

Lasting Promise

M A G A Z I N E

YOUR LOVE
IS CHANGING LIVES,
AND FUTURES, IN PERU

**INVESTing in
the future of
Tanzania's youth**

**Transforming health
in the Democratic
Republic of Congo**



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lasting Promise

MAGAZINE

Volume 1, Issue 3 (2022)

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Niki Clark

ON THE COVER:

Deysi grew up in a remote region of Peru. Her family and village struggled with rampant poverty and hunger. A decade later, the community has undergone a radical transformation. The difference? The profound love and support provided by your lasting promise. Read the story on page 3.

SHARE YOUR STORY

During National Make a Will Month in August, we saw more faithful supporters called to plant a footprint in the future. This would not have been possible without people like you. Your compassion inspires others to ensure their love will live on through a planned gift. Your influence will continue to grow this wonderful society. And we want to get to know you better.

How did you learn about the mission of Lutheran World Relief? What moved your heart to leave a gift from your estate? What impact would you like to make in the future? Please contact me at LGRANT@LWR.ORG or 410 230 2827 to share your story. With your permission, I'd love to share it in future publications to inspire others to become Partners in Lasting Promise, too!

LEE GRANT

Planned Giving Manager



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

I recently celebrated my 8-year anniversary as the President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief. I cannot express to you what an extreme privilege and honor serving you in this role has been. To sit in the front row to see the generosity of your hearts, to witness your service and stewardship to our global neighbors, it is the blessing of my life. You are Christ's hands and feet in this often-desperate world, shining a beacon of light in the darkness. Words will never fully reflect the sincere gratitude of my heart.

The other privilege of 8 years of service is being able to see the truly astonishing transformations that are able to take place because of compassionate donors like you. Real change takes time and investment, and the differences you are making in communities around the world is not something that only current generations will experience. **You are creating generational transformations**, positive changes that will live on much longer than either of us.

In this issue of **Lasting Promise**, we showcase a few of the places where your love is not only impacting but also rewriting the future for families. The despair and heartache known so intimately by parents in Castrovirreyna struggling to provide for their children will not be a concern for their children's children. Mothers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, who once walked hours to reach the nearest health clinic, will have children and grandchildren who won't remember a time without easy access to medical care. And you, my dear friends, will be the reason why.

Thank you for your service and for inspiring me daily over the last 8 years. May God bless you and your loved ones as you bless others.

In Christ,

**AMBASSADOR
DANIEL SPECKHARD**
President and CEO

YOUR LOVE IS CHANGING LIVES, AND FUTURES, IN PERU



A brighter, healthier future awaits these children thanks to their grandparents' hard work — and your generosity.

Castrovirreyna is a remote region of Peru, high in the Andes mountains. In 2011, it was a community facing multiple challenges — extreme weather, adverse conditions and rampant levels of poverty. The children were malnourished and a terrible drought had wiped out most of the farmlands. In one town, only two families remained as everyone had migrated to cities, trying to make ends meet and find work. Around them, the country of Peru had seen economic growth. But here, poverty persisted, clinging to the community as fiercely as the region's pack animals cling to the rocky mountain landscape.

Deysi Milagros Canal Machuca grew up in these highlands. She loved taking the cows to pasture, to help her parents, traditional farmers. But her family struggled. The region's hardships had taken their toll on families like Deysi's and they were often unable to make ends meet and provide healthy, nutritious foods for their growing daughter. In addition, much of the traditional farming knowledge and practices had been lost due to the community's challenges.

Because of the love of donors who are bringing God's love to our neighbors in need through a gift in their will, today, the

Castrovirreyna of a decade ago is unrecognizable.

Farmlands are vibrant, bursting with grains, colorful vegetables and fruits, potatoes and herbs — on average, families have incorporated around 10 new foods into their daily diets.

Residents now raise small animals such as chickens and guinea pigs to increase their protein intake and have learned new habits of personal hygiene and food handling and conservation within the home. As a result, child malnutrition in the region has been reduced by an astounding 60%, according to the Ministry of Health.

“I am so grateful for the kindness of our donors. Their compassion not only alleviates suffering and pain, but more importantly it generates happiness and hope.”

Jorge Huapaya



LWR Peru Program Director Jorge Huapaya first met Deysi Milagros Canal Machuca when she was a young girl. Because of your love, more than a decade later, Deysi is thriving and has a healthy baby girl Alice — and big dreams for the future.

There's an increase in school attendance because of a partnership with Lutheran World Relief and the local government's education program. Farmers have increased their monetary income through the sale of their goods, allowing them to acquire food that they do not produce and cover other needs for family consumption.

And now, migration isn't an issue. Because people are thriving and providing for their families without having to leave home.

A decade later, Deysi is a thriving adult, with a loving partner and 6-month-old daughter, Alice.

Her family expanded their farm and built a greenhouse where they grow fruits and vegetables. Previously traditional practices and farming knowledge have been brought back. The community

CHILD MALNUTRITION IN THE REGION HAS BEEN REDUCED BY AN ASTOUNDING 60%

even has their own mill to process the grain they produce.

Today, Deysi is planning for her future. “I’m going to continue studying for a nursing career,” she said. “I’m proud of myself. I’m going to be able to support my home with my career. I’ll have a good future. My partner and I have planned our future, having a house, living well, being happy forever.”

Jorge Huapaya, Peru Program Manager, has been a firsthand witness to the radical transformation that's happened in Castrovirreyna. “I had just begun

working as a project manager for LWR when I first visited in 2011. I'll never forget the suffering I witnessed there. I can still picture it so clearly.”

“Being able to stay in a community this long, to really walk with people until they are able to walk on their own, is one of my favorite things about working with LWR. To see how people start to believe in themselves again, to really dream about what they want for their lives, is an incredible privilege. I am so grateful for the kindness of our donors. Their compassion not only alleviates suffering and pain, but more importantly it generates happiness and hope. **Their love is changing lives, not just for current generations, but for many generations yet to come.**” ○

THE MOVING FRONTLINE OF UKRAINE'S WAR

The war in Ukraine has profoundly impacted millions of people. Millions have fled the horrific violence and millions more are trapped inside their country, separated from loved ones and far from home.

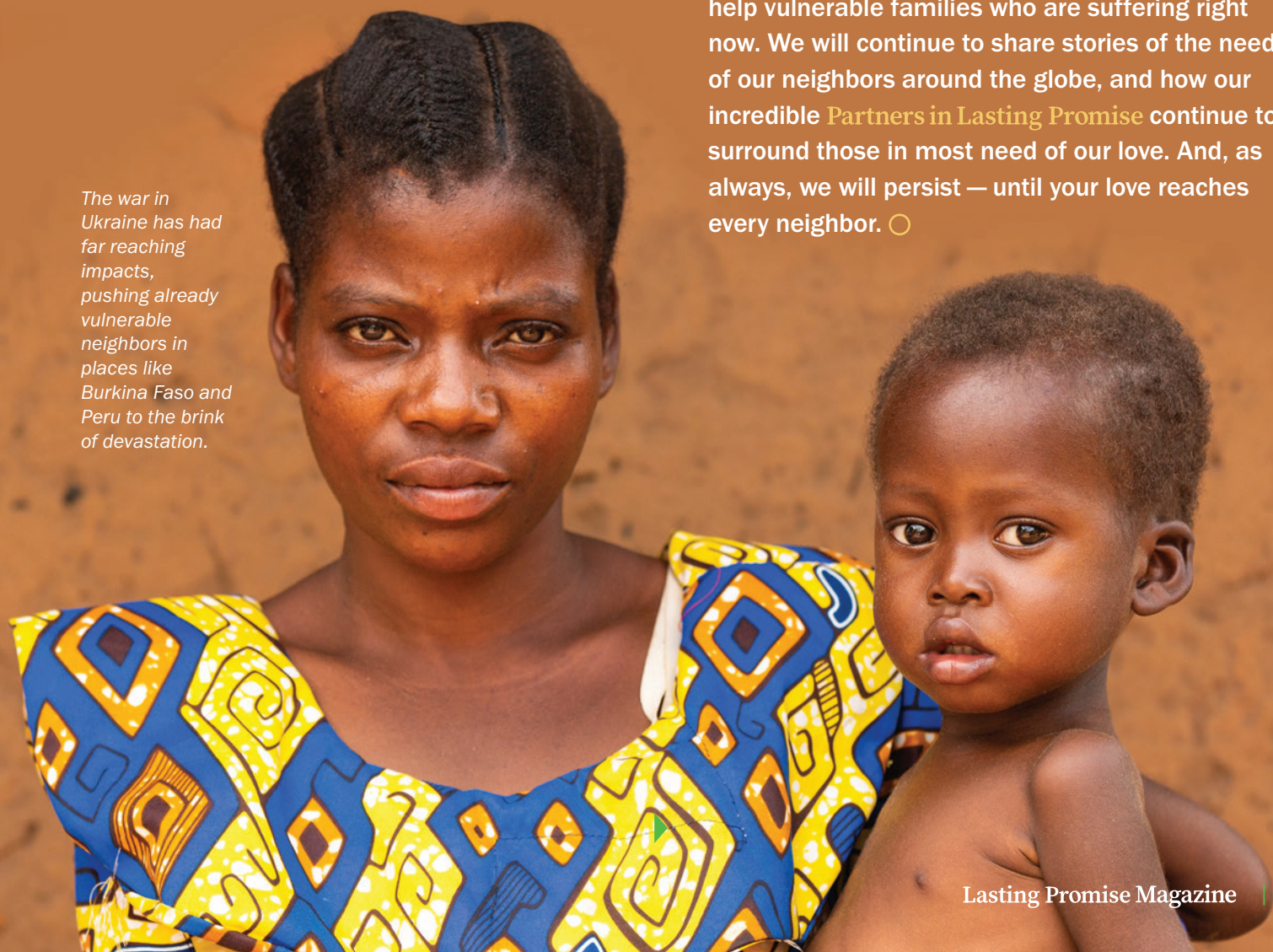
Because of the generosity of those who have left gifts in their wills, before the first dollar was raised for Ukrainian neighbors, we were able to provide safe shelter, emergency cash funds, medical supplies and equipment, Mission Quilts and Personal Care Kits, and more. But the intense pain of our Ukrainian neighbors is radiating out to others a world away, with places like Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burkina Faso experiencing their own devastating frontlines as a result of the war. Supply chains that previously

provided staple foods such as wheat and corn, fuel and other vital supplies have been broken or cut, leaving even more desperation.

In a terrible but perfect storm, the last few years have seen crippling drought, divisive and violent political crisis and insecurity as well as the COVID-19 pandemic converge to result in increasing food prices around the globe. The war in Ukraine has only compounded the crisis, pushing vulnerable communities, already teetering on the edge of poverty, further into dangerous cycles of hunger and suffering.

While the root causes of this multiplex crisis run deep and require long-term complex solutions, because of the profound impact that gifts in wills provide, we are able to take immediate actions to help vulnerable families who are suffering right now. We will continue to share stories of the need of our neighbors around the globe, and how our incredible **Partners in Lasting Promise** continue to surround those in most need of our love. And, as always, we will persist — until your love reaches every neighbor. ○

The war in Ukraine has had far reaching impacts, pushing already vulnerable neighbors in places like Burkina Faso and Peru to the brink of devastation.





INVEST participants Anthony Kayombo, Jofrey Machininga and Kennedy Ngumilanga developed a business plan to make and sell soap and other personal care products that were hard to come by in their community. (Gregg Brekke for LWR)

Gregg Brekke for LWR

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF TANZANIA'S YOUTH

JENIPHER NICOKDEM SHIOU

feels like she's living in a "dream." At 25, she has a great job at Silverlands, a poultry producer in Tanzania and one of Africa's fastest growing companies. She has access to a supportive network of connections, experienced adults that she regularly consults with on professional and personal matters. Her bright eyes exude a confidence and pride as she shares her many accomplishments.



Jenipher credits her success to **INVEST (Investing in New Ventures of Entrepreneurial Students in Tanzania)**, a Lutheran World Relief program that provides participants with agricultural vocational training and then pairs them with private and public sector companies for internships and employment opportunities upon graduation. Like many countries

in Africa, agriculture drives the economy of Tanzania, but for many years, young people did not see it as a viable way to support themselves. After witnessing the struggles of their parents, they often chose to take a chance on better opportunities by moving to Tanzania's more urban areas, opportunities that often failed to materialize.

INVEST is changing that trajectory, helping rural communities across Tanzania develop productive, resilient and stable economies. Trained across a variety of agricultural sectors, including poultry, dairy and horticulture, many INVEST participants also compete in a Challenge Grant, which encourages participants to gain capital funding for their entrepreneurial ideas. Winners are selected after developing thorough business proposals and receive direct mentorship by leading agriculture business owners and experts throughout the implementation of their idea.

RAJABU IDRISA ALLY was a past winner of the INVEST Challenge Grant. His project focused on chickens and during his experience, he learned many valuable skills, including the full cycle of poultry production. His internship was with Shambani Milk company, now his full-time employer. He thinks because the company saw him work so hard during his internship, they felt confident he'd also be a great employee. He's proving them right and has already been promoted from his original position to a supervisor. He said he loves what he does and feels successful because of his solid income.



MERCY LOVELUCK KITHA is another INVEST participant and Challenge Grant winner. Tanzania has an abundance of cotton and her business proposal involved utilizing the natural resources of her country to create beautiful natural hand-printed and hand-dyed fabrics called batiks. Batik can be used for clothing, quilts, furnishing fabrics, tablecloths and household accessories. Mercy wants to create a garment line and manufacture the clothes herself. While there are still challenges ahead as she tries to figure out bringing her ideas to scale, she is grateful for the generosity of supporters who have helped her along the way. "They are the reason I have gotten to this place; I am so thankful!"



Participants aren't the only ones pleased with the success of the program. The Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, a partner in this initiative, has also taken notice of the success and has a goal of expanding the INVEST curriculum to all the country's vocational training schools, ultimately reaching more than 25,000 students. ○

Thanks to the compassionate hearts of our donors, the future of Tanzania's youth has never looked brighter.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

As our most committed supporters, you, our **Partners in Lasting Promise**, can provide great insight into where we focus our efforts. I want to be sure that the information you receive is at the right frequency, the right level of detail and in the format that you prefer.

I would be extremely grateful if you could spend a few minutes answering our short survey (15 questions), most of which are multiple choice and should take no longer than 10 minutes. **To access the survey, please point your phone at the QR code or visit lwr.org/survey.**



Your participation is greatly appreciated and will help guide our future communications, growing this incredible society with new members and pledges and extending our love even further to those in need, for generations to come.

With Blessings,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Grant'.

LEE GRANT
Planned Giving Manager
LGRANT@LWR.ORG

THE LASTING IMPACTS OF LASTING PROMISE

HOW ESTATE GIFTS HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED



GUATEMALA

The residents of the San Marcos region of Guatemala no longer have to face treacherous journeys to places far from home in order to survive. Because of a successful collaboration with partner FundaSistemas, our neighbors in San Marcos are learning better agricultural and health practices, meaning they can provide for and raise their families in the place that they love the most, their home.



MALI

Mali, and more broadly the Sahel region, has faced a barrage of crises, each of which has devastating impacts for families. Climate change, prolonged drought, extreme poverty and violence are all daily threats. Estate gifts enable longer term investment to one of the most impoverished areas of the world, including the ability to build resilience to volatile weather extremes and assistance and training to farmers reliant on agricultural production.

Joao Sousa for LWP

As a Partner in Lasting Promise, your love will surround our neighbors most in need across the globe. But not just in the crisis of the moment. Leaving a gift in your will is an investment into a world we all want to see. A world where injustice and poverty, insecurity and hunger are distant memories and where all God's children have the dignity and resources to thrive. It is creating a lasting impact that can transform not only individual lives but entire communities, and future generations to come. Here are some of the places where you are leaving lasting impacts.



LEBANON

Lebanon has one of the highest overall gender gaps in the world. Only 1 out of every 4 women have employment, compared to 3 out of every 4 men, and women face significant barriers in accessing the marketplace. Having the opportunity to work can make a radical difference for the future of families. Gifts in wills bring lasting impact to women entrepreneurs and their families in Lebanon, providing the networking, investment and training opportunities they need to succeed.

MK Wirasaputra for LWR



INDONESIA

In Indonesia, the lack of restrooms at school was keeping healthy boys and girls from attending. The lack of access to clean water and toilets can be crippling, locking communities in poverty for generations. With the compassion of donors like you, however, the wheels of change have begun to turn in a big way. Handwashing stations and bathrooms at school mean waterborne diseases are reduced, kids are healthier, and families have more time to work and provide for their loved ones.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Because the generosity of Partners in Lasting Promise, the act of being born is no longer a death sentence. A decade ago, babies wouldn't have had a good chance in these remote areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Health workers were dedicated but did not always have the training they needed to save newborns during complicated deliveries. Today, an infusion of training and resources means nearly all births in projects areas are attended by a trained health worker, and 86% of health facilities can provide emergency services.





TRANSFORMING HEALTH IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

There's nothing quite as transformational as the ability to access health care. It can impact the lives of generations of families. The Democratic Republic of Congo has one of the most dire health systems in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the World Bank, there is 1 physician for every 10,000 people in the DRC. The U.S, by comparison, has 26, a difference of 185%. Besides a lack of medical professionals, there are few medical facilities, particularly in rural areas. Malaria is the top cause of death for the Congolese — both a preventable and treatable disease.

Sami Deux Health Center in Kasai province is one of 109 newly constructed health centers completed in part through the generosity of planned giving. ▲

But these statistics — and more importantly the lives behind the numbers — are changing for the better. Because of the compassion and generous hearts of supporters, here are some of those changes:

86%

Pregnant mothers can be certain that if they have complicated deliveries, their health clinic will be able to provide services they couldn't before, such as emergency c-sections and care for sick or premature babies. Before the support of donors, only 1.3% of surveyed health centers in our project health zones could help women with difficult deliveries.

That number now stands at 86%.



◀ Mosquito bed nets, provided by the generosity of donors, lowered the number of malaria cases in one province of the DRC by 39%.



825,000

In addition, families now know that malaria doesn't have to be the devastating sentence it once was, thanks to increased access to mosquito bed nets made possible by your love. One province received more than 825,000 bed nets — covering every bed in the province. **Malaria cases fell by 39%.**

And while numbers don't lie, pictures are worth a thousand words. Take a look for yourself at the profound impact — and happiness — the gift of health care has brought to the people of the DRC.

99%

Mothers will be confident that their delivery will be attended by a skilled medical professional at a health center. Before, only 62% of births were attended by skilled professionals; **today 99% of births have skilled professionals present in our project health zones.**

6 MILLION

Parents know that community health workers will share vital information about malnutrition and intense screening activities will help improve their children's chances of a healthy childhood. The proportion of children screened for malnourishment was 21% in project health zones before the love of our donors reached them. **Now 92% of children in our project health zones are screened — 6 million children each year.**

Lusamba gave birth to her daughter, Mishika, at Tude Kole Health Center in Kasai Central province, another of the newly constructed health centers completed.



Our trained technicians put the final touches on Mamu Wetu Health Center in Kasai Central province. Mamu Wetu was the first of our health centers to be completed.



CARING FOR NEIGHBORS IN PERU, THEN AND NOW



Enco Barboza Serina, here with her daughter, participated in a women-led cocoa cooperative in the remote area of Peru she calls home and now supports her family with the group's award-winning chocolate.

So much can change in two decades. Lasting Promise donor **EVELYN BONANDER** knows this well. In 1999, she joined a Lutheran World Relief trip to Peru and Bolivia, visiting communities in the high mountains there. In 2022, she “visited” Peru virtually, through a multi-day online visit, witnessing the programs supported by our Partners in Lasting Promise and other compassionate donors.

“We were high up in the mountain plains visiting farming areas that were really struggling,” recalled Evelyn of the 1999 trip. “The weather conditions made life hard. It was difficult finding enough water to grow food. And the winds — you could see for miles across the plains. There was nothing to stop the wind.”

Although Evelyn was in a different area of Peru in the past, many video scenes during the 2022 virtual visit struck a chord. “The mud houses and the pens for animals looked similar,” she said.

One memory stands out for Evelyn. “There was a potluck,” she said. “I grew up in Minnesota, and among the Scandinavians, a potluck was a feast.

We’d go down to the church basement and there would be this big table spread with colorful food — Jell-O casseroles and everything else.”

At the potluck she attended near Lake Titicaca in 1999, “local people came and opened their satchels. Every satchel contained potatoes of every color, nothing but potatoes,” she recalled. “I was stunned. They brought what they had and were eager to share with us. I can see it to this day.”

In the virtual visit this year, she could see the progress that had been made as she watched a traditional “pachamanga” feast being prepared with a variety of meats and colorful vegetables. Families were producing food despite the harsh climate, and growing plants in mud-walled greenhouses and raising small animals like chickens and guinea pigs.



Evelyn Bonander

Potatoes are still a staple in the area, and farmers have been trained to market them so families can earn a profit. Because of your kindness and support, families can offer more types of foods to their children, who need protein and nutrients that potatoes alone cannot provide.

Another sustainable program involves selling artisanal cheese in local markets. “It offers women in particular opportunities and a future that they otherwise would never have had, because they’re so limited by their circumstances,” Evelyn said. “I saw that in the cheesemakers way back when. We got to taste their cheese. They were so proud, so eager to show us what they were doing. It was exciting for me to witness.” Today, too, women support their families, ensuring that they can send their children to school with earnings from their cheesemaking.

Some parts of the virtual visit surprised Evelyn. “When I went in 1999, we were on a small bus, but I don’t remember bad roads,” she said. Lutheran World Relief now works in even more remote areas of the country, and the video showed some of the perilous roads that its staff travel. “The virtual trip showed more physical danger than I experienced,” she said. “In 1999 we weren’t anywhere where roads were washed out. I thought, ‘Wow, to be on one of those buses going on those roads, clinging to a muddy cliff.’”

During the virtual visit, Evelyn saw opportunities for women through a women-led cocoa cooperative in a very remote part of Peru. The members are trained to grow high-quality cacao and then make chocolate that has won awards in the international market. “In the virtual visit, I saw that the women took pride in their chocolate making,” she said. “They could recognize their own potential.” The women growing cacao are proud of their accomplishment and their success.

“Lutheran World Relief provides help in emergencies, but also stays in communities — like the cheesemaking group, helping people develop long-term ways of supporting themselves, focusing on the whole family,” Evelyn said.



Families in Peru are now able to provide nutritious and diverse diets and sell surplus produce because of a program supported by the compassion of donors.

As she reflects on Peru then and now, one thing remains the same for Evelyn: her sense of energy and generous spirit of Peruvians. “I remember dancing. We danced arm in arm. We frolicked,” she said. In the virtual visit, the same liveliness was captured during a traditional dance around a tree. “I felt that on the virtual tour — there was a camaraderie that just felt good,” she said.

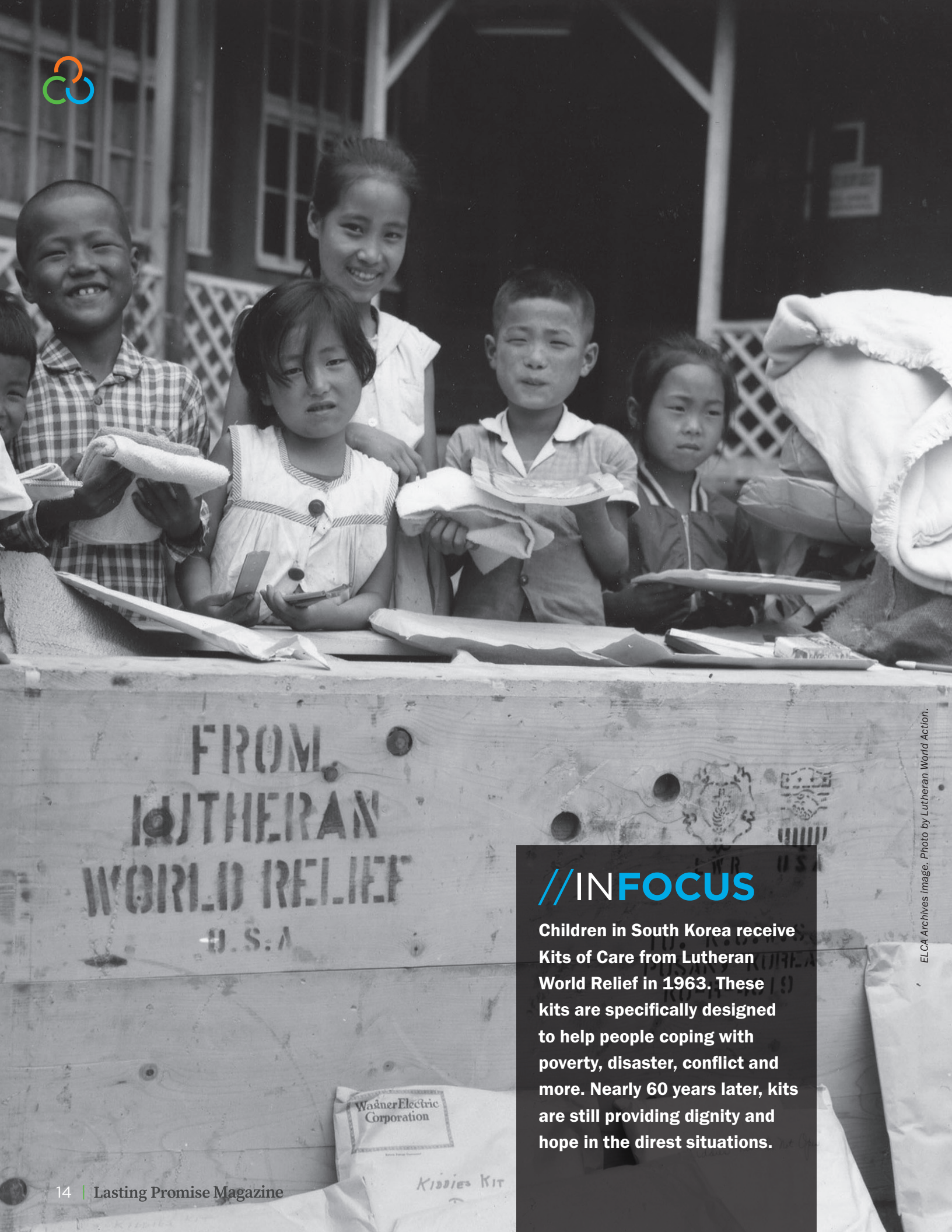
As she looks toward the future, Evelyn anticipates more progress — and more closeness between Americans and their neighbors in other countries. “I would hope that we become more of a family,” she said. **“I hope my gift persists and finds a way to respond to needs I can’t even imagine.”** ○

PERU VIRTUAL ADVENTURE



Use your smartphone’s camera and scan this code or visit **lwr.org/peruvv** to go on a virtual adventure to Peru!





//INFOCUS

Children in South Korea receive Kits of Care from Lutheran World Relief in 1963. These kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Nearly 60 years later, kits are still providing dignity and hope in the direst situations.

ELCA Archives image. Photo by Lutheran World Action.

DO NOT WORRY

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. **Today’s trouble is enough for today.**” — Matthew 6:25-34 (NRSV)*

As God bestows his blessings upon his people, your love blesses others, people like Erick Kihombo and Emma Kipalile. Because of your love, their young children will grow up healthy and happy. ▲

The Lord provides for us in our every day. We must place our full trust in Him, knowing He cloaks us in his love and will care for our daily needs. Our God is all powerful and mightier than any worry or anxiety we hold on to.

But this doesn’t mean we can stand by and be idle. We must still participate in God’s promised future today by sharing our love and our blessings with those with the very least. We are still called to reflect God’s loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

As a Partner in Lasting Promise, you are fulfilling Christ’s call to love and serve one another. You are doing your part to make the world a better place for future generations. You need not worry, for your compassion will take care of our neighbors in need, and for that we are ever grateful. ○

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



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