

SPECIAL REPORTS



You wrapped Frosia in your love, provided her with comfort and care, and helped nurse her back to health.

Your Caring Heart Still Beats Throughout Ukraine

Think for a moment about your grandmother or similar senior figure in your life. Someone older than you who nurtured you like no one else. She probably spoiled you a little and always made sure to have your favorite snack on hand. Someone who you loved unconditionally.

Someone like Frosia — a 96-year-old woman from Ukraine.

The homeland she loved and the place where she made so many memories was being ravaged by the violent war. She didn't know what to do and didn't want to leave her beloved home.

By the grace of God and your loving support, she was discovered in her basement by caring friends in faith, like you.

She was in bad shape — suffering from multiple broken bones and starving.

Thankfully, your caring heart comforted this fragile grandmother. And your love gave her strength. She was taken to a safe space with other seniors, where she received warm, nourishing food and surgery to heal her many wounds.

Frosia is one loving example of the 50,000 lives your love has reached in Ukraine. While it has been over two years since Russia invaded Ukraine, the needs are great and continue to grow.

In fact, 14.6 million people will need humanitarian support, such as food, shelter and medical care, in 2024. That is over a third of the country's population!

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A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL



Thank you for your dedicated love and support for your neighbors who continue to suffer in Ukraine. It's hard to believe it's been more than two years since Russia invaded this beautiful

country, causing catastrophic destruction that has affected more than 14 million of God's innocent children.

While the TV cameras and reporters have long since moved on, we have remained steadfast — providing safe shelter, food, mobile medical clinics, quilts, personal and baby care kits and an abundance of love.

Your generous gifts allow us to rush to meet the needs of our suffering neighbors when our help is urgently needed ... and then utilize our decades of experience to respond in the most effective way for as long as we're needed.

While we can't predict how long this war will last — or when the next disaster or emergency will happen — I am grateful to know we can always count on you to respond and share your love to help care for your neighbors in need.

Thank you and God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

Called to Love Our Neighbors

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." — 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NRSV)



Seniors, like Frosia, who could not flee for safety, have suffered greatly during the War in Ukraine. Your caring gifts provide comforting quilts, lifesaving personal care kits and safe shelter when they are needed most.

Your Caring Heart Still Beats Throughout Ukraine (continued)

Thanks to your dedicated support, we will remain in Ukraine, alongside your neighbors like dear Frosia, for as long as it takes.

God bless you. ■

The war continues ... but so does your support

Your neighbors in Ukraine have suffered the immense casualties of war for over two years. As this devastating war rages on, the need for continued support is increasing. Thank you for not giving up on God's children in Ukraine — they can feel your love.

YOUR LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT IN 2023



295,117 safe nights of sleep have been provided to people affected by the war.



50,000 Ukrainians have been reached thanks to your loving support.



12,400 patients have been treated in the mobile medical clinic you help fund.



141,512 lovingly handmade quilts and personal hygiene and baby kits have been distributed across Ukraine.

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Say Cheese!

While cheesy foods like pizza, a grilled cheese sandwich and macaroni and cheese were childhood staples for many of us growing up, Ana's children never experienced the joy of tasting warm, gooey cheese.

In the remote community of Cruz Pata, located high in the Andes Mountains of Peru, they don't have access to many diverse foods. Family diets are filled primarily with grains and potatoes, which don't contain enough nutrients to maintain good health.

The lack of abundant protein and vitamins in the children's diets leads to malnourishment and anemia, which can seriously affect their ability to grow up healthy and strong.

Thanks to your generous support, Ana was given the opportunity to attend educational courses where she learned how to better care for her livestock and make delicious, nutrient-rich, artisanal cheeses. And it's been life-changing for Ana's family.

"I sell my cheeses in the market, at the fair," Ana says. She goes on to explain that she uses her profits "for education, for food, for everything — for the livelihood of my home. It's also supporting the studies of my children and their diet."

Thank you for empowering loving mothers to change their families' lives ... for good. ■



Your generous gifts help neighbors like Ana learn the most efficient ways to farm to harvest ample crops to feed their families. They also learn how to best package, market and sell their products, so they're also able to earn an income.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Crystal Stafford sharing your love in South Sudan.

A First-Ever Look Behind the Scenes in South Sudan

Your neighbors in South Sudan continue to suffer one of the world's worst and longest-enduring humanitarian crises. You see, two-thirds of God's children in South Sudan are living in extreme poverty and — due to ongoing violence — millions live their lives in fear or on the run.

Severe, recurring flooding also leaves entire communities stranded for months at a time.

Thanks to your generous gifts, our own Crystal Stafford visited your neighbors in South Sudan to deliver your loving support and check in with suffering mothers, children and families.

She visited Nyaluit, a loving mother who feared for her children's lives. Besides the ongoing threat of violence, her children were malnourished and contracted measles.

Crystal stayed in a humble camp, fearing for her life.

"I lay awake scared and alone in my tent, listening to automatic weapons blasting through the night. I thought to myself, 'This is what Nyaluit has gone through many nights of her life — lying there awake and scared holding her children close. I can do this for one more night.'" ■



▶ Scan this code to watch a short video. Crystal will take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of her time spent in Ayod, South Sudan.

YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

United States

You reached global neighbors close to home. After the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed in March, 11 ships were stuck in the Port of Baltimore. This disaster struck just miles from our headquarters, and thanks to you, we could rush to the stranded seafarers with LWR Quilts and Personal Care Kits. After all, these hardworking neighbors make our worldwide distribution of quilts and kits possible!

Liberia

Your love rushed to save lives. In December 2023, a fuel tanker exploded, killing 89 of our neighbors and badly burning nearly 100 more. Your generous gifts helped send urgently needed shipments of supplies and medications to treat survivors. Your caring hand also delivered rice and other food items to those whose lives and livelihoods were destroyed.

Haiti

Your gifts shielded those who face grave danger. Despite the ongoing violence and turmoil, we are reaching mothers, babies and families living in dangerous and unstable circumstances with lifesaving food and medicine. This wouldn't be possible without your love.

Your loving gifts rush lifesaving aid to your neighbors.

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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