

# LifeLines

Connecting God's People

Volume 14 No. 3 Winter 2014

ELCA World Hunger is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

[www.ELCA.org/hunger](http://www.ELCA.org/hunger)

## In this issue

### Everyday saints

pg. 3

### Lutheran Disaster Response Home and hope

pg. 6

### ELCA Malaria Campaign Malaria-fighting potter

pg. 7



**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**THE REV. DANIEL RIFT**  
Director, ELCA World Hunger  
and Disaster Appeal

### HOW TO GIVE

Checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" can be sent to:

**ELCA World Hunger**  
P.O. Box 71764  
Chicago, IL 60694-1764

Call 800-638-3522 to give by phone with a major credit card. Or visit [www.ELCA.org/giving](http://www.ELCA.org/giving) to make an online gift.

### COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

© 2014 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. ELCA congregations may reproduce this newsletter in part or in its entirety. Find this issue at [www.ELCA.org/hunger/Lifelines](http://www.ELCA.org/hunger/Lifelines).

**On the cover:** This young Lutheran in Chicago serves and shares a good meal with neighbors struggling with hunger. Photo: © Tori Soper Photography.

**Newsletter editor:** Audrey Riley, associate program director – ELCA World Hunger

**Design:** Orangeflux, Inc.

### General inquiries

**Email:** [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org)  
**Phone:** 800-638-3522, ext. 2764

## Dear friend of ELCA World Hunger,

THROUGHOUT THE ELCA, LUTHERANS REACH OUT TO NEIGHBORS in generous service. Whether joining together as members of their congregations, working with ecumenical groups or through their synods, or by supporting the ministries of the churchwide organization, ELCA Lutherans act on Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

ELCA World Hunger, through its Domestic Hunger Grants program, supports hundreds of local ministries across the United States, offering hope and assistance to thousands of people who live with poverty and hunger. These grants address both immediate needs and underlying causes. ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants support not only relief programs, but also community development and community-based organizing and advocacy programs that strengthen the foundations of communities impacted by hunger and poverty.

In 2013, this program supported 388 projects and ministries ranging from congregational food pantries to weekend backpack programs for children to job training and living-wage advocacy campaigns. Our 2014 support will begin rolling out in February. Thanks to the generosity of those who give and those who serve, ELCA World Hunger-funded Domestic Hunger Grants make a real difference.

The Rev. Paul Ostrem of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA describes people who reach out to their neighbors as "ordinary everyday saints, doing what they do." Thank you for doing what you do.

May the wonder of Epiphany shine in your heart this season.

**The Rev. Daniel Rift**  
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal



## A RAY OF LIGHT FOR JEN

JEN HALL, WHOSE HUSBAND LEFT WHEN SHE was pregnant, has sometimes had to turn to local food pantries and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to keep her children fed.

Discouraged by years of struggle, Jen turned to Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania – and found a lifeline. Now working and planning her own business, Jen calls Lutheran Social Services "a ray of light. I felt respected. They didn't talk at me; they listened to me."

ELCA World Hunger supports the good work that Lutheran Social Services has done for this family and many, many others. Your generosity makes that support possible. **Thank you.**

# Everyday saints



Krystal McClinton has served on the churchwide staff of ELCA World Hunger for five years. Photo: ELCA staff.

## MEET KRYSTAL McCLINTON

KRYSTAL McCLINTON KNOWS THAT PEOPLE SUPPORT ELCA WORLD HUNGER because they want to make a difference in the world – and they know ELCA World Hunger is a great way to do it.

“And people just love doubling the power of their gift by having it matched. More and more people give to ELCA World Hunger either directly or through payroll deduction at their workplace, and then have their employer’s charitable giving program match their gift. Or they have Thrivent Financial for Lutherans match their donation,” Krystal said.

“Lately, people who make designated gifts to current disaster work have been getting their donations to Lutheran Disaster Response matched the same way. That’s new,” she added.

More than 50 companies now match their employees’ gifts to ELCA World Hunger, a number that has more than doubled since last year.

Krystal also manages the Monthly Partners program, in which supporters arrange to have their monthly gift withdrawn from their checking account

or charged to their credit card. “Some of our Monthly Partners have their regular gifts matched, too,” she said with a smile. “Now that’s dedication.”

“People can find out more about matching their gifts by checking with their employer’s human resources department, or by checking with their local Thrivent Financial for Lutherans chapter,” Krystal said.

“And to sign up for Monthly Partners, all you have to do is get in touch with me,” she added.

“You know, our people really live their faith,” Krystal said. “They’re determined to end hunger in our world. And if anyone can do it, they will!”

*Krystal McClinton, the only native Chicagoan on the ELCA World Hunger staff team, coordinates the mid-level giving programs of ELCA World Hunger. Please email her at [krystal.mcclinton@elca.org](mailto:krystal.mcclinton@elca.org) or telephone her at 800-638-3522, ext. 2638, to learn more about joining Monthly Partners.*

**You’ve heard the expression,** “Don’t judge someone until you’ve walked a mile in their shoes.” A new resource from ELCA World Hunger offers a memorable way to walk in the shoes of neighbors who face food insecurity every day.

“Food for a Week,” a hunger simulation activity, will give members of your congregation or small group a very personal, interactive experience of living with hunger in the United States that they won’t soon forget.

What would you do if you lost your job and ran out of savings? Or if you had to make a choice between a doctor’s visit and buying groceries? Participants in this simulation will encounter realistic issues and make difficult choices as they walk in the shoes of neighbors who face food insecurity on a daily basis. The activity is designed for youth and adults and can be used in a variety of settings.

“Food for a Week” will be available for free download on our website, [www.ELCA.org/hunger/resources](http://www.ELCA.org/hunger/resources), beginning in February 2014.



# ELCA World Hunger



*Diane lives in the country near Bloomfield with her family and their animals. She and her son come to the community lunch frequently. "It's always good!" she says.*



*Monica Blum and her daughter, both members of Good Shepherd's congregation council, are enthusiastic supporters of the monthly community lunch. Photos: ELCA staff.*

## A GOOD LUNCH IN IOWA

THE LAST WEEK OF EVERY MONTH, THE EVERYDAY saints of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bloomfield, Iowa, post a sign out by the road: "Free Meal This Saturday 11 to 1." Parishioners, neighbors and friends gather for not only a warm welcome and a good meal prepared and served by members of the congregation, but also for a social event that most in attendance wouldn't miss for the world.

"It's on our calendar – no matter what!" says Craig, who comes with his cousin, mother, aunts and lifelong friends. These friendly regulars have been coming to Good Shepherd's community lunch since it began two years ago. The guest list has risen from just five people in the beginning to as many as 95.

Bloomfield, like many other places across the nation, is still emerging from the recession. "We are a very small

church and we live in an area with a very large need," says Lyle Stirling, the volunteer director of the program. "Our mission statement states that we serve Christ, and we've decided we will serve Christ this way. 'Caring for Our Community with God's Help' has become our guiding principle."

Parishioner Sharon VanCleave says, "This has really given us something to care about. It's a good way to serve." Monica Blum, who serves with her daughter MacKenzie on the congregation council, says with a smile, "Our mission is to serve – and to serve here in the community. We're just doing what we're supposed to do!"

*This ministry is supported by an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant. Your generous giving to ELCA World Hunger helps the everyday saints of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bloomfield reach out and open their doors to their neighbors in hospitality. **Thank you.***

## A ROOM FOR FOOD IN MISSOURI

JUST ACROSS THE STATE LINE IN THE SMALL TOWN OF Lancaster, another group of everyday saints gathers in the sturdy steel building that was built to house the food pantry and thrift shop of the Schuyler County Ministerial Alliance. The building, like the operation of the ministry, is thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of the people who use it, whether clients, volunteers or suppliers. Virgil Schmitter planned it that way.

"I drew this up because I knew what the needs were," Virgil says, recalling the Food Room's former location, so cramped that guests had to wait outside in the weather – which in this corner of Missouri, isn't always as friendly as the people.

Neighbors – and the Food Room serves more than 600 each month – drive up and park under a sheltering roof to check in with the volunteers who run the pantry and receive their boxes of nutritious food.

Inside, the freezers, coolers, shelves and conveyors are set up for safe and efficient storage, packing and distribution. The loading area is arranged to make it easy for delivery drivers to back their trucks right up to the building and for Virgil to unload pallets of food with the Food Room's own forklift. This ease of use makes it possible for the Food Room to receive and distribute as much as 16 tons of food each month – far more than in the former location.

Virgil and his wife, the Rev. Clara Schmitter, point out that the Food Room and the Clothes and More Shoppe are staffed by a small army of devoted volunteers who share the belief that we are here to serve one another with God's guidance. Or, in Pastor Ostrem's words, by a small army of ordinary everyday saints, doing what they do.

*This ministry received an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant to support its expansion. Your generous giving to ELCA World Hunger helps the many dedicated volunteers who staff the Food Room serve their neighbors with dignity, respect and efficiency. Thank you.*



Virgil Schmitter and the Rev. Clara Schmitter show visitors the modern building that houses the Food Room and the Clothes and More Shoppe. "This is his dream," says Clara. Photos: ELCA staff.



"Here's the forklift," says Virgil. "Thanks to the ELCA's support, we can receive and distribute twice as much food as we did before."

# Lutheran Disaster Response



Delbert, Shandie and Jackie McGuirk (left to right) proudly show a visitor their new home. Photo: ELCA staff.

## HOME IN JOPLIN

IN MAY 2011, A DEVASTATING TORNADO RIPPED THROUGH THE CITY OF Joplin, Mo. All five members of the McGuirk family – Delbert, Jackie, their daughter Shandie and two young granddaughters – were injured when the twister tore their home apart over their heads. Shandie lives with JRA (juvenile rheumatoid arthritis) and the trauma affected her already limited mobility. Delbert, whose injuries were most severe, eventually lost part of a leg.

After the storm, the family of five moved into a tiny rental house, hoping that it would be for only a short time. Delbert's medical needs and Shandie's illness called for a new home that would work with the family, not against them. But time went on and the family was still making do in that too-small house.

The tornado might have destroyed the family's home, but it certainly didn't break their hearts. Delbert's optimism and sense of humor are intact. Shandie is poised and purposeful. With her mother, Jackie, at her side, she will not allow injuries, disability or even disaster to deter her.

Shandie presented the family's case to Joplin's Long-Term Recovery Committee, of which Lutheran Disaster Response U.S. and Lutheran Family and Children's Services in Missouri are members. Thanks to your support and the collaboration of these partners, the McGuirk family recently moved into their warm, welcoming four-bedroom house.

Your support enables Lutheran Disaster Response U.S. to be a vital partner as communities help neighbors like the McGuirk family rebuild their lives after disaster. **Thank you.**



Cleaning up after the typhoon is the first step on the long road to disaster recovery. Photo: ACT Alliance.

## HOPE IN THE PHILIPPINES

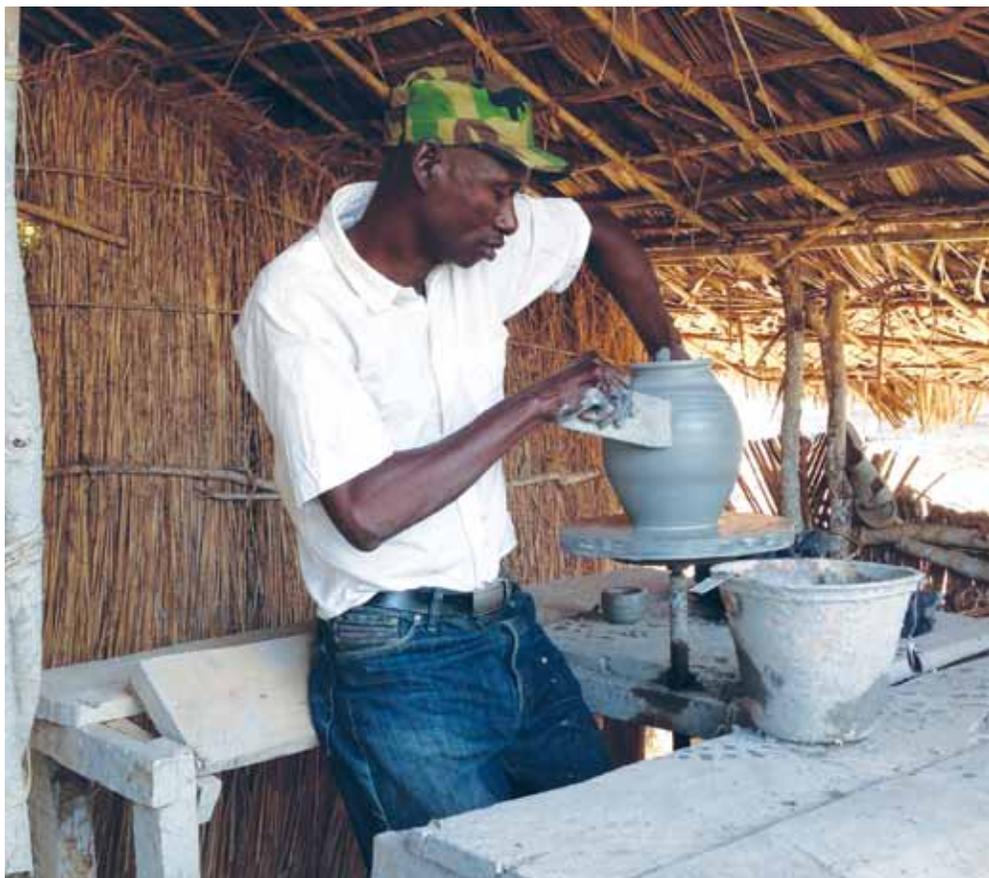
EARLY IN NOV. 2013, TYPHOON HAIYAN SLAMMED INTO THE PHILIPPINES with unimaginable fury. Lutheran Disaster Response International quickly forwarded \$1,000,000 to our trusted partner in that nation, Lutheran World Relief, so that recovery work could start immediately.

In some areas, shelter repair kits are the most urgent needs, and we are working through our partner to get these to neighbors as quickly as possible. In others, lost livelihoods are the main issue. In places like this, our partner is doing one of two things to help restart local economies: hiring neighbors to help with debris removal, or, in places where the debris has already been cleared, offering small cash transfers so that neighbors can buy the things they need to get back on their feet.

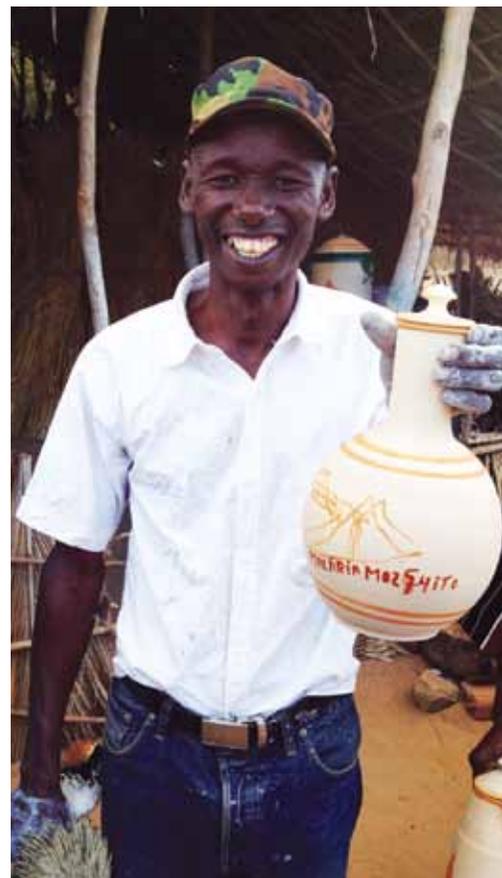
It's a long road to recovery, and programs like these are a good start. Lutheran Disaster Response International is committed to walking alongside our neighbors in the Philippines all along that road, and it's your generosity that makes it possible. **Thank you.**

Keep up with the latest Lutheran Disaster Response news at [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster).

# ELCA Malaria Campaign



*Our companion church in Mozambique runs the malaria program that helped Juma start his pottery business. Your gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign support their good work.*



*Juma Sumahil's pottery business works to end malaria in several ways. Photos: ELCA staff.*

## A POTTER FIGHTS MALARIA

NOT LONG AGO, JUMA SUMAHIL RECEIVED A SMALL GRANT FROM THE CHURCH IN MOZAMBIQUE, supported by your gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, and used it to start his malaria-fighting pottery business. With his new kickwheel and backyard kiln, he makes beautiful jugs and water filters, all with lids to keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in the water within.

Why is a malaria program helping a small business? Sustainable livelihoods are important to our goal of making malaria history. A family with a steady income can plan and save for durable preventive tools like mosquito nets for everyone in the household. Improved incomes lead to improved nutrition, which leads to improved health and disease resistance for the whole family. Sustainable livelihoods also mean resilience in the face of unexpected expenses, like visits to the clinic if a family member does show signs of malaria.

Juma's jugs and jars contain not only clean water, but a brighter, healthier future for him, his family – and his customers. The comprehensive work supported by the ELCA Malaria Campaign includes programs that equip our companion churches for malaria work, educate communities about malaria prevention and environmental control, provide early diagnosis and effective treatment, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Our Lutheran companion churches in 13 countries in Africa stand together with you in seeking to make malaria history. Your generous giving makes this good work possible. **Thank you.**

See a video of Juma making a pot on his new kickwheel at [blogs.ELCA.org/malariablog](https://blogs.ELCA.org/malariablog). It's under the headline "Fighting malaria – with pottery."

# LifeLines

Connecting God's People Volume 14 No. 3 Winter 2014

ELCA World Hunger

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

8765 W. Higgins Road | Chicago, IL 60631 | [www.ELCA.org/hunger](http://www.ELCA.org/hunger)

## In this issue

**Everyday saints**

**ELCA World Hunger**

**Lutheran Disaster Response**

**ELCA Malaria Campaign**

SFI  
CERTIFICATION  
LOGO  
PLACEHOLDER



*Maravic Tinhay cleans up after the typhoon in the Philippines.  
Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance.*



**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.