

SPECIAL REPORTS



You held little Aliou and his hardworking grandmother, Deba, in your heart when they needed it most.

Walking in Faith With Your Neighbors in Mali

Deba Souko is a busy grandmother who lives with her family in a community of mud-constructed houses in Mali. Her primary job is taking care of her 1-year-old grandson, Aliou, so her daughter can work in the fields. Occasionally, Deba also does hired farm work to help boost the family income.

Deba enjoys cooking the daily meals, but this task has become incredibly daunting. Food prices are increasing by 100% or more, and the field harvest this year was not bountiful. Despite rationing, she's having a hard time finding enough food for everyone.

The weather in Mali can be devastating for crops, and the last few years have been especially destructive. Last year, the fields could not grow due to drought. This year, the other extreme — flooding — destroyed most of their millet.

The lack of food also hindered the growth of precious little Aliou.

One way to gauge a child's growth is to measure the width of their arms with a special band. If the child is healthy, the band registers green. But when a community health worker measured Aliou's arm during a routine screening, the band registered a dangerous color red, confirming Deba's fear that Aliou was starving and not growing properly.

The lack of nutrients was also prohibiting his ability to thrive and zapping his energy.

"Aliou was about to start walking, but he couldn't because of the lack of food,"

Deba shared.

Thankfully, your love reached Deba, Aliou and their family just in time.

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A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL



Summer is a time to relax a bit and reflect on our blessings. I know I'm thankful for compassionate neighbors, like you, who join a long tradition of faith-filled

individuals who care about helping God's suffering children around the world.

Your love and support reached Deba and her family when they needed it most. This strong and hardworking grandmother can now rest a little easier knowing her grandson is getting the nourishment he needs to grow and thrive.

You also helped your neighbors in the Philippines grow the hardy purple yam — providing a sustainable source of food and income for this special community.

Their faith — and your love — bore a glorious bounty.

Thank you for continuously sharing your blessings.

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

Called to Love Our Neighbors

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." — Proverbs 3:5-6 (NRSV)



Jake Lyell for LWR

Deba works hard in the millet fields to raise a little income to help feed her young grandson. You help lighten her heavy load.

Walking in Faith With Your Neighbors in Mali (continued)

Your generous gifts helped 1,200 vulnerable families, like Deba's, purchase food and fertilizer at reduced prices. These love-packed kits included fertilizer, millet and rice.

"It's hard to get sleep worrying until the morning," Deba said. "Will I find breakfast for the children the next day or not? But if, thanks be to God, you do have millet in your house that you can use every morning, there is nothing more reassuring than this."

Thanks to this steady supply of nutrients, Aliou is growing. His arm band is now yellow, and he is on a steady upward growth track.

Deba and her family still have some hurdles to overcome to ensure they do not face severe hunger again next year. They have hope that the fertilizer you helped provide will yield a robust harvest to eat and extra to sell for income.

Because of your continued support, little Aliou will soon be able to walk to his grandmother — healthy and strong.
God bless you. ■

Donor Spotlight

You Are Cultivating a Brighter Future

Because of you, the purple yam, or ube, is feeding an entire community in the Philippines in more ways than one.

Flat land and harsh weather conditions made farming rice and vegetables difficult for Angelita, a 74-year-old active farmer and member of the Tagbanua tribe.

Angelita and her community were struggling to harvest enough food to survive ... until caring neighbors, like you, sowed the seeds of the hardy purple yam into their lives.



Angelita and her community can now farm without tainting their water supply. Clean, fresh water is life! Thank you.

Thanks to your generous gifts, Angelita was able to learn the importance of properly preparing the land before planting and other critical farming techniques for her region.

“We learned how to cultivate purple yam the right way. We have been used to ‘plant and forget,’ leaving it to chance whether the crops grow or die,” Angelita said. “But with our purple yam, it is different. We learned a lot.”

Thank you for cultivating lasting hope for this special community. ■



Angelita is grateful to you for helping her community grow the incredibly healthy and versatile purple yam.

Sharing 100,000 Times the Love



Werner Fick has dedicated his retirement to equipping children with the tools they need to learn and grow.

Many retirees spend their days enjoying leisurely pastimes, like golf, travel and long lunches. **Werner Fick chose a retirement filled with servitude.**

Werner started assembling school kits about 13 years ago when he learned that some children in remote parts of the world can't attend school without proper supplies.

What started as a small-scale labor of love has blossomed into a booming operation!

“Let us dream big, be bold in our efforts, be gracious, be generous, lead with love and never forget to say thank you,” Werner said of the mission that drives him.

To date, Werner has assembled an incredible 100,000 school kits, which includes buying the supplies, assembling kits, recruiting helpers and making deliveries to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Minnesota.

Werner is proud of the children he helps. Being moved to tears by a photo of a young girl who received a school kit he assembled, he reflected, “The picture on that poster inspires me every day.”

Already a generous supporter, Werner identified Lutheran World Relief as a recipient in his will, ensuring his labor of love will long endure. ■

YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

Guatemala

Your compassion is empowering communities. Small farmers are now attending educational workshops to learn how to yield large quantities of high-quality cacao to earn an income. The training is also building community, as farmers are sharing what they learn with fellow cacao farmers improving the quality of life for all.

Türkiye

Your gifts shielded those who lost everything. Over the past year, your compassion reached 10,610 people who needed it most after the devastating earthquakes. You provided everything from basic necessities, like personal hygiene kits, to building new container homes.

Peru

You planted seeds of hope to harvest a brighter tomorrow. Families in the most remote regions could not farm a variety of nutrient-rich foods. You helped provide training, seeds and greenhouses. They now have at least 10 new types of food to add to their family diet, giving children a healthier start to life.

Your loving gifts give hope for the future.

LET YOUR LOVE FLOURISH, AND JOIN

Partners in Lasting Promise

By leaving a share of your estate to Lutheran World Relief, your love can leave an enduring footprint into the future and create a better world for children around the world.

Planning your estate is easy when you use **FreeWill** our free, online will-writing service. From the comfort of your own home, you can turn your love for your most vulnerable neighbors into a lasting promise for the future.



Create your free and legally-binding will today at **LWR.ORG/FREEWILL**.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**



Jake Lyell for LWR

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



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