

Give Hope – Give a Hand

Providing functional prosthetic hands at no cost to recipients.

Letter of Introduction

February 7, 2012

We, the Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation, have delivered over 9,000 LN-4 prosthetic hands, in over 60 countries, since 2005. Our goal is to provide an LN-4 Prosthetic Hand to all who want one, always for free.

We respond to individual requests for our LN-4 hands, and we work with groups, such as Rotary Clubs. We offer any person or group that collects and delivers us a list of 50 or more pre-screened applicants our commitment to deliver LN-4 prosthetic hands and appropriate training, anywhere, at no cost. We always work in a cooperative spirit with partners and recipients.

We manufacture the plastic parts for our hands in California and purchase metal parts from qualified suppliers. We currently process, assemble and deliver about 600 hands per month. We expect this volume to continue to increase.

The EMPH Foundation collects donations to pay for the production of parts, purchase of parts and for some delivery expenses. No one collects a salary, and all logistics, travel and other expenses of our volunteers are personal expenses which are paid by those who do this work. These contributions support our mission as an international community service project.

The LN-4 Prosthetic Hand is not a medical device. It is a simple, low cost, durable, reliable and functional “helper hand”. It is constructed of “coco puff” color, injection molded plastic, with brass and stainless steel metal parts. The LN-4 hand is resistant to water, heat, dirt and salt, with proper care, which is simple cleaning with clear water as needed. The LN-4 hand is strong and, when correctly fit on the recipient’s arm, will support more than 25 pounds of weight.

We provide a replacement LN-4 hand on request and as needed. We do not repair the LN-4 hands, and few have been returned for any malfunction, or any reason. Our limited feedback from recipients after days, months and years of use has been enthusiastic about the LN-4 hands and the changes in their lives.

One size fits all recipients and either the left or right hand. The LN-4 hand is attached easily with Velcro straps and is easily removed by the wearer in a few seconds. The LN-4 hand is delivered to each recipient in a zipper pouch which contains everything required to fit one hand: the LN-4 hand, all straps and illustrated instructions for fitting and simple tasks.

The procedure of fitting the hands is to adjust the straps for the arm length of the recipient, demonstration of the essential grips and how to use of the hand for simple tasks. We train high school students, college students and adult friends and volunteers to assist with the fitting and initial adjustments of the LN-4 hands. We always conduct group training for new recipients, to help support their success using the LN-4 Prosthetic Hand. We love to train more volunteer since we expect our work in each location will expand to help more people.

The LN-4 hand is never sold; we cannot establish a value because the LN-4 hands is always donated and provided for no cost. Much of the effort and cost to design, manufacture and deliver the LN-4 hand is donated. The weight is .88 pounds for each completed zipper pouch.

We are incorporated as a non-profit corporation, 501 c 3, at our address in Ashland, Oregon, USA, following the laws and regulations of the United States and the State of Oregon, where our organization began.

We offer our organization information, Board of Directors, financials, contacts, publications, history, training materials, contact information mission and results on our web site, www.LN-4.org. Our email is EMPHF@LN-4.org.