

SPECIAL REPORTS



Your handcrafted quilt wrapped Natalia in warmth and love when she needed it most.

Standing With Our Neighbors in Ukraine — Thanks to Your Love

Two years ago, you rushed to the aid of Ukrainian families who lost everything when war erupted in their homeland. And you've continued to support them every day since.

From mobile clinics that deliver lifesaving medical care ... to hot meals prepared with love ... from safe shelters built to last ... to comforting quilts stitched with care, you continue to reach your neighbors when, how and where they need help most.

I'm grateful to report to you that they feel your loving support.

Neighbors, like Natalia Chernenka, were comforted by the warmth of handmade quilts. When the Russians invaded, "they would bombard us with missiles as constant as fireworks," she said.

These violent missile attacks demolished their roof and ruined their makeshift tarp — leaving them totally exposed to the elements.

"This quilt is very important to us," Natalia shared. **"Everything is destroyed, so at least we can cover ourselves. Thank you for not forgetting us."**

To date, you've wrapped over 17,590 quilts around your Ukrainian neighbors!

In May, more than 6,000 of your neighbors in Kharkiv, Ukraine, received vegetable seeds, fertilizer, farming tools, chickens and more to restore or establish small farms.

Additionally, families who fled violence and are now living in group shelters in Kharkiv, will receive support to start kitchen or backyard gardens to provide

continued inside ...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ **Your Love at Work in Ukraine**
- ▶ **A Message From Daniel**
- ▶ **Donor Spotlight — Gary McKown and Jill Meuser**
- ▶ **And More!**

A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL



It's hard to believe this February marked two years since Russia invaded Ukraine. This devastating war has ravaged Ukraine and uprooted millions of our global neighbors.

You rushed to their aid with unprecedented support — the largest response of its kind in Lutheran World Relief's history. Your love was woven through quilts to provide warmth, filtered through drinkable water and built into safe shelter.

And your caring heart didn't stop there.

You shared your blessings by supporting our 2024 Hunger Challenge to Save Lives. And thank God you did. Because we are seeing the worst hunger crisis in history. Your gifts filled hungry tummies and warmed weary hearts — providing hope for a more bountiful future.

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

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." — Romans 15:13 (NRSV)



Nadia and her two-year-old son Kyrylo were forced to flee their home when Russia invaded Ukraine. When they lost everything, your loving support delivered a warm quilt and a lifesaving kit filled with essential supplies.

Standing with Our Neighbors in Ukraine — Thanks to Your Love (continued)

healthy and fresh food for their families for months.

There are still so many neighbors who didn't have the resources to leave Ukraine. One mother shared that she lives in fear every day that she will die at any moment. And because there are mines and broken glass everywhere, she's terrified to let her son go out to run and play.

We also worry about our elderly neighbors who could not flee and lost their loved ones. Many of their homes have been looted and occupied by enemy troops. They are isolated.

While others have forgotten our Ukrainian neighbors who feel alone and scared — you have not.

When our team is there delivering supplies, they are overwhelmed by gratitude from your Ukrainian sisters and brothers who want you to know they feel your love, saying, "Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for providing this food, this place to stay. **Thank you for remembering us.**" ■

Your Love Grows Community ... and Cocoa

You are cultivating sustainability and uplifting your neighbors in Ecuador.

Together, we've taken an innovative approach to cocoa production — creating community plant nurseries! These nurseries are built to last and planted with love.

They also emphasize organic production. To date, no synthetic chemicals have been used on these hearty crops.

An added bonus to the community nurseries is the preservation of the endangered Nacional cacao variety. After receiving critically needed technical advice, local cacao farmers now manage the nurseries and have successfully cultivated 11,000 Nacional cacao plants to share with fellow cacao farmers.

By extending your loving hand, you are uniting communities around cacao or — as it is known by your neighbors in Ecuador, the “pepa de oro” (golden bean) — and providing lasting incomes for God's children who need you. **Thank you.** ■



A group of San Isidro cacao farmers — ranging in age from 30 to 60 — have strengthened Nacional cacao variety production by sharing the plants with fellow farmers.



Equipped with the essential training and tools your generous gifts provide, the community plant nurseries are now completely managed by small cacao farmers in Ecuador.

A Tradition of Trust



Gary McKown and Jill Meuser have been faithful supporters of Lutheran World Relief for 40 years and plan to continue their tradition of support well into the future.

When Gary McKown and Jill Meuser were deciding how they could best leave a legacy for the future, they looked no further than their past.

Jill's paternal grandfather, Henry William Christian Meuser, was a pastor during WWI and was known for sharing prayers for U.S. servicemen, referring to them as “our boys.”

So when the refugee crisis emerged in Europe as a result of WWII, family connections reached out to Jill's grandfather for help. To increase the impact, their congregation joined with Lutherans all over the country who were trying to support their neighbors overseas.

Lutheran World Relief was born!

Decades later, Jill and Gary felt it was important to include Lutheran World Relief in their estate — continuing the tradition of trust and support.

“In leaving a share from our estate, we know our little bit will be added to lots of other little bits and will be multiplied by Lutheran World Relief to have a huge impact on the lives of others,” Jill said. “We trust in Lutheran World Relief to represent us well now and into the future.” ■

YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

Honduras

Your lasting commitment delivers hope for the future. For too many youths, migration was the only option for a sustainable future. But faithful supporters like you are changing their story, empowering youth entrepreneurs to strengthen their skills in positions within Honduras like technical advisers, rural promoters and coffee quality experts.

Türkiye

Your gifts comforted children who had nowhere else to turn. Children who survived the earthquake faced the daunting journey to recovery, which was difficult on their young minds and hearts. You provided access to programs that improved their well-being, like the opportunity to learn robotics, while connecting with their peers and psychologists.

Sierre Leone

Your love heals. Thanks to your caring heart, we partnered with local church health systems to ensure lifesaving medical care reaches God's children who need it.

Your loving gifts give hope for the future.



How can
YOUR LOVE
reach **FURTHER?**
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Gifts of Love

Your gift today of \$100 delivers
a goat to a family in need providing
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Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.



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