

SPECIAL REPORTS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Hungry no more! Paulina and her grandson, Philip, proudly show off some of the vegetables your love has helped them grow.

Your love makes all the difference for suffering widow and her grandson

Life has never been easy for Paulina Acii.

She is likely in her 80s. She doesn't remember. When she was born in South Sudan, there were no birth certificates. She knows that in 1955, at the start of the first Sudanese Civil War, her children were young. Since then, they've all been killed or died.

Between that first Civil War, bouts of poverty and hunger, and a second Civil War, the only family member Paulina has left is her teenage grandson, Philip. After so much suffering, Paulina fled her homeland, taking Philip with her ... because she knew rebel soldiers would have killed him or forced him to become a child soldier.

Today, they live together in a tiny mud hut in a crowded Ugandan refugee settlement.

"It is tough being a refugee ...," says our program

manager in Uganda, Arthur Nkubito. "The settlement camp residents live on handouts from aid organizations."

But that was before your loved reached them. Now, Paulina and Philip take great pride in their small vegetable garden where they grow food.

Because of your generosity, refugee families started planting household gardens. Your love provided seeds, tools and the training to help them get the most out of the small plots of land. Now, refugee families are growing beans, cowpeas, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant and okra.

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A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL



Thanks to the love, loyalty and generosity of friends like you, Lutheran World Relief has been transforming the lives of our neighbors with the very least for 75 years.

And every month, we are called upon to meet desperate needs around the world. This is why we have launched our new **Faithful Neighbor** monthly giving program.

By becoming a **Faithful Neighbor**, you can send your love to those with the very least through easily managed monthly giving. Your monthly gift ensures that we are ready to respond immediately, no matter when or where our most vulnerable neighbors need your love. That can make the difference between life and death.

I hope you'll give prayerful consideration to beginning the new year as a **Faithful Neighbor**.

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

Called to Love Our Neighbors

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God.

— 1 John 4:7 NRSV



Because your love reached Paulina in Uganda, she now has the seeds and tools she and Philip need to grow a variety of nutritious vegetables so they can not only survive — but thrive.

Your love makes a difference continued ...

Paulina says she won't return to South Sudan. "Philip will bury me here when I die," she told us.

And across the world, you are protecting refugees from COVID-19. Your love rushed masks, soap and handwashing stations to families like Paulina's, who have no other defense against the coronavirus.

Because you continue to follow Christ's charge to love thy neighbor, your compassion and generosity have reached your most vulnerable neighbors in the most forsaken parts of the world — and eased their burdens in their times of greatest need.

For so many refugees whose lives have been torn apart by war, poverty and the onslaught of COVID-19, your love has helped provide them with new skills and new opportunities that are allowing families to build brighter futures for their children.

Paulina is many things. She is a refugee. A grandmother. A widow. But more than anything, she is one neighbor who is grateful to have your love.

Reaching out to survivors in Beirut

Those who survived the deadly explosion in Beirut will forever remember Aug. 4, 2020, as a day of unfathomable heartache for their beleaguered country.

Even amid the turmoil of the massive explosion, God's love was there. A survivor on the ground remembered "neighbors helping one another — to move, to sit up, to control bleeding." She recalled how "a neighbor helped [her] to drink water and to wake up." Families whose homes were not destroyed took in their neighbors who lost everything.

And as we continue to pray for the families who lost loved ones, we also give God thanks for a small blessing that will help thousands of families who remain in desperate need in Beirut.

Three 40-foot shipping containers filled with humanitarian aid — thought to be destroyed in the explosion — have been found intact. As you read this, your love is distributing thousands of LWR quilts, baby care kits and personal care kits to families displaced by the explosion.

Thank you for being a lifeline to your neighbors in this time of crisis.



A Lutheran World Relief team member surveys damage in Beirut caused by a blast that ripped through the city's port area on August 4.

Donor Spotlight

Living well and serving others as *Faithful Neighbors*



Mark and Lynda Nygard feel blessed to be able to share their love as *Faithful Neighbor* monthly donors.

Mark and Lynda Nygard are retired, but they are busier than ever serving God by serving others.

Mark's call to be a pastor for ELCA churches took them to Egypt, Senegal and Cameroon, where they witnessed firsthand the difference that support for Lutheran World Relief makes. After more than 20 years as missionaries, the Nygards retired to St. Paul.

Retirement is not "one size fits all." For Mark and Lynda, it meant answering God's call to serve in new ways, like getting involved with Luther Seminary's foreign students. Lynda is active in Bible study, and Mark is also an editor for a denominational magazine and documents the stories of other missionaries.

The Nygards also wanted to continue making a difference for people in need. That's why they chose to join the *Faithful Neighbor* program. The convenience of monthly giving is a perfect fit for their busy schedule.

"We were privileged to live well and serve others, and we like everyone to have those means," says Mark. "We consider Lutheran World Relief to be experts in that field."

Learn more at lwr.org/monthly.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Mali and Haiti

As you read this, thousands of face masks – lovingly handsewn by members of our Lutheran families across the country – are on the way to neighbors in Mali and Haiti. Thank you for helping us surpass our goal to send more than 150,000 masks to protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

India and Nepal

Villagers living near the banks of the Gandak River between India and Nepal know that monsoon season often brings with it deadly, unpredictable floods. Your love is delivering lifesaving equipment and early warning systems that are now also being used to transmit critical information about COVID-19.

Uganda

In July, farmers across Uganda's Kases District lost their coffee crops to catastrophic flooding. Schools, bridges and a hospital were swept away, and people died in the floodwaters. Your love quickly reached 1,200 families with emergency food and supplies, including jerrycans to store water, blankets, mosquito nets and more.

Thank you for sending your love to your neighbors across the globe!

Become a Faithful Neighbor

through monthly giving.

Your monthly gift of \$29 or more does so much.

For Pumam, your faithful giving saves her family from hunger until they can feed themselves, then sends help to the next family in need.

Become a part of the **Faithful Neighbor** family today so your love reaches further and stays longer.

JOIN TODAY at lwr.org/monthly.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



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



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