

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's speaker was Tim Stewart—Impact Nations



Mr. Stewart is the CEO of Impact Nations, an organization that was founded by his father in 2005. Tim was a member of the corporate business world in Canada for about 6 years before deciding to join Impact Nations on a fulltime basis in 2017. The organization is a 501(c)(3) entity and has major offices in Canada and Australia as well as their International Head Office here in the USA. Their work is faith based, but the group is dedicated to rescuing lives in the developing world, no matter the faith or creed, and without any religious commitment, of the people that they help. Tim noted that his organization helps people in a variety of ways, depending on the most pressing needs of the community that they visit. Impact Nation will go to areas affected by hurricanes or other natural disasters to assist with meals and clean water, and they also go to specific parts of the world to create and improve on strategies and projects that provide long term improvement in the lives of the people that live in those areas. There are many different ways that the Impact Nations' teams have been able to assist those communities that are struggling to grasp even the most basic of needs. Some examples of the work that Tim's group does: Build and improve shelter; Create sustainable food supplies by teaching farming skills; find ways to make good drinking water readily available to individual households and as well as entire communities; Develop education programs that help people learn productive, and needed, skills; Teach business development processes so the individuals can learn how to generate their own revenues; Assist teenage expectant mothers with medical care while pregnant, then with daycare, training and work after the baby is born, so that the mom is able to properly care for her child and build her family. The educational programs that have been improved and expanded over time so that they are currently teaching 15 different topics to over 1,350 students. Not only is the education beneficial, but Impact Nations folks then help the graduating students to find work, or to start their own business. One of Impact Nations' more challenging projects has been to rescue very young children from the brick factories in India and get those children enrolled in schools instead. The difficult process has seen some success and, as of the end of 2023, they have helped 2,900 children make the transition. Some of Impact Nations' work is via ongoing programs and some is through their 'Journeys of Compassion'. Those journeys each involve 30 or so volunteers that will go to an area of the world for a relatively short period of time with a specific project in mind. In April, Tim will be part of a team going to Malawi. On their trip they will take mobile medical units to provide healthcare assistance and they will take supplies and equipment for making drinking water improvements for the residents there. Tim estimates that the medical units will probably see about 1,000 people per day during the trip. The drinking water improvement part of this trip deals with an ever so critical problem that is not limited to Malawi alone. Clean drinking water is an issue often overlooked by many. According to Tim's information, there are about 8 billion people in the world. 6 billion of them take clean drinking water for granted because it is always readily available to them. But that leaves 2 billion people that don't have that security. World agencies that responsible for monitoring those sorts of things say that the problem is not overly serious because 1.5 billion of those folks have 'access to improved water systems'. They define "access" as having an improved water source within 30 minutes of where they live. So by that definition, the people are 'OK' because they can make an hour long trip (usually on foot) to get the few gallons of water that they manage to carry back. Then there is that 'improved water source' classification. In the developing countries, it usually means water from a lake or pond, or maybe a river, that is fit for drinking only if you don't consider that it is also the place where animals go to drink, bathe, and whatever too. In reality, about 1.7 billion people have to drink water from a contaminated source, so one of Impact Nations greatest priorities is to find ways to make quality water readily available, on a long term basis, for those people that currently don't have it. During this morning's presentation, Tim provided examples of the equipment that his organization is currently using to try to alleviate the drinking water problem. They have found an impressive water filter system that is made by Sawyer (a company in Tampa, Florida). The filter units are gravity powered systems that clean water to about 99.97% pure, no matter the source of the water (except they don't work to filter salt water). The units have no moving parts, are easy to transport and make it so that drinkable water is available almost immediately after installation. The filters come in a kit that includes all the necessary components and maintenance materials (although the only maintenance required is a periodic back-flush of the system using the included small syringe). The units are expected to last for 15+ years. The required package is so small that everything mentioned easily fits into a roughly gallon size plastic bag. In order to assess whether or not these units are actually working as well as promoted, Tim's group has set up technology that records statistics for each unit. So far their analysis indicates that these filter units are indeed great things. Over time, the filtered water use has shown a 60% improvement in health for the water users. Cost for them to get the water and treat it is reduced by about 95% and there is nearly a 100% improvement in lost work or school time because of illness. AND IT ONLY COSTS \$75 TO GET A KIT TO THE END USERS! Tim says that 2023 was Impact Nations' best year yet for helping people in the developing countries. If you would like to be a part of something great, you can contact Tim at 877-736-0803 and find out how you can help. Maybe it would be by providing funds to purchase a few dozen of the water filter units; or maybe you can be a member of one of their Journeys of Compassion (or sponsor someone else to be). Ask Tim. He'll be able to provide a few ideas to help you be a wonderful guy.

◆ This morning John Mead presented Tim Stewart with a check for \$1,000 to be used for Impact Nations' world efforts. John Thomas Jewelers took 10% of every EAGA member's purchase during the Christmas holidays, then rounded the total up to an even \$1,000. Tim said that he already knows what they will do with the money. It will be used to help rebuild a facility that was just damage by storms in one of the countries where they work. Thank you, John. What a great thing to do!

◆ First announcement of a new member application:

Express Employment Professionals

Representative: Manuel J Santos

Category: Staffing Company

Sponsor: Hass Aslami

If you have an objection to this company becoming a member, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the review process, please contact Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper (via telephone number 505-259-5959 or email at jdzipper@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

Badge Board Greeters

Jan 23rd Rick Reese—Blue Ristra
Jan 30th Gerald Montoya—Staged2BAmazed
Feb 6th Mike Krepfl—AAA Pumping
Feb 13th Robert Biernacki—WaterQuest
Feb 20th
Feb 27th
Mar 5th
Mar 12th
Mar 19th
Mar 26th Tim Simms—Territorial Scaffolding

Upcoming Speakers

Jan 23rd John Woods—Phocus Real Estate
Jan 30th Daryl Moreland—DLM Southwest Collision
Feb 6th Larry Sonntag—NM Business Coalition
Feb 13th Phil Houser—DSI
Feb 20th Paul Jew—Moji Cinema
Feb 27th
Mar 5th
Mar 12th
Mar 19th
Mar 26th

EAGA Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez
Phone: 505-239-0259 email: eagaed@gmail.com
8100 Wyoming Blvd NE; Suite M4 #345 Albuquerque, NM 87113