

SPECIAL REPORTS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Joao Sousa for LWR

Thanks to your love and support, female entrepreneurs, like Amal al Hilabi, are empowered to thrive in business while lifting up others.

Preparing Dishes of Hope ... Seasoned With Your Love

In Saida, Lebanon, the economy is shattered. This makes daily life challenging for everyone — especially the thousands of Syrian refugees who fled their homeland to find peace there.

Life is even harder for women, who aren't granted equal opportunity to pursue higher education, fulfilling work outside of the home or financial independence.

That is the case for Amal al Hilabi. As a Lebanese woman, her resources are limited. Yet she felt a calling to help women refugees.

Amal overcame the odds and created a new culinary business with a powerful mission statement, **"Anyone who wants to have a job can come work here."**

Her business plan is rooted in love and brings eight women refugees together to cook ready-to-

eat traditional Lebanese dishes, like stuffed grape leaves and kibbeh, to sell in local supermarkets.

While the food is delicious and the all-female team enjoys coming together to cook and create, Amal believes something other than food united them.

"It wasn't food — humanity brought us together," she says. "... some people came here with nothing, but I have a love of giving, and I wanted them to have a source of income."

Amal could have generated a decent income for herself by limiting staff and

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A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL



During the Lenten season, we are reminded of the incredible sacrifice of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is a time for repentance and reflection, as we prepare for the

risen Lord and evaluate ways we can be of greater service to our neighbors in need.

The women you help across the globe suffer gravely. Yet instead of succumbing to their plight, they rise above it to better themselves — and others.

Your support brings hope to our neighbors in Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine and those who need you in so many other regions.

As you reflect this Lenten season, please join us in saying an extra prayer for the neighbors you help.

Thank you for your loving support.

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

Called to Love Our Neighbors

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

— John 3:16 (NRSV)



Amal al Hilabi prepares traditional Lebanese dishes to sell at local supermarkets. Kibbeh is a popular item that sells out quickly.

Preparing Dishes of Hope ... Seasoned With Your Love (continued)

increasing business hours, but her love and generous spirit prevailed over a desire to accumulate personal wealth.

She also limits production time in the kitchen to when school is in session so that “everyone can balance their work and family.”

The traditional dishes her team prepares are a popular convenience item for shoppers because they are very time consuming for home cooks to make themselves. As requests for her tasty culinary creations rose, Amal and her team struggled to meet demand with their current equipment.

Thanks to your love and support, Lutheran World Relief purchased a commercial oven and pastry machine for Amal to grow and expand her business.

Today, Amal’s kitchen overflows with the smells of delicious Lebanese cuisine and the sounds of laughter and love from nine women whose lives are forever changed.

You’re helping women across Lebanon break barriers. Like Amal, they can take your loving support to grow their businesses.

From tasty dishes to handmade décor to hair styling and retail, women across Lebanon are creating greater opportunities for themselves — and providing for their families — through the training and business development opportunities your love and generosity provide. ■

Sharing a Legacy of Love and Generosity



Margaret Aydelotte left a generous gift as a Partner in Lasting Promise. Her husband, James, carries on their legacy of giving.

James Aydelotte was a Presbyterian minister and his wife, Margaret, was raised in the Church of England. Yet, they found a shared church home in a Lutheran congregation where James realized he “really liked Lutherans.”

They also discovered Lutheran World Relief and became supporters. “I think their work around the world, particularly in developing countries, drew me in,” James said.

Throughout their 50-year marriage, the couple shared a love of teaching and introducing students to different cultures. Margaret passed away six years ago, leaving a generous gift to LWR from her retirement contributions. The couple also included Lutheran World Relief in their will.

“Our children are doing well, so we wanted to make sure our assets would be helpful to others,” James said.

James remarried, and he and his wife, Susan, remain dedicated to alleviating suffering around the world. They take comfort in knowing they can support neighbors in need long-term through a generous estate gift.

“Suffering anywhere is going to affect everyone everywhere,” James said. “We just need to share more of what we have with people in need.” ■

Your Kindness Uplifts Women Recovering From Trauma

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), rape is an epidemic. This horrific gender-based crime leaves behind life-altering trauma.

Mawazo Bieteko, who resides in Goma, a city in the eastern DRC, is a survivor of this type of gender-based violence. **After she was attacked, she felt lost, ashamed and alone.**

Fortunately, thanks to your love and support, Mawazo was able to find peace and take steps to rebuild her life after trauma through the **Tushinde Ujeuri Project** — as have thousands of other survivors.

The project works in an integrated manner to demonstrate greater acceptance of positive gender roles, improve the availability of community-level GBV-related services and reduce the perceptions of stigma surrounding reintegrated survivors.

Women like Mawazo can partake in community-based trauma-healing services and literacy programs to prepare them to re-enter their communities. They emerge empowered and equipped.

To date, your support has reached over 23,000 survivors who have benefited from this strengthening and healing initiative. Thank you. ■



Your caring heart opened Mawazo's to finding help and peace after devastating trauma.

YOUR LOVE AROUND THE WORLD

Haiti

Your urgent response helped rebuild health centers after the August 2021 earthquake. Your generosity built important improvements to the centers, like wheelchair-access ramps, handwashing stations and medical-waste incinerators. Today, thousands of Haitians who need access to health care have a place to go that can adequately accommodate their needs.

Honduras

Your generosity is reaching rural Honduras, providing youth employment and learning opportunities in the coffee sector. Emerging youth entrepreneurs are strengthening their skills in positions like technical advisers, rural promoters and coffee-quality experts. This hands-on experience allows them to earn an income while realizing their potential in the agriculture field.

South Sudan

Your love helps families learn how to live sustainably and feed their hungry children. Together, we were able to teach lifesaving skills, like kitchen gardening and fishing. You also helped families earn an income from improved post-harvest handling of their crops and fish.

Your gifts and your love are making a difference worldwide.

GIVE CHILDREN AN EGGS-CELLENT SPRING!

Your gift of \$80

Delivers a hen and six chicks to a family in need — providing nourishing eggs and a **sustainable source of income**

Please consider making an investment of love this Easter season.

Gifts of Love



Shop the new spring catalog at giftsoflove.org



Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.



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