



Your Love Travels Door to Door to Combat Malnutrition

You may remember baby Tshituka and her mother, Ngalula, from our February Hunger Challenge. Here, you can see the dangerous effects malnutrition has on young children. Tshituka's not getting enough to eat, which causes her arms to become very thin and her belly to swell.

She recovers after receiving care at the local clinic your love helps fund, but after the treatment is complete, she falls right back into a dangerous condition.

Tshituka is not alone in her struggle.



continued inside ...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Your Love Door to Door
- ▶ A Message From Daniel
- ▶ A Life Stitched with Purpose



A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

I'm grateful to share this Special Reports with you because it shows how lives can be transformed by loving thy neighbor.

By sharing your love and your blessings, you're reaching neighbors facing hunger, conflict, extreme weather and uncertainty. At a time when rising costs and ongoing crises are placing tremendous burdens on vulnerable families, your love is a lifeline.

When all hope seems lost, you show up ready and willing to serve your neighbors as Christ's hands and feet in the world to deliver lifesaving aid, help and opportunity to communities around the world.

Thank you for your steadfast support.

God bless you,

Daniel Speckhard

Ambassador
Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

**Called to Love
Our Neighbors**



"Just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me."

— Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

Your Love Travels Door to Door to Combat Malnutrition *(continued)*

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where Tshituka lives, 2 in 5 children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Thanks to your support of our 2026 Hunger Challenge to Save Lives, mothers like Ngalula will have access to more permanent solutions for their children's hunger.

The best part? This new sustainable treatment centers around neighbors helping neighbors.

Community leaders talk with families to discuss why children are becoming malnourished and discuss effective solutions. Together, they craft plans tailored to their specific circumstances, from improving infant feeding practices to increasing household food production to strengthening community support systems.

"The focus groups examine what are the local causes of malnutrition within the community," explains Dr. Narcisse Mantete Sedu, a coordinator for the initiative. "Based on these causes, the community offers local solutions."

For worried mothers like Ngalula, this is transformational. Trained community health workers can visit homes like hers to demonstrate how to prepare enriched porridge using affordable ingredients available in local markets.

This intervention has strong results, with a 74% recovery rate for children whose families learn how to make this nutrient-packed porridge.



In addition to nutrition, your support also helps parents earn an income providing the tools and training to work in the community and start small businesses.

Ngalula says, "If they helped me, I would go work in the fields. Cultivate. If they gave me money, I would go into business. I would buy goods to sell and find a way to get food."

For families battling chronic hunger, the path out of malnutrition is rarely a single treatment or a one-time fix. You help communities work together to ensure they have the resources, knowledge, confidence and opportunities to conquer malnutrition for good. ○

By sharing your blessings, your love has helped:



545,895 CHILDREN
receive nutrition consultations.



14,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS
learn how to identify, treat and prevent malnutrition.



**5,601 EDUCATION SESSIONS AND
7,921 COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS**
to promote sustainable solutions throughout communities.



A Life Stitched with Purpose

At 94 years old, Charlotte Kirkegaard is retiring from her decades-long service, yet her legacy of love will remain stitched in time forever.

Her quilting ministry started in the 1960s when her late husband, Rev. Anton Kirkegaard, was serving a congregation in Iowa. Years later, after moving to Osage, Charlotte joined her church's quilting group and was invited to help make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. She quickly embraced the challenge — and encouraged fellow quilters to make 100 quilts in just one month.

They met the goal, igniting a ministry that would span decades.



Over time, Charlotte transformed her basement into her own quilt factory. At her most productive, she completed a quilt or more every day. Her family estimates she has made nearly 4,000 quilts for her neighbors in need over the years!

Reaching neighbors who need her help all over the world motivates Charlotte. “I think about how these go to so many places people will never travel to,” Charlotte says. “There’s a lot of people that work together for this amazing thing. **It makes a difference.**”

Her faith has sustained that conviction through the years and so has the generosity of her community. Friends and neighbors who are inspired by her dedicated service regularly donate fabric, sometimes leaving bundles on her doorstep or in her garage. When supplies run low, Charlotte again channels her faith.

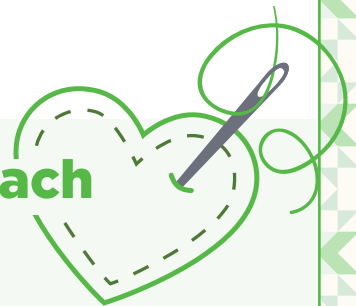
“I pray for fabric,” she says. And somehow, more always seems to appear on her doorstep.

After more than 20 years of quilting for Lutheran World Relief, Charlotte’s legacy is measured not only in the thousands of quilts she has created, but also in the countless lives she has touched along the way.

Ken Wendt, a custodian at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Osage, has known Charlotte for at least 20 years. “Charlotte is a very special lady,” he says. “And humble. She is an artist of recycling; no fabric ever goes to waste. And there’s nothing she couldn’t do with a needle and thread.”

With every stitch, Charlotte reminds all of us that selfless acts of compassion can travel farther than we can imagine. ○

The Global Reach of LWR Quilts



To truly appreciate the significance of Charlotte’s work, consider how quilts impact our neighbors in need:

- In a refugee camp in the DRC, quilts provided warmth during cold nights and a sense of security to neighbors in uncertain times when no one else could reach them.
- After the hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, wildfire and other disasters ravaged states across the U.S., quilts offered comfort, warmth and hope to families who lost everything, reminding them that they were not alone.
- In Tanzania, LWR quilts prevent childhood stunting by providing warmth, helping little ones conserve energy for growth instead of body heat.

Each quilt tells a story of hope and resilience, stitched together by hands like Charlotte’s.



YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

Lebanon

Your lasting commitment helps families rebuild. As Lebanon faces prolonged economic collapse, political instability and regional conflict, you remain committed to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable households and small businesses. Over the past three years, your generosity has fueled more than 2,240 micro and small businesses with access to financial and non-financial services like tools, trainings and supplies.

Mali

You're caring for the caregivers! Thanks to your loving gifts, 1,400 caregivers working with patients at health facilities received 88,200 meals. This nourishing act enables caregivers to stay and have their meals at the facilities, which helps provide continuity of care and increases patient retention.

Saipan

Your gifts rush hope to the front lines. When Super Typhoon Sinlaku ripped through the western Pacific in April, the hardest-hit islands of Saipan and Tinian were left without water or power for weeks. Thanks to your caring heart, we were able to reach the families on Saipan with safe drinking water, essential hygiene supplies, solar lights and support for first responders.

Your caring heart is making a real difference.



Ukrainian

English

Привіт, сусіде
Pryvit, suside

Hey Neighbor

Your neighbor Nina Cherkashyna lives about four miles from the Russian border. She was among the first to know Ukraine was under attack, because Russian soldiers invaded her village on February 24, 2022 — the first day of the war.

For seven months, enemy soldiers occupied Nina's house while she sought refuge with family. When the troops retreated and Nina was able to return home, she saw the gate had been hit by a missile. The windows were shattered. The refrigerator and stove were gone.

"Winter was very difficult," Nina says. "We were sleeping fully dressed and wearing shoes to stay warm."

Then the warmth of your kindness reached across the world — bringing Nina a wood-burning stove and a handmade quilt. Her gratitude was immense. During a cold, dark time, you helped make her home feel safe and comfortable again. 



See the Full Impact of Your Compassion

Use your phone's camera to discover how you're helping communities overcome hunger, poverty, disasters and more by sharing your blessings.

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



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