

2024 ANNUAL REPORT FOR CONGREGATIONS

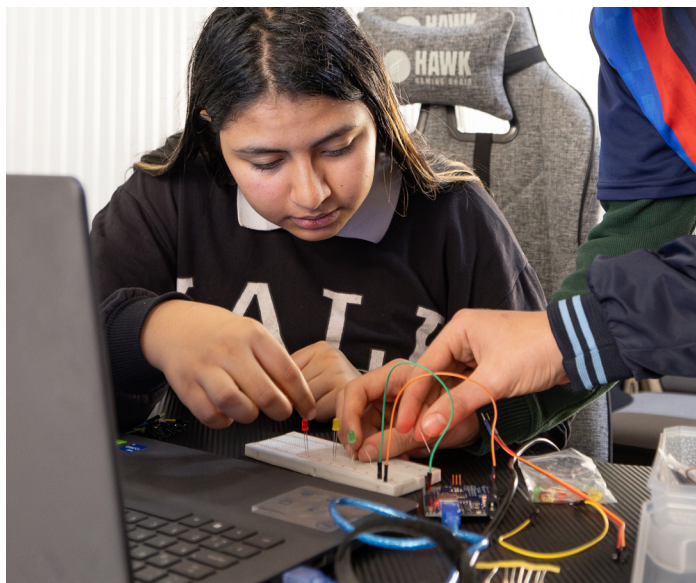


80 YEARS.

That's how long congregations like yours have shined Christ's light in the world through Lutheran World Relief. What started as a response to World War II has grown into an outpouring of love for every neighbor in need, everywhere in the world.

Wherever there is war, disaster or poverty, your compassion is there to offer help and hope. And in 2024, our ministry together has expanded to reach our neighbors here in the United States. Thank you for making history with us!

Watch the **80th anniversary**
video at lwr.org/80



Dilan Cabiroğcu working on a robotics project at the youth center.

IN TIMES OF CRISIS: TÜRKIYE 📍

SITUATION: In February 2023, massive earthquakes **destroyed 90% of the buildings** in the city of Antakya. More than **50,000 people died**, and nearly **2 million became homeless** in what survivors called an “apocalyptic” disaster.

IMPACT: Your congregation's generosity meant emergency supplies reached the epicenter in record time. Since the quakes, you have provided **hot meals, clean water, LWR Quilts & Kits, temporary shelter** and even longer-term container homes to help families get back on their feet.

For a tragedy of this magnitude, the scars of emotional trauma run deep. In a matter of minutes, our neighbors lost their homes, jobs and loved ones. Schools were destroyed, and playgrounds were filled with rubble and broken glass. As families work to rebuild their lives, you are helping them heal.

Seventeen-year-old Dilan Cabiroğcu's family was grateful to move into their new container home, built with your support, after losing everything. But she soon grew bored and listless. She watched her father fall into depression. Dilan still attends school online, because hers is too damaged to open in person.

Everything changed when she started hanging out at a **youth-friendly community center** that — through your generosity — offers **games, sports, activities, classes and counseling** for teens. The goal is to help youth process the disaster and find hope for the future. Today, Dilan has a new outlook. She's attending counseling to address her trauma and, inspired by the opportunities you've provided, is dreaming of being a nurse.

“Here, I learn new things and meet new people, my head is cleared, and I become more energetic,” she said. “If it wasn't for this place, I would probably still be experiencing the shock of the earthquake.”

QUILTS & KITS: UNITED STATES

SITUATION: In September, Lutheran World Relief announced that the Quilt & Kit Ministry was expanding to reach our neighbors in the U.S. Unexpectedly, hurricanes Helene and Milton ravaged communities in North Carolina, Florida and beyond just days later.

IMPACT: Thanks to the quilters and kit makers who faithfully fill our shelves, LWR began packing trucks before the storms reached land. An initial shipment of **10 truckloads of Quilts & Kits** were distributed in hard-hit communities in North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. Immediately after the storms, your generosity also made it possible to rush bottled water and other essentials to western North Carolina and Florida. Then we provided cash grants to our local partners to **distribute food, water and other urgently needed supplies** to provide comfort and dignity to families in their time of need.



Edward Lynch lives at a shelter for homeless veterans in Asheville, North Carolina. After Helene flooded their home, all 165 residents were moved to a hotel until the shelter can be rebuilt. Edward was excited to pick out his LWR quilt. “I’d just like to say thank you to the people that put their time and love and patience in making these beautiful blankets for everybody,” he said. “It is going to remind me where I’ve been and where I’m going. **I can say I got this when I lost everything, and this is one of the first, nicest things I got.** And it gave me something to hold on to in the midst of a crisis.”



Gabriel Gatluak, who is disabled, and his family received seeds and support when they arrived at the camp. Today, Gabriel works for LWR to support other new arrivals to the camp. Watch a video about him at lwr.org/gabriel

FOR THE LONG TERM: SOUTH SUDAN

SITUATION: Violence, grinding poverty and four years of extreme flooding have uprooted over 4 million people. While this is an urgent crisis, you are helping families learn skills to thrive in difficult circumstances.

IMPACT: Your compassion has traveled to the hardest-to-reach displacement camps, where exhausted families arrive starving, traumatized and empty-handed after walking for days.

When they arrive, your love greets them with a medical screening to check for malnutrition. Parents with malnourished children receive nutrition counseling and support, along with seeds and training on how to grow a variety of nourishing foods in their home gardens.

Congregations like yours have also made it possible for 10,000 people — primarily widows and single mothers — to receive **livelihoods training** in fishing, raising poultry or vegetable farming. They also learn the basic business and financial skills needed to launch small businesses to sell their products. Thanks to your enduring compassion, food security has increased by 50% among camp residents. Malnutrition has significantly decreased, and thousands of people have lifelong skills and stable ways to feed and support their families.

Your compassion makes all of this possible. THANK YOU!
Until **your love** reaches every **neighbor.**