



“Today, because of Opportunity Village, Chris has a wonderful life filled with friends, family and purpose and I have a son who inspires me each and every day.”

— LINDA SMITH
Chief Development
Officer and Associate
Executive Director,
Opportunity Village

ISBN-10: 1-932173-63-3
ISBN-13: 978-1-932173-63-5
8 x 10 in., Hardcover
\$24.95
Stephens Press, LLC



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HELPING HANDS, HELPING HEARTS

THE STORY OF OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE

When Al and Dessie Bailey found out that their beautiful baby Claudia had Down syndrome, their first thoughts were why? What can we do for our daughter and other children like her? It was with determination and hope that the Baileys and many other families came together to find a solution.

It was not until the 1950s with the organization of the National Association for Retarded Children that there slowly began to be a voice for people with intellectual challenges. Soon thereafter with the help of the Variety Club and the parents of Clark County School for the Handicapped, Opportunity Village was created. It became a place for children and young adults with developmental

delays to learn life skills and have an opportunity to work. Through the years Opportunity Village faced struggles, but has grown to become one of the most effective non-profits in Southern Nevada.

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts chronicles the heartache and the hopes of those who cared to make a difference. From the ideas of parents who wanted to “do something” to the pre-eminence of the Opportunity Village of today, this story is not about what these special people can’t do — but what they can.

- National newspaper ad campaign
- Author book-signings and media interviews

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jack Harpster retired in 2002 from the newspaper industry after 43 years. For the next two years, he wrote and published *Las Vegas Perspective*, which launched his second career as a writer.

His first book, *John Ogden, the Pilgrim (1605 – 1682): A Man of More Than Ordinary Mark*, was published in 2006 by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press of New Jersey. *Helping Hands, Helping Hearts* is his second book. He is currently revising a book on the life of Chicago founder and early railroad pioneer William B. Ogden for another scholarly publisher; and has just completed a narrative non-fiction manuscript about a young Revolutionary War-era Iroquois captive.

Harpster lived in Las Vegas for twenty years, and currently resides in Reno with his wife Cathy.



JACK HARPSTER
RENO, NEVADA

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