

You Helped Harvest Hope and Comfort in Ukraine

You may remember meeting Nadia, a 63-year-old farmer and grandmother from Ukraine whose heart was broken as she watched her family farm become the front line of war. Though her home and land were quickly overtaken by heavy shelling, she couldn't bring herself to leave her beloved homestead to flee for safety.

“The village became a front line, and almost everyone left after the occupation” recalls Nadia. “I was one of only four households who remained.”

A loving provider her entire life, the thought of not being able to work the land she loved so much to feed her family was devastating.

Thankfully, you shared your blessings with grandmothers like Nadia, turning her hopelessness into a bountiful harvest.

Her area was eventually liberated, but there was so much work to do to recover her land.

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A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

As we close out our special 80th year of celebration and reflection, we realize that styles and fashions have changed.

Technologies have increased. But one thing remained consistent — each and every year throughout Lutheran World Relief’s history, friends like you have provided help, hope, healing and love to our neighbors in need.

Since our inception in 1945, kindhearted neighbors like you have answered the call to care for God’s children in need. And you continue to answer that call, shining your light into the world’s darkest places and across borders. You’ve fed, clothed, sheltered and comforted your neighbors when they needed it most.

This year — which was a special year of expansion and change — you shared your compassion right here at home. We helped our neighbors weather hurricanes on the East Coast and rebuild after wildfires ravaged the West Coast. You helped God’s children after deadly tornadoes hit the Midwest and comforted families after violent floods washed away communities in central Texas.

Thank you for being Christ’s hands and feet on Earth whenever and wherever your neighbors need you.



God bless you,

Daniel Speckhard

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO



You Helped Harvest Hope and Comfort in Ukraine (continued)

Thanks to your compassionate heart, Nadia received “borscht seeds,” which included tomato, cabbage, onions, carrots, beets, and dill seeds along with lids for canning and preserving the harvested vegetables. Borscht is a popular soup in Ukraine, and these seeds help families make this meal that brings them together with warming comfort throughout cold Ukrainian winters.



Nadia was pleased with the quality of the seeds and even shared some with her neighbors, who are also recovering from the trauma of war.

Your gifts also delivered essential agricultural tools to support the maintenance of her farm, including a grass cutter, chainsaw and an electric water sprayer. When October hit and the weather grew colder, Nadia harvested all the vegetables she planted.

“I cooked and ate the vegetables, made borscht, and the rest have been stored in the cellar,” Nadia shares.

Now, her cellar shelves are lined with jars of tomato, beets, onions, tomato juice — an essential ingredient for borscht — and many pickled variations of the vegetables. When she hears that satisfying “pop” of the canning jar, she thinks of kind neighbors, like you, who provided the special canning lids to help her food last through the winter.



You’ve also helped Nadia continue to grow and thrive in her occupation. She’s attended multiple lectures and training sessions funded by your loving support. Nadia has learned how to prevent pests from infecting her crops and now knows new and innovative agriculture methods to increase her harvests.

Through tears, Nadia says, “Your support has helped me so much — it has lifted my life.” ○

Called to Love Our Neighbors



“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.”



A Hero's Journey: How Your Compassion Supports Gabriel's Mission in South Sudan

When Gabriel stepped on a landmine during South Sudan's fight for liberation, his life changed forever. He lost his leg and spent 10 grueling years recovering in Kenya. Yet, he returned home just in time to witness his country's hard-won independence.

Gabriel and his wife, Nyalony, were filled with hope. Their daughter, Tethcoay, had just been born. Her bright eyes and warm spirit were the new beginning they needed. For a few precious years, they embraced the joy of parenthood and the hope of a peaceful life.

But peace was short-lived.

Catastrophic flooding swept across South Sudan, submerging nearly every state. Gabriel's family, like hundreds of thousands of others, was forced to flee. They arrived in Ayod with nothing but the clothing on their backs and hunger in their bellies. They worried about their sweet baby girl.

That's where your generosity joined their journey.


Because of your compassion, baby Tethcoay received immediate treatment to supplement for the lack of nutrients her body was receiving — she was starving and malnourished.

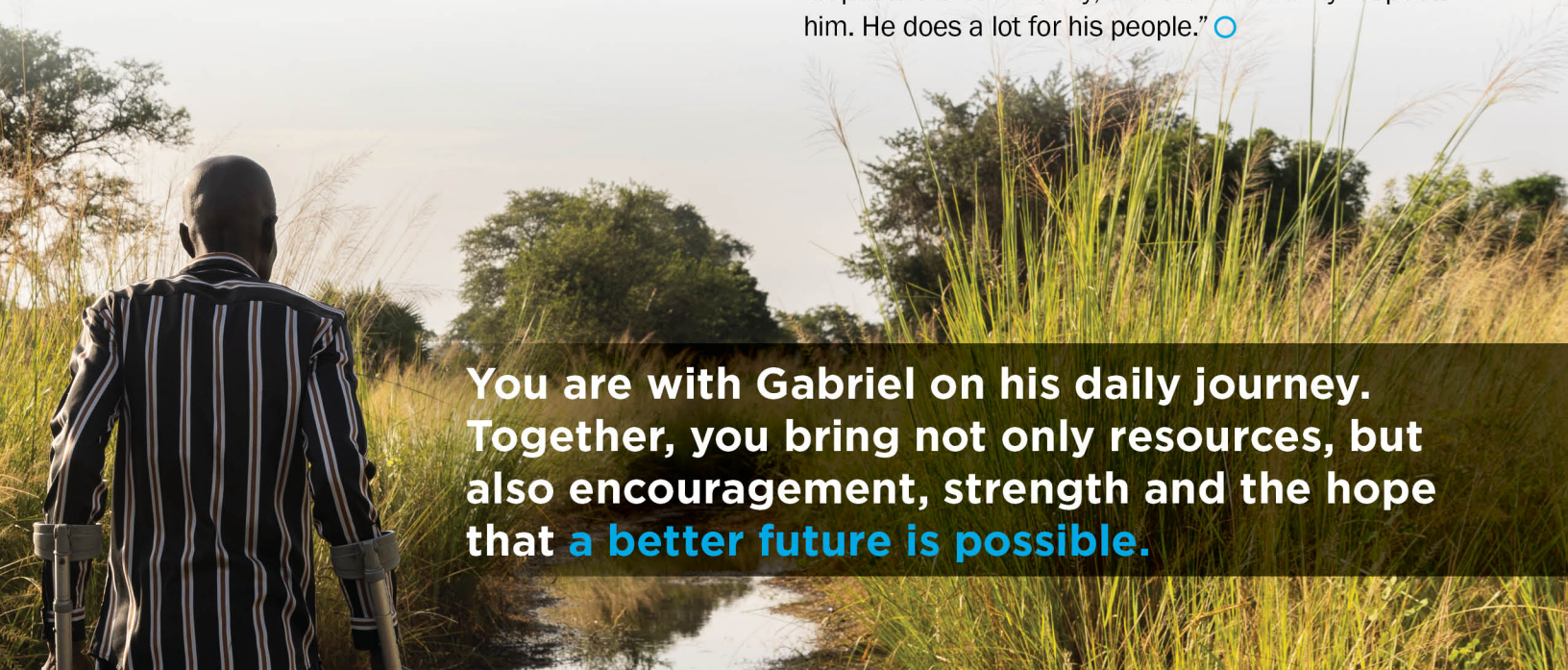
Gabriel and Nyalony were given seeds and tools to start a home garden to feed their family and sell the extra produce at market for income.

Gabriel now had the peace, love and hope he desired. But instead of resting, he answered a calling to give back, just like you do.

Despite his injury, he walks up to eight hours a day through Ayod's rugged terrain, delivering seed packages and agricultural training to other displaced families. Gabriel's light shines into the lives of his fellow neighbors showing the power of resistance and renewal.



"My husband is a very strong man," says Nyalony. "He respects the community, and the community respects him. He does a lot for his people." 



You are with Gabriel on his daily journey. Together, you bring not only resources, but also encouragement, strength and the hope that a better future is possible.

YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

United States

Your comfort rushed to the rescue. Within just **12** hours, Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits were on their way to families affected by the devastating floods that tore through central Texas in July. Thanks to your love and urgent support, lifesaving aid has reached more than **1,200** of your neighbors affected by the flood. Your generous gifts also provided five community hubs and preparedness training for more than **50** front-line workers.

South Sudan

Your love heals. Your support made it possible to expand access to care for a horrific disease known as **kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis)**, which is spread by sand flies. Without treatment, it's often fatal. Kala-azar mostly affects people in poor, rural areas and remains one of the world's most neglected diseases. You're helping our front-line health workers reach a group that's often overlooked: the Falata (also known as Ambororo), families who travel with their animals across South Sudan. Because they're always on the move, the Falata rarely have access to basic services like health care, which are usually designed for people who stay in one place. This is one more way you're helping to ensure no community is left behind – no matter how remote or hard to reach.

El Salvador

Your dedication is keeping people safe. In one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, your support is helping communities not just survive – but also recover and thrive. Together, we're building stronger local systems that empower people to respond to crises and protect their livelihoods. Thanks to your continued commitment, this lifesaving work will soon reach **76** communities across **10** municipalities in El Salvador.

Your loving gifts keep your neighbors safe.



Hello, Neighbor! नमस्ते छभिकी

(pronounced “Namaste chhimeki” in Nepali)

You might know someone like **Rekha Kumari Sah** – bold, fearless and always ready to rise to the occasion when others need her. In her homeland of Nepal, Rekha is a true lifesaver. She leads community efforts, defends women's rights and spreads the word about a hotline that warns of dangerous floods and extreme weather. **Now imagine if someone like Rekha had been silenced – kept inside, unable to serve. That was her reality until faithful friends like you stepped in.** Because of your support, women like Rekha are empowered – and entire communities are safer, stronger and more resilient. Thank you!

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



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