## **Mission Statement**

## Hands Across the World

We provide a first contact for newly arrived immigrants who do not have language or living skills necessary to thrive in our community. In a classroom environment we help both children and parents acquire the tools needed to become an integrated citizen of Central Minnesota

## basic philosophy of our program...

Peace and Justice will reign in our world only to the extent that people learn to live together with a respectful attitude toward each other. Basic to building a sense of respect for "the other" is cultivating an interest in and knowledge of "the other's" culture, traditions, as well as political and social/religious expectations. "Others" living in the same, common environment need a common language, and similar educational experiences to be able to relate in a meaningful loving, caring and compassionate manner.

The current refugee and immigrant population transitions occurring in the St. Cloud area, makes it imperative to set up programs that address the needs of both the people-on-the-move as well as those more stable residents in the geographic area.

It is the mission of Hands Across the World to collaborate, compliment, and enhance other existing programs in the area to fulfill the basic language and experiential needs of refugees and immigrants entering this mid-Minnesota scene.

♣ Co- Founder Sr. Tonie Rausch,OSF; September 2006; Updated 2018 by Founder & Executive Director Brianda Cediel, Franciscan Associate.