



# SPECIAL REPORTS



LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

SPRING 2025

Without power or water at her own home, Linda Kinsinger didn't hesitate to help distribute quilts and kits for local veterans who lost everything in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Linda can't wait until her quilting group can get back to work.

## Your Love Delivered Calm After the Storm ... Right Here at Home

You have shared your blessings with neighbors in need all over the world, and your love continues to expand right here in the United States.

After devastating Hurricanes Milton and Helene struck, your generosity helped deliver 10 shipping containers of our Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits to hard-hit areas across North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee in record time!

Your generous gifts also rushed hygiene and baby care items and school supplies. For your neighbors who saw their possessions get washed away, these essentials offered comfort, dignity and a glimmer of hope and love in the depths of tragedy.

Thanks to your boundless support, we were also able to send cash grants to local organizations so they can expand their efforts on the front lines to lift up communities and meet the urgent needs of struggling families. By sharing your blessings, these partner organizations can now reach even more people with nourishing food, clean water, safe transportation and so much more.

**continued inside ...**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Sheltering Your Neighbors Who Served**
- **A Message From Daniel**
- **Humanitarian Spotlight**
- **And More!**





## A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

In 1945, our Lutheran forebearers had a vision — to join together and shine Christ's light upon the world. They led with their compassionate hearts to boldly respond to the needs of our neighbors in Europe after World War II.

Today, 80 years later, we have learned from those generous souls who came before us, and our organization has grown. Together, we go to the hardest to reach locations — the front lines of war... into the rubble after natural disasters ... to places where cars can't even go! And, we remain, for as long as we're needed, to stand alongside families as they recover and rebuild.

**Thank you for growing with us and continuing the legacy of love that began 80 years ago and continues to grow — until your love reaches every neighbor — near or far!**

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard  
President and CEO



## Sheltering your neighbors who served (continued)

Edward Lynch (pictured above) served our nation in the Persian Gulf as a United States Marine. As he worked to rebuild his life, he moved into the Veterans Restoration Quarters, which provides relief services for veterans who do not have homes. When Hurricane Helene struck, the entire shelter was flooded — causing all 165 residents to find themselves searching for home ... again.

Thankfully, your compassion reached these service members with comforting quilts — wrapping them in love when they needed it most.

“When I lost everything, this is one of the first and nicest things I got,” Edward says of his LWR Mission Quilt. “And it gave me something to hold onto in the midst of a crisis.”

In Tampa, your fast-acting generosity helped those who were suffering from homelessness prior to the storm. This vulnerable population found the tents they were living in and all their possessions completely washed away when Hurricane Milton struck.

Your compassionate heart helped deliver new tents as well as nourishing food, transportation, employment assistance and medical and dental services for your fragile neighbors.

**Thank you for acting quickly and caring so deeply for your neighbors right here at home who needed help. God bless you. ■**

## Called to Love Our Neighbors

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” — Psalm 46:1 (NRSV)



# A New Initiative Fueled by Your Love

Salamatu is one of the lucky ones. In Sierra Leone, where Salamatu lives, one-third of girls are forced to drop out of school by age 12 — and about half of kids her age have to work hard to help support their families.



**1 in 3**  
Sierra Leonean girls who attend school **drop out by the age of 12.**



Half of Sierra Leoneans reported **lack of income** as a top **barrier in accessing education.**



**Nearly 50%** of Sierra Leonean women have **never attended school.**

Fortunately, Salamatu is blessed to be able to start her day by going to school. She loves learning and excels in her favorite subjects, grammar and reading. She has the freedom to dream about her future, which includes becoming a nurse.

This dream is possible thanks to Salamatu's Aunt Fatmata, who was determined her niece would not have the same life she lived. You see, Fatmata was only in fourth grade when she had to drop out of school. Her father died, and she had to help care for her family. That's why Fatmata is determined to pay for Salamatu's education with what little money she has.

**But there are so many girls who don't have a champion, like Fatmata, to help them realize their dreams. Luckily, they do have YOU!**

Thanks to your faithful support, we recently launched a pilot program to address barriers that get in the way of girls' education. We look forward to sharing more about this initiative with you! ■



## DID YOU KNOW?

**For every additional year a girl can stay in school, her earning potential as an adult soars by 20%.**

## Humanitarian Spotlight

### Celebrating a Century of Service



Glendale Lutheran Church in Burien, Washington, hosted its final service on

Easter 2023. While its doors may have closed, one faithful parishioner made sure it would be remembered forever.

Thelma Dill — who turned 100 this October — has many special memories dating back to the church's earliest days. The church opened just two years before Thelma moved from Brownsville, Ohio, to Washington, where she met her fiancé, Joe, just before he left to fight in World War II in 1943.

Shortly after he returned to the U.S., the couple was married at Glendale Lutheran. A few years later their son, Greg, was baptized and confirmed at the same church.

Thelma became an active member of the quilting ministry — stitching her love into countless quilts well into her 90s. She only stopped when her eyesight started to fail.

Thelma and Joe always thought they would include Glendale Lutheran in their estate planning because, as Thelma states, "The church was the center of our lives." Upon its closing, Thelma instead included Lutheran World Relief in those plans so she could help as many people as possible. Thelma is an active giver today, saying that she and Greg "have everything they need."



Thelma honored her beloved Glendale Lutheran by funding a brick in our Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza that reads: Glendale Evangelical Lutheran Burien, WA.

We are grateful for Thelma and celebrate her beautiful 100 years of love and faith. ■



# YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

## Ukraine

*Your love perseveres.* As the war in Ukraine continues into its third year, your unwavering support is helping us continue to meet urgent needs by providing surgical supplies, portable ultrasound machines and other necessities after a children's hospital was struck by a missile in Kyiv.

## Nigeria

*Your kindness is growing lasting solutions.* With your support, more than 51,000 cacao farmers in Nigeria are learning new farming techniques to improve their productivity – even through unpredictable weather. Your generosity is helping farmers increase their incomes and provide brighter futures for their families and communities.

## South Sudan

*Your love traveled by land and sea.* Your compassionate heart is reaching families who have fled violence and found themselves searching for shelter, food and safety in unknown lands surrounded by flood waters. Your gifts helped purchase a motorboat to transport supplies and medical equipment. It also serves as an ambulance to take patients to the hospital – cutting a five-hour canoe trip to just one hour!

**Your steadfast support is saving lives.**

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

Your gift today of \$100 delivers  
a goat to a family in need providing  
a source of lasting blessings.

**Delight someone you love.**  
**Transform lives. No matter how far.**



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Jake Lyell for LWR

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



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