Projecting my future

COLOMBIA ELCA.org/hunger

Tall and rail-thin, *Maria may appear young and shy, but when she is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia's (IELCO) Proyectando Mi Futuro program, the 14-year-old's leadership skills are on shining display. Maria lives with her mother, grandmother and two younger siblings in a tiny home in Caracolí, a neighborhood outside Bogota, Colombia.

Her grandmother, like many of their neighbors in the crowded barrio, fled her hometown years ago to seek a better life. The streets here are dusty, the homes pieced together with scraps of wood and corrugated steel. Many lack water, electricity and sustainable protection from the elements. The challenges are easy to see.

Fortunately, so are the opportunities. Through your support of ELCA World Hunger, IELCO's Proyectando Mi Futuro is working with young girls and women like Maria in Caracolí to develop their leadership skills and inspire their hopes.



Through her participation in self-esteem classes, Maria has been motivated to do well in school and perhaps go on for further education. Last year, Maria's group decided to learn hairstyling skills, and today, Maria is so proficient that she and the other young women offer their services to their neighbors. This lets Maria contribute to her family's income.

This year, the group – with some new members - has decided to focus on manicure and pedicure skills, and Maria is thrilled to expand her services in this new area. In addition to skill-building and self-esteem classes, the families in Caracolí receive counseling from staff with IELCO, who provide home visits every two weeks.

Thanks to your support of ELCA World Hunger, families like Maria's are turning their hopes for a better life into reality

*Name withheld for privacy

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Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

Today, there are 10 BCC day centers,

World Hunger, helping families move

supported in part by your gifts to ELCA

beyond isolation and stigma and into full

A new

TANZANIA

ELCA.org/hunger

therapeutic day program.

special needs.

When Brian was born prematurely, his

of his diagnosis, his family, kept him at

home. That was until Building a Caring

family and invited Brian to enroll in the

He flourished at the day program, and at age

3, he began to walk. At 5, he was enrolled in

a primary school that serves children with

Brian is one of more than 200 children with

intellectual and physical disabilities served

the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Mosaic

International, a faith-based organization in

Nebraska serving more than 3,000 people

with intellectual disabilities.

by the BCC program, a partnership between

Community (BCC) staff visited Brian's

doctors told his mother that he would never

walk, talk or function normally. Ashamed

life

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YES! I would like to support ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038)

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participation in their communities. In addition

receive regular physicals and visits to doctors

and hospitals when necessary. The BCC also

trains parents to care for special needs, sets

provides job opportunities for young people

with disabilities beyond school age.

up projects that increase family incomes, and

For Betsy Buschkemper, a BCC volunteer and

a pediatric nurse, working with the BCC has

moved her from "feeling pity" for children

like Brian to celebrating "the potential and

the happiness and joy they feel and know in

life that they wouldn't have had a chance for

otherwise," she said. "Brian has a shot at a

normal life now and is a happy little boy."

Hunger, children in Tanzania are moving

the community. Thank you for helping our

from isolation to active participation in

church do what God has called us to do.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World

to caring for children at the center, children,

like Brian, with complicated medical needs

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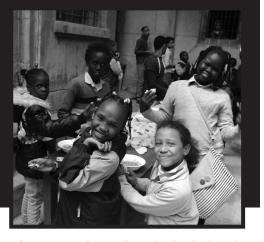
Safety net for refugee children

EGYPT ELCA.org/hunger

Yohannes was 16 when he arrived in Cairo, Egypt, alone. He made his way to Egypt from Eritrea, in East Africa. He crossed the Sudan, and with food hard to come by, he went without eating for two days.

Upon arriving in Cairo, Yohannes came to St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) seeking help. StARS, a program supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, offers unaccompanied refugee children food, education and psychosocial support. First order of business for Yohannes: a warm, home-cooked meal.

Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, StARS feeds 350 refugee children two meals a day, four



days a week. And, with the help of the program, Yohannes has learned about nutrition, budgeting, and services available to him in Cairo.

The program also offers him a safe space for playing sports and building friendships. "If StARS did not exist, I would go without food for the entire day," Yohannes said. "Nobody can study with an empty stomach."

"And here I get the chance to learn and to be with my friends."

Today, Yohannes is attending school. He has a brighter future thanks to your support of ELCA World Hunger.

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More than land

CAMBODIA ELCA.org/hunger

Huon Sok lives with her husband and six children in Kiri Akphivoath, a rural village in Cambodia. Lack of food, drinking water, healthcare and schools were challenges they faced daily.

As a part of a new government project, Huon and more than 800 other families each received a small plot of residential and agricultural land for farming. Her first year owning the land was a challenge. The land was covered by thick bushes and stumps, and she lacked the resources to prepare the land for planting crops.

"Although our living condition during the first year on the new land had not yet significantly changed, we felt happier than before because we had our own land now, and we hoped that our life would be better soon," Huon said.

Today, her family's life is looking brighter. Through a program supported



by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, lands have been cleared for planting, and communities are gaining access to water, energy, healthcare, education and agricultural training. Huon's land is now ready for sowing. She plans to grow cassava, corn and watermelon.

With income from her crops and her earnings from a small, pig business established through a microloan, she and her husband will be able to continue sending their children to school and earn a steady income as business owners. If she and her family can continue to live on and farm the land for five years, they will gain title to the land.

Your gifts are helping make a lifechanging difference. Thank you for supporting ELCA World Hunger.

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would not be possible without you. your support. This important work education and training. Thank you for the lives of farmers like Ahmed through Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger touch

confident about his future. has healthcare, and Ahmed is more regularly attend school, the family Today, his children are enrolled in and and his family increase their income. The new techniques have helped Ahmed

agricultural wastes in a good manner." a lot of money. I learned to recycle me produce safe, good crops and save compost model," Ahmed said. "It helped "I worked with CEOSS to implement a

chemical fertilizers the farmers use. fertilizer) to decrease the amount of including using compost (organic



□ Ofher \$_ I have enclosed my gift of \$250 I have enclosed my gift of \$100

ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038)

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world, including the United States. poverty in nearly 60 countries around the innovative solutions that fight hunger and Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support

farmers modern agricultural methods, ELCA World Hunger, CEOSS teaches communities. Supported by gifts to in more than 100 rural and urban about 2 million Egyptians a year CEOSS, an organization that reaches Organization for Social Services, or waste - from the Coptic Evangelical techniques that reduce cost and alternative farming techniques – He attended a seminar and learned

unproductive," Ahmed said. methods. It was very expensive and the land using traditional agricultural seeds from local merchants and prepare methods difficult to sustain. "I would buy environment, Ahmed found his farming for generations. With changes in the his lands the same way his family had northeastern Egypt. Ahmed cared for city in the Bani Suwayf region of community of Kafr Abo Shehba, a Ahmed Fathallah is a farmer in the

> ELCA.org/hunger **EGYPT**

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learning, action, prayer and giving. tor making this work possible through congregations like yours. Thank you by gifts from ELCA members and ELCA World Hunger is funded solely to end hunger. We rely on your gifts. churches and partners in the fight worldwide network of companion million to support the work of our 2.4.5 asist of is log ruo ,7102 nl

that can make a difference. education to act and speak in ways Lutherans in advocacy and hunger And they don't stop there. We engage

that get at the root causes of hunger. Hunger support innovative solutions health clinics, your gifts to ELCA World to animal husbandry, microloans to poverty – for good. From water wells help break the cycle of hunger and ром ме сви ассошрану грет то we start by listening and learning nearly 60 countries around the world, neighbors in the United States and in called to respond. Working with our Church in America (ELCA), we are members of the Evangelical Lutheran in our world today - are hungry. As Nearly 800 million people – 1 in 9 people

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

stand-alone update about ELCA World Hunger. Reproduce the piece below on the back of your favorite story or as a

for these and additional stories. and Lutheran Disaster Response. Visit ELCA.org/hunger/resources to highlight the lifesaving work made possible by gifts to ELCA World Hunger

Use these stories in your Sunday bulletins, newsletters and other communications

Stories 2017 eproducible





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America **ELCA World Hunger**



The gift of giving back

UNITED STATES ELCA.org/hunger

More than 14 years ago, First Lutheran Church in Bryan, Ohio, made a commitment to serve its neighborhood, a diverse community of lower-middleincome working families. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped support and grow the church's Food and Fellowship program in 2003.

Gifts went toward expanding the food pantry, and the congregation began a Sunday supper series, offering nutritious meals enjoyed and prepared by neighborhood residents. The dinners are followed by a program, topics ranging from health and nutrition to growing a community garden. Inspired by one of the speakers, the congregation started its own garden, which has been a blessing for the food pantry and a great educational tool for the community.

The congregation's commitment to their neighborhood has meant change. "Part of the process has been educating our

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world, including the United States.

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traditional members that not everybody coming to church today is going to look like them or act like them, and that's OK," Emily Ebaugh, a member since 1984, says. "This ministry has been transformational to our church."

Today, the once tiny food pantry offers neighbors a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and frozen meat, canned goods and toiletries. Allowing residents to make their own food selection empowers them, Ebaugh said, and helps ensure that food is used and

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help our church love and serve our neighbors. Much of the work made possible in the United States supports new or expanding community efforts to address hunger.

Thank you for helping our church be a place our sisters and brothers can turn to in their time of need.

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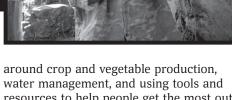
Hope in the drought

AFRICA ELCA.org/disaster

A disaster of global proportion continues to take place, but is going relatively unnoticed. Drought is impacting millions of people globally, with southern and eastern Africa the most heavily affected. Many people are facing a multi-year drought, which has resulted in low crop production, rising food prices and household food insecurity.

Countries, communities, places where Lutheran churches have been at work for generations, are suffering Lutheran Disaster Response, working with companion churches and trusted partners, has hands and feet on the ground providing care, support and hope.

In regions where little rain has fallen over the years, change must take place for people to survive. Lutheran Disaster Response is helping support projects such as irrigation systems, education



resources to help people get the most out of their land. People like Shamble.

In his first year, Shamble is already seeing positive effects. He says, "I was trained and given an improved variety of drought resistant teff [a crop similar to wheat]. My life and my family's life has really improved, I have built a new house and been able to buy some sheep and cows."

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response bring lifesaving aid and resources needed to help those in crisis from disasters. Together, we are working with communities to be more disaster-resilient, helping save lives, improve livelihoods and mitigate the effects of disasters.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response Mail Make your check payable to help the church respond to the needs of "Lutheran Disaster Response" people after a disaster strikes. Working in or to a specific disaster you would collaboration with other disaster response like to direct your gift toward. Place organizations and church entities enables your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to: the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response.

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