

Organization Name: Mamma's Hands

Date of Interview: April 13, 2026

MH's interviewees: Star Lalario (Executive Director), Sherie Mumford (Business Manager) Leslie and Denny Hancock (Founders), Ken O' Hare (Board Treasurer) and Lucy Waweru (Board Member and former resident)

Impact 100 GRT Interviewers: Corbin Lewars, Kristin Litke, Jennifer Tice Walker

Organization mission: Mamma's Hands mission is to provide a safe, family-centered home for at-risk mothers and children fleeing crisis situations like poverty, domestic violence, and trafficking. They offer resources, support, and a structured environment needed to regain stability, build self-esteem, and develop the skills necessary to become self-reliant.

What does the organization do? Through personalized care and empowerment, they walk alongside families as they heal from trauma, rediscover their strengths, set meaningful goals, and build hopeful, healthy futures for themselves and their children. Their vision is to create empowered mothers raising confident children in safe, stable homes, a place where families can transform pain into purpose. They provide immediate stabilization by providing trauma-informed housing, case management & crisis intervention, basic needs, childcare, school enrollment and safety planning. They provide root cause intervention through Financial Literacy (YMCA), parenting education, trauma & play therapy, employment readiness and legal advocacy.

Who does the organization serve? In 2025, they supported 26 families- 26 mothers and 48 children fleeing domestic violence, trafficking or facing homelessness, through tailored case management, aimed at building skills and removing obstacles to safety and long-term housing instability. Beyond maintaining a waitlist of 30 qualified families, they also field, assist and proactively follow up with nearly 500 additional inquiries annually from women in crisis who are seeking help.

What inequity is the organization addressing and how does the organization address it? Mamma's Hands is the only resource based in rural King County region to provide safe and supportive wrap-around care and housing for women and children experiencing crisis, fleeing domestic violence, trafficking or homelessness. Shelters and other facilities provide relief for a night, but usually only for a woman, not families, whereas Mamma's Hands houses and supports the woman and her children on average for a year. Everyone living at Mamma's Hands has agreed to end all contact with their abuser, remain sober, keep their children enrolled and succeeding at school, contribute to the maintenance of their room at Mamma's Hands and follow the guidelines, and make daily steps towards securing stable income and housing for themselves. In doing so, they create a safe and responsible community for the residents and break the cycle of abuse and homelessness by providing systemic change.

What are the compelling reasons to support this organization? How is this organization doing transformative work? Mamma's Hands measures success by permanent transformation. Currently 92% of graduates maintain stable housing through their Aftercare Program. Once a family moves into permanent housing, Mamma's Hands partners with other organizations to help furnish their new home. Additionally, for three years they provide continued access to programs, emergency financial assistance, mentorship, crisis prevention and peer support. This extended connection is not only a safety net, but truly offers guidance and resources to help families maintain stability and prevent returning to homelessness, ensuring long-term success and helping to break the intergenerational cycle of trauma and poverty.

Mamma's Hands has a deep, collaborative relationship with many amazing organizations in the community who partner with them to offer much-needed support including: shelter services (Acres of Diamonds, Reclaim, Sophia's Way, Hopelink and Vision House), DV/Trafficking support networks (DAWN, REST, WARN, and IRC),

therapeutic services (Encompass, Raging River and Within Reach), needs for children (Babies of Homelessness, KidVantage, Birthday Dreams, Empower Youth Network and Parent Trust) and skill building services (YMCA and NAMI). This kind of partnership is innovative and critical where resources are limited, and needs are significant. Since 1990, Mama's Hands has evolved from a street outreach program running out of a construction van owned by its founders, Leslie and Denny Hancock. Thanks to generous gifts and donations, they were able to secure and build the House of Hope. This home is a debt-free facility that is a safe and supportive home for mothers and their children committed to overcoming crisis and building self-reliance.

What is this organization's greatest need? Expansion. The \$100,000 grant will allow them to expand their current facility to offer a home and comprehensive case management to 10 families simultaneously, on an ongoing basis (43% increase). They will use the funds to convert three existing offices into bedrooms with septic upgrades, and fire sprinklers required. They are also in need of enhanced security (gates, cameras) for mothers fleeing abusers. Goal: ~40 families annually.

Highlight a story of impact: Lucy Waweru emigrated from Kenya to the Northwest with her husband. She shared that while in Kenya she was a prominent lawyer, but upon arriving in Seattle she could no longer practice law. Her husband became abusive, the landlord took his side, and Lucy found herself fleeing with her children with nowhere to live and no viable income. After living in her car with her children, she was referred to Mama's Hands. She described being able to relax and feel safe for the first time in months upon entering the compound, which has a secure gate, it is surrounded by trees and nature, and is very private. A case worker met with her and explained the basic rules which are to end contact with her abuser, be or remain sober, keep her room and area clean, enroll her children in school, move forward to secure housing and employment. "It's tough love," Lucy laughed. "Yet, so simple."

Over the course of her time at Mama's Hands (9 months) Lucy worked closely with her case worker and was enrolled in school to earn her Law Degree and pass the bar in Washington State. She also secured housing for herself and her children and enrolled them in the local school. Last year she passed the bar and is now a practicing lawyer. She is on the Board of Mama's Hands and offers free legal advice to Mama Hand's residents and through the World Relief organization, paying it forward in tremendous ways.