Reproducible Stories 2019

Use these stories in your Sunday bulletins, newsletters and other communications to highlight the lifesaving work made possible by gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Reproduce the piece below on the back of your favorite story, as a bulletin blurb or as a stand-alone update about ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving.

ELCA World Hunger’s

40 DAYS of Giving

The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger. We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger is our church’s ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action.

This Lent, you’re invited to join together with fellow supporters to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving. Experience how the grace of Christ moves us to engage in transformative works of love around the world through ELCA World Hunger as God calls us into the ministry of hope, liberation and restoration for our world.

Learn more at ELCA.org/40Days.

GIVE TODAY

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Make your check payable to “ELCA World Hunger” and write “40 Days of Giving” on the memo line. Place your gift in your congregation’s offering plate or mail it to:
ELCA, P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

ONLINE
Give online with a credit card at ELCA.org/40Days.

PHONE
800-638-3522
DLM Food and Resources at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, Ohio, is a place where families find nourishing food, warm clothes and an equally warm welcome.

“At first glance, it’s not much different from any well-run, client-choice food pantry,” said Deacon Marla Wood Kay, director of congregational ministries at Holy Trinity.

But, Wood Kay said, “the idea for this ministry was born in a hospice room,” where Holy Trinity member Debra Manteghi was dying of cancer.

For years, Manteghi had advocated for families. She developed Project RISE (Realizing Individual Strength through Education), a federally funded program connecting Akron Public Schools, shelters and community organizations to support students who are homeless.

After her death, need and opportunity converged.

“I had a desire to continue Debra’s ministry,” Wood Kay said. “Project RISE needed a food pantry to direct their families to.”

In June 2017, Holy Trinity approved the food pantry ministry. Donations in Manteghi’s honor and a church endowment supported it.

When it was time to name the new ministry, Manteghi’s son, Amir, and his fiancee, Monica Band, named it DLM, which stands for “Dare to Love More” and also “Debra Lynn Manteghi.”

Since opening to guests in October 2017, DLM has grown, serving 75 families – 300 people – on average per month. Wood Kay said DLM picks up 1,500 to 3,500 pounds of food three times per month and is a member of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, which provides food and other essential items to area hunger ministries.

While their parents shop, children read books and play games that were collected by Holy Trinity. Plans are underway to expand offerings beyond food, including more adult and children’s clothing, school uniforms and drop-in counseling.

Volunteers, along with an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant, help DLM thrive.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, the ministry has been able to increase refrigeration capabilities and purchase extra food.

“Our clients feel seen, heard and loved,” said Rachel Breece, Project RISE special programs coordinator. “The ability to take one more thing off their plate is priceless.”
In the village of Chole, Shadrack Tsatautenda has been cultivating trees for two years, and the oldest are nearly ready to sell and transplant. His nursery was made possible by a small business loan from the village savings and loan group established by Evangelical Lutheran Development Services in Malawi (ELDS), supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. In addition to funding small business plans like Shadrack’s, ELDS trains farmers on crop diversification and increasing yields through new planting methods and the use of organic fertilizer.

In Chole, as is common in many rural villages in Malawi, many trees are cleared for farming and firewood. Over time, deforestation leads to air that is less clean and soil that erodes more quickly. Having received training at the ELDS farming school, Shadrack planted the first seedlings in his nursery, which has now grown to 1,200 trees ranging from saplings to almost fully grown.

Caring for the land, coaxing life out of the soil and guiding it to maturity – this work connects Shadrack to the past, plants him firmly in the present and informs his vision for the future. And that vision, guided by his faith, is not only for his personal prosperity, but also for the prospering of his community.

“This land has been in my family for five generations,” he said. “It is meaningful to me to look after the land of my ancestors, and I want to pass this land to future generations.”

The training he received, he will pass on to others. Those who receive that training will use it to heal their own land and use the profits of increased yields to send their children to school. The land that gives Shadrack life and livelihood will one day be inherited by his three children, who will receive it in a better way than it was found.
Hatching a reliable protein source

In the remote and mountainous community of Llano de las Piedras, Cochoapa el Grande in Guerrero, Mexico, poverty and lack of opportunity can make healthy food hard to come by. As a result, children can suffer from malnutrition and slowed growth and development. Marcelina and her daughters, Imelda, 12, and Esmeralda, 10, were among the families who had a tough time affording enough healthy food. With little income and few options for growing crops, the choices for protein were limited. While Marcelina and her family were able to get eggs to eat three times a week, this was not enough to meet the nutritional needs of growing children.

Now things have changed for this family, thanks in part to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Working with a local organization, Amextra, the family received six chickens, materials for chicken coops and training on how to care for the poultry. Now they work to take care of the chickens and have eggs to eat anytime. They can sell the extra eggs at the market for additional income, which can be used to buy food or other essentials such as salt, dried chilis, tomatoes and rice.

Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Amextra is helping other families in Llano de las Piedras make that belief a reality, too. In addition to providing chicken coops, your gifts helped other families in the community start gardens to grow vegetables such as radishes, cilantro, cabbage, broccoli and carrots, which allows them to supplement their diet and their livelihood. This is the kind of change that can impact the entire community, household by household, increasing stability and addressing the root causes of hunger. Thanks to your support, Marcelina and her neighbors can make seasons of hunger and episodes of malnutrition a thing of the past.

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

Will you help with your gift today?

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

☐ I have enclosed my gift of $100
☐ I have enclosed my gift of $250
☐ Other $__________________

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Yim Kheng and her husband, Yi Pheng, live in Cambodia with four of their children and one granddaughter. They received a plot of land through a social land concession, a government program intended to provide people who don’t own land with space for homes and to generate income through agriculture. They cleared the land themselves and planted potatoes next to the small hut they built.

Often the land granted by the government is small, remote and not ready for farming. But thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, hundreds of families' land is now usable to grow food.

Yim Kheng and Yi Pheng rented a tractor to clear the land. Now they plant rice on their plot, selling half of the harvest and keeping the other half for their family, earning an average of $260 per year.

Even with those improvements, the rice and income alone weren’t enough to feed and support the family. Because of your gifts, they also received chicken-raising training, materials to build a coop and a small flock of chickens. Their flock has grown to 100 chickens that produce eggs to eat and sell at the market.

Your gifts also enabled Yim Kheng and Yi Pheng to start a small grocery stand, thanks to a loan from the village savings and loan group, supported and trained by Life With Dignity, an ELCA World Hunger partner.

“My life is better now. I have land for settlement and agriculture, a shop, and I am knowledgeable about chicken-raising,” Yi Pheng said.

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One lifeline that never goes away

St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church’s Lunchtime Ministry offers a warm meal, hospitality and community to neighbors in Hoboken, N.J.

The ministry serves about 65 people per day. In addition to meals, they offer free haircuts, music and a sense of community. Stanley Enzweiler, the program manager, said while different things bring people there, the only requirement is respect for the space and the people around them.

“We’ll give you a warm meal, a fresh pair of socks, and a listening ear no matter what you did last year or last night," Stanley said. “Whatever your story is, we will welcome you.”

The values of the ministry include respect, hospitality and forgiveness.

“Even if you break the rules at Lunchtime Ministry and have to leave our community for a few days, we will always welcome you back,” Stanley said. “Everyone messes up a time or two, but no one is beyond forgiveness. We are one lifeline that never goes away.”

One guest, Len, attended technical school in Texas before getting deployed to California to work as a forklift driver for the U.S. Air Force. After his honorable discharge, he stayed in California until his father died, and then he returned to New Jersey to take care of his mother. She died in 2011, leaving him with nowhere to go. Although he stayed at other county shelters, a few bad decisions got him kicked out of these for life.

Len came to Lunchtime Ministry as a last resort. Although it's not an overnight shelter, he is able to get a few hours of sleep on the benches or floor during open hours. Like many guests, he helps out when needed by cleaning tables, taking out the garbage and posting event flyers. He also attends church services, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and Bible study. Most of all, he is known for encouraging volunteers.

This ministry is powered by volunteers and financial support that includes an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant. Thanks to your gifts, Lunchtime Ministry can continue to dish out delicious and filling meals served with respect every day.
With women in power, malaria doesn't stand a chance

ZIMBABWE
ELCA.org/Hunger

It is easy to think of malaria prevention as simply providing mosquito nets for prevention and medicine to those who have fallen ill. But there's much more to it than that.

Burure is in the Gokwe Region of Zimbabwe, bordered by rivers that are notoriously difficult to cross during the rainy season. It is an area that has been plagued by outbreaks of malaria in the past. It is one of the most remote areas served by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ).

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support Burure’s schools and the Burure Gokwe Clinic – institutions that provide education and health care to an area of approximately 10,000 people.

Jairos Charedzera is a village health worker supported by the ELCA Malaria Campaign. With a contagiously enthusiastic and upbeat demeanor, Jairos teaches malaria prevention and control in Burure and the surrounding villages and is a “trainer of trainers” for income-generating savings groups in each of the villages.

“When a household’s income rises, so does the likelihood of good health.”

In each of the village savings and loan groups, the members – all women – contribute money each month. That money is pooled together to invest in income-generating activities. The women plant and nurture a nutritional garden, growing squashes, peanuts, greens and spices. They also harvest honey from beehives they built and maintain.

The profits of these activities are then used to provide goats, hens, pots, pans, mosquito nets or other necessities for each member of the group and their households.

Strong women are at the center of Burure’s journey toward a future of hope and possibility. When women gain access to income, the whole community benefits.

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