

## EAGA Business Builder

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## Today's speaker was Tim Stewart– Impact Nations



Mr. Stewart grew up in Canada, but moved to New Mexico with his wife Bethany and their four children in 2017 when he officially joined Impact Nations as their Director of Operations. In 2020 Tim advanced to the CEO position. Impact Nations organization was founded in 2005 by Tim's father and its goal is to provide hope, healing and dignity to the underserved of the world. The organization's main headquarters are in Rio Rancho, NM but they also have administrative facilities in Canada and Australia. Those three locations serve as the coordinating and launching areas for Impact Nation's 'journeys' to the poorest communities of many foreign countries (places like Malesia, Africa, India, Philippines, Nepal and Uganda). The journeys are well planned trips to provide a variety of services, such as food, water, medical aid and education to the residents of a specific community, or area, in need. Those journeys are incredibly important. Every year thousands of people die from drinking bad water, so cleaning water is usually the first service the Impact Nations' teams provide. Sometimes they go to an area specifically to develop sources and set up a new water system, and sometimes they go in response critical needs when an existing water supply has suddenly become contaminated by something like a natural disaster. The organization has access to filtering systems that clean hundreds of liters of water per day, and when properly maintained, will last for many years. (The filters remove all sorts of impurities, leaving 99.97% clean water). After water, the next most important needs are for food and medical assistance. Impact Nations has the ability to set up medical facilities capable of treating up to 350 people at a time (usually in substantially less than desirable conditions). But, in addition to the 'standard' needs of food, water and medical treatment, the people in developing nations desperately want something else - to be able to provide for themselves. They appreciate the assistance with the basic needs, but want to also find access to education, training and jobs in order to create long-term opportunities to be self-sufficient. Tim does a lot of traveling for his work and has been personally involved in many of the projects. As an example: He recently went to Deli, India. It's a bustling place of 10 million people, congested streets, and smog so intense that you could smell and taste it as soon as you arrived. There he met three men that were part of the group left behind in that botched US exit from Afghanistan. Somehow those men and their families made it to India, but they arrived with very little. There they met others in a similar condition and were now all (300 families total) living in an abandoned building and constantly searching for supplies they needed for day-to-day living. Impact Nations offered assistance with food and water, and those men were very appreciative...but they wanted someone to help them learn trades and find jobs so that they are able to do things for themselves in the future. Impact Nations has been able to set up a school that teaches the women how to sew and provides the men with an education in the culinary arts. After receiving the proper training, the students will receive a certification identifying them as qualified to work in the specific field. The certifications have already been 'approved' and will be accepted by the local community and potential employers. That is one example of how Impact Nations helps. Since 2005 there have been 80 journeys to aid people in need. All of the trips have been beneficial to the local people, but there are times when the country's government has not been very friendly. In spite of the hinderances, the organization persists; delivering and distributing food, water and services through the Covid 19 outbreak, (in India alone there were 40 teams that gave out nearly 2 million meals to families who could not otherwise provide for themselves because of business closings and work lockouts); rescuing people in danger by setting up shelters in Uganda, Nepal and India; establishing and/or increasing capacity in schools designed to teach skills and trades specifically needed in the particular community (education courses are usually 8 months in duration and teach sewing, culinary arts, web development, computer graphics, and logistics and procurement—and others, depending on what the local community needs and can support). The education and training facilities are very successful, serving about 1,150 students per year and boasting a success rate of having 82% of the students finding jobs or having been able to establish their own micro-business within 6 months after graduation. The workers are earning annual salaries in the neighborhood of \$6,100-which is more than the 'standard' pay for most of those areas. The student count just noted does not include children attending local schools because of efforts by Impact Nations. The organization has managed to convince 7 brick factories in India to allow young children to go to school. That has not been an easy task since the workers in those factories are primarily members of families (including children as young as 5 years old) working to pay off a previous debt (often the debt is generations old). Impact Nations now has about 2,200 of those children attending school on a regular basis. The students even wear uniforms made by other Impact Nation trade schools in the region. Obviously, the efforts of Impact Nations will continue. It needs to continue. Everyone deserves dignity and there are tremendous numbers of people in the world in need of assistance with clean water, sufficient food, medical treatment, education, shelter, or just a kind, encouraging word telling them that things can get better. This year Impact Nations has a budget of \$1.5 million available to get all their work done. That's not a lot in USA measurements, as they have already demonstrated, a lot can be done with that amount of money...but only when it is combined with the hard work and determination of caring individuals. The operations model is to combine the efforts and treasures of caring individuals with the work of leaders in the developing world. Those leaders are already living there, so have a good understanding of what the community needs. What sort of things could Tim use from us? He would like referrals to churches with foreign missions; companies that want to start, or increase, their social responsibilities activities; and individuals that want to change the world. If you can help with any of that, contact Tim at 505-900-5395, or via email at [tim@impactnations.com](mailto:tim@impactnations.com). If you want an actual first-hand view of Tim's work, join one of the upcoming journeys. Each involves 25 to 50 participants that spend some time helping others acquire knowledge, determination, and a means for self-support. What a great way to rack-up credits to your own spiritual account. As a note: journey participants pay their own way but all costs would be treated as a contribution to the non-profit organization, so can be tax deductible. (Sort of- Eternal credits partially financed by the IRS)

- ◆ **Please note that we will not have a meeting on September 5th in recognition of Labor Day.**
- ◆ Happy birthday to Dr. Jack Zipper! He celebrated number 81 a few days ago. Other than a couple of bum shoulders and a slight hitch in his get-along, Jack doesn't look a day over 55...OK 50, but he has some jokes that are at least 81 years old.
- ◆ The next Board of Directors meeting will be right after breakfast on September 12th.
- ◆ This year EAGA's Dr. Jim Fanning Memorial Trap Shoot will be October 6th. The event is free for EAGA members. Participants will shoot 50 rounds each (instead of the usual 100). That will shorten the time needed, and will probably create less sore shoulders. There will also be breakfast, lots of door prizes, and a raffle, and a gathering at Rio Bravo Brewing after the event. Signup sheets and raffle tickets will be available at the next few breakfast meetings.
- ◆ We are in need of speakers and badge board greeters for our upcoming meetings - see the very many empty spaces at the bottom of this page for available dates. There will be sign up sheets on the badge board table when you arrive on Tuesday. Please note your name in the space for the meeting you want. The sign-up sheets will be right there on the table near Lawrence—the last member with enough courage to sign up to greet the smiling crowd. However, if you don't want to wait until Tuesday, or are afraid someone will take the space you want, please contact Mario right away and he will reserve your slot. You can contact him via phone at 505-239-0259 or email: [eagaed@gmail.com](mailto:eagaed@gmail.com).

## Badge Board Greeters

Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>	Lawrence Herrera—Performance Ranch
<b>Sept 05<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>There will not be a meeting – Labor Day Holiday</b>
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	
Oct 03 <sup>rd</sup>	
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	

## Upcoming Speakers

Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>	Discussions to provide solutions for protecting businesses in our communities
<b>Sept 05<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>There will not be a meeting – Labor Day Holiday</b>
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Lorenzen—Aflac
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	John Mead—John Thomas Jewelers
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	
Oct 03 <sup>rd</sup>	
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	

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