

Help for the neighborhood

UNITED STATES
ELCA.org/hunger



When William "Big Bill" Hogan was 16, he yearned to be a chef. Working in a number of restaurants over the past 30 years, his experience fostered a calling to serve people facing hunger. When he saw restaurants throwing away hundreds of pounds of food each night, he asked if he could have it to feed hungry neighbors out of his apartment. With food in hand, Bill began serving.

Members of Galilee Lutheran Church in Roseville, Minn., took notice and today Help for the 'Hood, a meal ministry, is part of Galilee's outreach to neighbors who go hungry, especially at the end of the month when resources for food become scarce. The ministry has become especially important during the summer when school-aged children are home.

"After 30 years in the food business, I'd rather have a ministry than a restaurant," Bill said. "Giving back feels good."

Students ages 11-18 help prepare and serve meals and acquire jobs skills along the way. Bill mentors the students and teaches them about the basics of running a small business and the importance of money management. The students also receive a stipend for their work.

Ler Say, 14, is one of the young members of his staff. Born in Burma, he helps cook, serve food and clean up the free lunchtime meals.

"It's heartwarming to help people out," Ler says. "This is a really good job with good people, and we make a brighter future for everyone. It's good job training experience for me, too."

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, more people in Roseville and communities across the country have food for today and skills for tomorrow.

Ler adds a personal message to supporters like you: "Please thank them truly and deeply."

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.

Will you help with your gift today?

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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WHF16

Raw talents

UNITED STATES
ELCA.org/hunger



In the midst of a food desert, where no grocery stores sell fresh produce, McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm is meeting a critical need for residents of Muskegon, Mich.

McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, grows everything from radishes to tomatoes in the middle of the city and teaches adults and teens how to grow their own food.

During the summer, Laurie Wieschowski, the farm's manager, teaches middle schoolers the importance of weeding the farm and picking bugs off plants. The reward, says Laurie, comes when the produce grown is served at the public school for lunch.

"They get excited when they see the kale, lettuce and carrots they've been tending," Laurie said, adding that some students return after the session to volunteer at the farm.

This program also hires student interns who earn a stipend while learning how to

promote urban gardening and develop leadership skills. In a city where nearly two-thirds of the residents earn incomes below the federal poverty level, this is an important investment in the community's future.

High school senior Briane Brooks has been involved with the farm for two years, weeding, harvesting and talking to the farm's visitors. "I love the work," she said. "I love being involved in the community."

As part of the Youth Empowerment Program, Briane is paid hourly, but for her, getting healthy food to people is the important goal.

To ELCA World Hunger, she adds, "Your donors are involved in something much bigger than you'd ever believe. You are helping a hurt community."

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Briane and many residents of Muskegon now have access to fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables they need to thrive.

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Renewed hope

THAILAND
ELCA.org/hunger



When her parents passed away, 7-year-old Mia was sent to live with a distant relative on the border between Thailand and Burma. Her "caretaker" forced Mia to work in an orchard rather than go to school, and her meager "salary" was stolen by her caretaker. When she was 13, Mia was forced to stay in a different home where she was sexually abused.

Conservative estimates suggest nearly a quarter-million women and girls are victims of human trafficking in Southeast Asia every year, often abused and forced to work for little or no pay. But thanks to the work of New Life Center Foundation in Thailand, supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, this isn't the end of the story for victims like Mia.

When she first arrived at the New Life Center Foundation, Mia had significant developmental delays stemming

from years of abuse and neglect. The foundation's staff arranged for her to study in their on-site adult education program, but Mia struggled, as basic tasks, like holding a pencil, were unfamiliar to her.

After three years of hard work and hope, Mia began studying at the seventh-grade level. Therapeutic art classes and counseling also continue to help her process the abuse and exploitation she lived through as a young girl.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, through New Life Center Foundation's comprehensive programs, Mia has the skills and confidence to share her story with others and a renewed hope for the future.

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Sowing seeds

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
ELCA.org/hunger



In the Bohong region in western Central African Republic, Georgette, a widow, toils in the field to provide for her grandchildren. When fighting between militia groups overwhelmed her town, her family and neighbors all fled for safety. When they returned home, they found the fields destroyed and their farm tools stolen. The fields were their main source of food and income.

Together, in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped distribute more than 20 tons of seeds and thousands of farm tools to more than 2,000 households in the Bohong region. And we continue to walk with

Georgette and her neighbors as they struggle to survive in a region torn apart by war.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help remind our sisters and brothers that they are not alone. In Georgette's words, "We gave thanks to God as we realized that we were not abandoned but that we have sisters and brothers who think about us despite the distance that separates us."

Thank you for supporting ELCA World Hunger and helping families, like Georgette's, start anew.

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 Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response
 help the church respond to the needs of
 people after a disaster strikes. Working in
 collaboration with other disaster response
 organizations and church entities, this enables
 the greatest stewardship of resources and
 maximum impact of response.



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 or to a specific disaster you would
 like to direct your gift toward. Place
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WHF16

Life has not been easy for Eunice, 27.
 As a divorced mother, she struggled
 to provide three meals a day for her
 twin children. She and her babies
 were also sick, which only added to
 their challenges.
 A neighbor in the Bunda District
 of Tanzania introduced Eunice to
 the Bunda Palliative Care Team
 from the Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in Tanzania.
 When screening revealed that Eunice
 and her twins were HIV positive, the
 Bunda Palliative Care Team provided
 them with the medication they needed.
 Eunice also received food and other
 basic necessities for her and her
 children, including a bigger home to
 better accommodate her family.
 Through the program, Eunice also
 learned how to use her skills to start
 a vegetable-selling business to earn
 an income.

"I thank God that I met the Bunda
 PC team," said Eunice. "I am short
 of words because of how they
 have been supportive and love me
 unconditionally. The world has only
 a few people like them. They told me
 that they are helped by other people,
 and I am thanking them as well."
 Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World
 Hunger, Eunice is feeling healthier and
 happier. She has a brighter outlook on
 life and is currently seeking a nanny
 for her children so she can dedicate
 time to growing her business.
 Your generous donations make
 programs like the Bunda Palliative
 Care Team possible. In Bunda alone,
 2,000 people, like Eunice, each year,
 Thank you.



Health and happiness

TANZANIA
ELCA.org/hunger

In the last year, a record number of people
 have fled unimaginable conflict and war
 in Syria. Many Syrians have found refuge
 in one of the largest refugee camps in the
 world, the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.
 Among them is Louie, 19, and his family.
 While the majority of his family wants to
 go back to Syria, Louie has other ideas.
 "I think it'd be very difficult to go back
 to Syria," Louie says. "I just want to go
 somewhere that is safe, where I can make
 a life for myself."
 Louie and a business partner have a
 barber shop in the Zaatari camp. Having
 already had some experience working in a
 salon, he eagerly accepted when given the
 opportunity to participate in the barber
 classes offered through a life-skills training
 program. This program is made possible
 to Louie and others like him.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response
 are providing life skills to people like Louie
 but are also providing protection, shelter,
 education, basic relief, water and sanitation
 to thousands of refugees living in the
 Zaatari camp.
 For Louie, your gifts have helped him
 provide for his family and have given him a
 chance to make a life for himself when he's
 somewhere safe, wherever that may be.
 Because of you, Lutheran Disaster Response
 continues to bring God's hope and healing
 to Louie and others like him.



Making a life

JORDAN
ELCA.org/disaster

Honey of an idea

INDIA
ELCA.org/hunger



What "crop" doesn't need any extra
 land for production? And, its raw
 materials provided generously for free
 by mother nature? For farmers in rural
 India, it is honey.

Like most farmers, Sonamuni Tudu of
 West Bengal, India, relies on the land
 to produce crops to support his family.
 Changes in weather patterns have
 created challenges in food production.
 One alternative for him is to migrate
 or work at stone quarries, but both
 of these options carry risks, including
 human trafficking.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World
 Hunger, through the Lutheran World
 Service India Trust, the Santhal tribal
 people, like Sonamuni, now have
 a safer and a more sustainable
 option – beekeeping.

In this part of India, the raw materials
 for honey are readily available and

beehives require neither additional
 land nor compete with agriculture. For
 Sonamuni and other rural and tribal
 farmers, beekeeping has become an
 additional source of income, as they
 produce high-quality honey that is in
 demand in markets around the region.

"Beekeeping has come to us as an
 alternative source of income," says
 Sonamuni. "The extra money we earn
 from honey production has increased
 our family income, which we use to
 invest in our children's education,
 cover health care costs, and improve
 our living situation. We feel that we
 are earning money with dignity in
 an eco-friendly environment."

Thank you for supporting ELCA World
 Hunger. Through your gifts, the rural
 and tribal famers in West Bengal, India,
 now have a tailored solution that can
 help put an end to hunger – for good.

WHF16

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Reproducible Stories 2016

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. Visit ELCA.org/hunger/resources
 for these and additional stories.

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

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

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

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

In 2016, our goal is to raise \$24
 million to support the work of our
 worldwide network of companion
 churches and partners in the fight
 to end hunger. We rely on your gifts.
 ELCA World Hunger is funded solely
 by gifts from ELCA members and
 congregations like yours. Thank you
 for making this work possible through
 learning, action, prayer and giving.

Give Today

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