children link the words on a page and the events and pictures in a story and then to be able to talk about it. Hands sits on the ELP Regional Advisory Group, and networking with regional leaders has been invaluable for us.

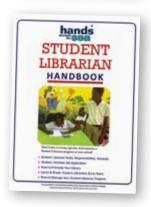
# Better Ways to Sustain

These days, Hands is "more than books." Our program support, designed to sustain our projects, offers proven and practical ways to keep child literacy at the forefront

Better than ever! The *Hands Library Manual for Primary Schools*—the guide that launched and sustained over 300 libraries—is now completely revised and updated. Schools opening their first-ever library will find the manual a vital resource. And we've revised the *Hands Student Librarian Handbook*, too. We invite you to jump online and view or download both resources on our website.

go to: Hands Literacy Resources page go to: Hands Student Librarian page







# Hands Remedial Reading Toolkit Many children entering high school need reading help. The Hands Remedial Reading Toolkit equips remedial reading teachers

with the Decode system,

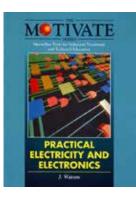


a phonics-based approach created specifically for teenagers. We also include manipulatives and literacy-building games for teachers and students in the Toolkit. Hands Literacy Links on each island introduce the Toolkit to each remedial reading teacher through a hands-on workshop.

# Best. Books. Ever.

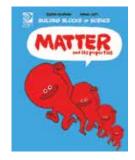
The 2017-2018 Hands Wish Lists shipment—new, asked-for, age- and culturally-appropriate, was our best—so far

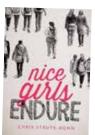




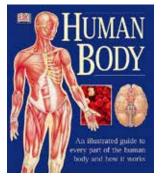




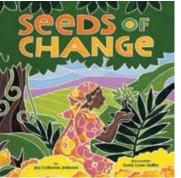


















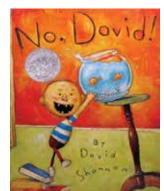


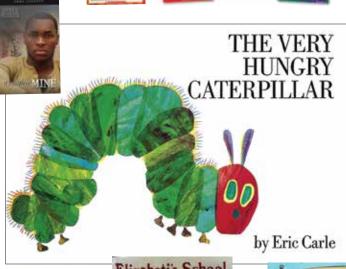






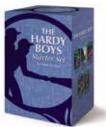


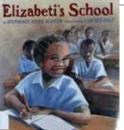


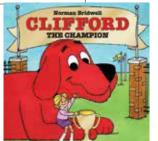




My Birthday







# Dominica Rising

On September 18, 2017, Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 nightmare, dealt a direct hit to the island of Dominica—and then went on to smash Puerto Rico. Dominica's school libraries are recovering, but there's still work to do. Here's the update from the Hands Literacy Link for Dominica, Giselle Laurent

"As darkness fell, Hurricane Maria moved slowly up the length of Dominica with storm-force winds, lashing rain, and storm surges. Eight hours later 31 people had died and 34 were missing; more than 95% of all homes were damaged; utilities services were fully disrupted; and 32% of the agricultural sector was destroyed.

"This large-scale destruction was caused by the over 160-mile-per-hour winds and the shrapnel-like debris carried in its gusts, and the sweeping landslides and raging, overflowYay! It's library time! While most nearby schools were hit hard

Yay! It's library time! While most nearby schools were hit hard, Delices Primary School emerged mostly intact. The Hands team delivered the 2017-2018 shipment to every school; most are reopening their libraries in the 2018-2019 school year.

ing waterways that carried away tremendous swaths of earth and infrastructure.

"Dominica was very fortunate to receive almost immediate help from the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), its sister-organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF, World Food Programme, and more), plus a variety of international aid agencies, as well as from the Dominican communities and concerned groups living

abroad. Dominica's government, private sector and NGOs have worked with the incoming agencies in the recovery of the public and private infrastructure, the agricultural, industrial, and financial sectors, the health facilities and the education and human resource sectors along with promoting psychosocial healing.

"One year on, much improvement has been made. Almost 100% of the water supply has been restored as of early 2018, and 96% of the electricity service has been restored across the island. The telecommunications industry has taken the 'down time' to upgrade their facilities as they work to restore their services. Repairs to the roadways are going on successfully, despite the unforgiving tropical downpours which hamper progress. The roof repair programme is bringing psychological ease to many people.

"By December 2017, all of the island's schools had reopened—a shining example of our determination to move on, as many of them had suffered major damage from the hurricane, with several going on shift schedules to accommodate other displaced schools whose structures were uninhabitable. The resolve of the educators meant that students were able to continue their studies, despite trying conditions in emergency tents, and even excel in their national exams.

"As recent tropical storm Isaac has proven, we have learned much from our nightmare experience, and have created systems to ensure

early and/or pre-emptive response to disasters along all sectors. But this speedy recovery is not even the start of the end. With immediate needs met, work to set a solid framework continues. We are doing our best to use the lessons learned to rebuild in a smarter way to ensure that Dominica's 'bounce back' the next time is total and future-proof."

# **Update: 2017 Books for Dominica Appeal and the American Sailing Association/Hands Sweepstakes**

Thank you, Hands donors! We received overwhelming love and support from you last year during our "Books for Dominica" appeal and the American Sailing Association/ Hands Across the Sea Caribbean Getaway Sweepstakes. The funds raised helped us ship new books to Dominica in 2017 just as school libraries were being restored and rebuilt. We had the honor of hand-delivering the new boxes of books in

early February 2018 and saw the damage as well as the recovery efforts first-



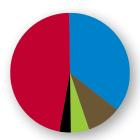
hand. We heard just how much these books mean to children, teachers, and communities cut off from power and the outside world. Having books to read made children feel less isolated as people rebuilt their lives. At Jones **Beaupierre Primary School** in the village of La Plaine, the principal told us how much progress her school had made in improving children's literacy levels over the years, and while Hurricane Maria had destroyed their school, she was determined that her students would not be set back "just because of a storm." We are so grateful for your support!

# Income & Expenses

Our 2017 financial documents are publicly available on our website. Snapshots:

We are profoundly grateful and humbled by the tremendous show of support for child literacy in 2017—from individuals, from family foundations, and from corporate donors. You stepped up for our Books for Dominica appeal, for the ASA/Hands Caribbean Getaway Sweepstakes, and for our matching grants campaign

during #GivingTuesday. As a result, Hands came of age in 2017—our book shipments are more targeted, our support materials are more effective, and our Literacy Links are creating, rejuvenating, and sustaining more school libraries than ever before. We owe it all to you, Hands donors, for changing the lives of Caribbean children.





Individual \$211,232 • 47% Foundation \$161,940 • 36%

Corporate \$41,540 • 9%

Government \$14,977 • 3%

In-Kind \$20,006 • 5%



### 2017 Expenses

As a U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, the finances of Hands Across the Sea, including audited financials and IRS Form 990, are publicly available for inspection and download at: www.handsacrossthesea.net/HandsCrew.htm#documents

# **Corporate Partners and Foundations**

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Central Chester County Rotary Club
Charitable Foundation Nevis
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# **Our 2017 Supporters**

Your caring support has made a lasting difference in the lives of Caribbean children. Thank you for giving the gift of literacy!

### Gifts of \$10,000 and above

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### Gifts of \$2,000 to \$9,999

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Hands Across the Sea, Inc. P.O. Box 55071, Suite 85043 Boston, MA 02205 U.S.A. Tel: 617-320-3601

harriet@handsacrossthesea.net tl@handsacrossthesea.net www.handsacrossthesea.net