

# SPECIAL REPORTS



LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF



Jake Lyell for LWR

Thanks to the love and support from neighbors, like you, Jacqueline's future is now as bright as her smile.

## Planting Seeds of Hope — Growing In Love

Thanks to your loving support, Jacqueline Abitu now enjoys the simplest and purest pleasures of childhood, like jumping rope with friends. Moments like this help her recover from the trauma she endured while fleeing her home in South Sudan.

The ongoing war and devastating violence, coupled with widespread food and water shortages, threatened Jacqueline's precious young life daily.

Nearly 3 million women, children and families were forced to flee South Sudan with just the clothes on their backs. They had little food to eat or clean water to drink as they desperately sought safety and peace.

More than 65,000 of those refugees, including Jacqueline and her family, found a safe haven at

Palabek Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda.

Life at the refugee camp was hard at first. Thousands of people live close together in haphazard mud hut-style houses on small plots. Food was extremely scarce.

Your love shone into that camp, brightening the lives and lightening the burdens of so many of your neighbors who needed help. Thanks to caring people, like you, hope grew alongside abundant crops.

Your love provided high-quality seeds, training techniques for farming dry land as well as education about food

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## A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL



Over the past two years, your global neighbors have suffered catastrophic events. From the crippling pandemic to the devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Western Nepal to

frightened refugees fleeing South Sudan. God bless you for responding with your love when crisis strikes and for sharing your blessings long after the headlines fade away.

Recently, you rushed to the front lines to help earthquake survivors in Türkiye who lost everything. And you've supported families in Ukraine who still need your love as the war continues to ravage their homeland.

It's hard to see our global neighbors, like refugees from Sudan, who — after working tirelessly to lift themselves up out of poverty — are beaten down again by natural disasters and world events outside their control. It is times like these when your support matters most.

Thank you for sharing your love and blessings with our neighbors in their times of greatest need.

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard  
President and CEO

## Called to Love Our Neighbors

"Give, and it will be given to you ... for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

— Luke 6:38 (NRSV)



Refugees from South Sudan now have the tools and resources necessary to earn a sustainable income for their families and support their community through farming.

## Planting Seeds of Hope — Growing In Love (continued)

diversity. Because of you, your neighbors also received farming equipment and tools.

Residents at the camp now have the knowledge, skills and supplies to grow nutritious food — like sweet potatoes, peas,



beans, onions and tomatoes. Because the seeds are high quality, they yield robust harvests — providing enough for parents to feed their children, share some with neighbors, and still have produce left over to sell for income.

Another high-producing vegetable is okra — which is in demand both nationally and internationally. This increased demand prompted the local government to request further support for farmers to produce more of this popular vegetable. One company has expressed an interest in buying up to 500 metric tons of okra from our farming neighbors in the settlement camp!

By extending your love and sharing your blessings, you provided a sustainable source of income and pride for thousands of refugees. They can now rebuild after surviving unthinkable violence. And children like Jacqueline can jump for joy with hope for a happy and healthy future.

Your love makes a real difference. ■



# Your Love at Work in Haiti

On August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck Haiti. This devastating quake killed more than 2,000 of your neighbors and injured more than 13,000.

Haiti's health care facilities were already strained and filled with COVID-19 patients. After the earthquake, nearly half of the centers were damaged or destroyed.

Thanks to your loving heart, we were able to respond to this emergency within the first week — deploying a team to assess health care facilities and distribute relief supplies, such as water-purification systems, tarps and hygiene kits.

Your unwavering support meant we stayed for the long haul, repairing four critical health centers that ultimately cared for more than 130,000 people. Your gifts repaired leaking roofs, electrical systems, water supply systems, cracked walls, toilets, shower blocks and septic tanks.

You also filled these centers with medical supplies, wound care kits, tubing and 50,000 water purification tabs.

After a global pandemic and devastating earthquake, sharing your love brought care and healing to your neighbors in need. **Thank you. ■**



Your love continues to heal the suffering hearts of your neighbors in Haiti who now have access to health care and clean water.

# A Renewed Outlook on Life and Service

When a lifesaving operation caused Jackie Thorsen to lose her eye, she and her husband Lloyd's faith became clearer and grew stronger.



*For over 50 years, Faithful Neighbors Jackie and Lloyd Thorsen have dedicated their lives to serving others.*

As Jackie recovered, Lloyd says they found themselves sensing that all would be well. "That drove us to having more faith, more prayer time and more serious thinking about the future and what it might hold. Those were the days we grew most in our faith ..."

In 1971, they flew to India with their three young daughters for a year-long field work trip with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) after a cyclone ravaged Bangladesh.

Lloyd helped displaced families in a refugee camp and Jackie taught at the American International School.

Upon returning to the United States, Lloyd accepted an early retirement package from his position as a telephone company executive and graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to become a pastor — continuing his call to serve.

Now, well into their late 80s, Lloyd and Jackie remain committed to LWR's mission.

"We have supported LWR since the early 1970s because I've seen the goodness that LWR provides for people in need around the world," Lloyd says. "Where there is need, LWR is there to help and stays there to help them continue on. That's why Jackie and I are very supportive of LWR with whatever means we have."

While they can no longer rush to the front lines, Jackie and Lloyd remain there in their hearts and through the generosity of their monthly gifts as **Faithful Neighbor. ■**

# YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

## Ukraine

*Your love wrapped frightened women, children and families in love. Because of your urgent response, families who fled war and violence received nearly 28,000 care kits and warmed up with more than 17,590 quilts. They also ate hot meals and found safe shelter when they needed it most.*

## Democratic Republic of Congo

*Your gifts gave children a healthy start to life. Thanks to your caring heart, 733,427 children recovered from the dangers of malnutrition. They now receive healthy and diverse foods that give them the nutrients they need for strong bodies and healthy minds.*

## Yemen

*Your lasting commitment continues to save lives. Your gifts provided nearly 1,500 people with sustainable rainwater collection systems and ceramic water filters. Since most of Yemen depends on rainwater collection, these tools enable families to purify their water, reducing the occurrence of waterborne diseases.*

**Your loving gifts are changing lives.**



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