

Huch'uy Runa (Little important person)

PERU
ELCA.org/hunger



Every weekday morning, 120 elementary school children fill the dining hall at the Help the Children Association School to eat a warm breakfast. While each child has a different story, the children have one thing in common – they all come from an area of extreme poverty in and around the ancient Incan capital city of Cusco, Peru. The school, known locally as Huch'uy Runa, began 31 years ago to meet the basic needs of the children in Cusco. In Quechua, "huch'uy" means little and "runa" means a well-rounded person who contributes to the well-being of the community. The two words combined, "huch'uy runa" mean "little important person." And the children of this city carry this identity with pride. The school, with support from ELCA World Hunger, has been able

to change the lives of many "little important person(s)" and their families for more than a decade. Through your gifts, the children of this city receive a primary education, meals and snacks, and training in trade skills that include carpentry, metalwork, pottery and weaving – skills they can use to support themselves and their families in the future. Thanks to your support, the children in Peru are gaining lifelong skills. As one teacher shares, "[It] is like a family trying to equip the children to be able to survive and succeed in life, hoping to build a solid base on which they can stand."

WHF17

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God's work. Our hands.

Young leaders making a difference

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
ELCA.org/hunger



"A lot of the opportunities that used to exist for developing job skills and leadership skills – working in mom-and-pop shops or having paper routes – are missing now," says the Rev. Patrick Cabello Hansel of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Recognizing the need for these skills, St. Paul's started the Young Leaders program. In the program, youth ages 11 to 15 participate in career tracks that include activities such as painting murals, growing food in community gardens or leading community initiatives. The Young Leaders program is supported in part by a grant from ELCA World Hunger.

"We don't just take kids who are stars," Pastor Hansel explains. "We've seen kids who are really troubled and watched them become more responsible, more focused and grow as leaders in school and in the community."

The program has had a huge impact. When

Carmen* first came to the Young Leaders, she was quiet and shy. The confidence she gained, though, encouraged her to use her talents to become a leader among her peers. In time, Carmen developed her creative writing skills and became co-editor of The Phoenix of Phillips, the program's literary magazine. Her talents and leadership skills led to a scholarship offer from one of the premier private high schools in the area.

St. Paul's Young Leaders program is helping change the community by accompanying youth who will – and are – making a difference. "A lot of people have a negative view of youth as troublemakers," says Pastor Hansel. "But here, the youth get to see a community of Christians that cares about them, and the community can see their leadership and responsibility at work."

*Name changed for privacy

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Glimmers of hope

BOISE, IDAHO
ELCA.org/hunger



At Boise Rescue Mission Ministries (BRMM), the meal is the first step.

"A warm meal can offer that first glimmer of hope," says BRMM President and CEO Bill Roscoe. "From there BRMM is able to address the root cause of homelessness and work with individuals to break the cycle of homelessness and transition to independent living."

In his more than 25 years of ministry, Bill has come to see that homelessness is not an isolated issue. That's why he insists on a holistic approach – addressing barriers to employment, untreated mental illness, spiritual thirst and more.

At five facilities in Southwest Idaho, BRMM offers three meals a day; emergency services like shelter, clothing and showers; employment programs; mental health services; a children's program; and drug and alcohol addiction recovery programs. In 2016, the mission served 347,477 meals, provided 144,930 warm beds, handed out 72,400 articles of clothing and helped 600 individuals transition from homelessness to independent living. BRMM's work is supported by ELCA World Hunger.

Craig* is a participant in BRMM's programs. Some of Craig's earliest memories are of growing up in a home where substance abuse was the norm. By the time he was 12, he was using drugs and alcohol. As an adult, he spent years living either in jail or on the streets. When he came to BRMM, it was for an immediate need.

"I didn't have any money," Craig says. "I came to the Mission to eat."

That meal led to something much bigger.

"That plate of food did more than just quiet Craig's growling stomach," Bill says. "It spoke to his soul and opened the door to three of our other key ministry areas that have profoundly changed his life."

Now, Craig not only has a safe place to live, but he is in recovery and has a relationship with God.

Your support of ELCA World Hunger helps make programs like these possible. Thank you.

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Harvesting hope

NICARAGUA
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Each season, Zulema Lopez sows and reaps crops in the village of San Luis, near Somoto in northern Nicaragua. But after years of prolonged drought, wells have run dry and many harvests have failed.

"Everything has dried up – the fields, the wells, the rivers. It's all dry now," Lopez said. "Lots of women have to walk farther to collect water. It's a daily problem to get enough water to wash and cook and drink."

However, a new well, equipped with a solar-powered pump and a drip-irrigation system funded by South Canyon Lutheran Church, Rapid City, S.D., now brings water to the fields and into homes for drinking, washing and cooking. Planned and developed by the

community, the project is aided by staff of the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope – with support from ELCA World Hunger – who conduct sustainable farming training.

With predictions that rainfall will continue to be scarce, people in this dry-corridor region are encouraged by the solutions the new equipment and techniques offer. "We've got hope with this project," Lopez said. "It's not every man for himself here – we're doing it together. We're doing corn and beans, and vegetables, too. And we'll all get a share." Your support of ELCA World Hunger helps make this possible. Thank you!

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Through DeafCAN!, Mary Grace received support network in her new country. relationship, was unemployed and lacked a and hunger. She had just left an abusive Grace was at risk of experiencing poverty director of DeafCAN!, first met her, Mary When Beth Lockard, pastor and executive learn to navigate the world as they become more independent and productive."

"We see our ministry as holistic: to help people satisfy their physical, emotional and mental needs, so they can then understand spiritual aspects of life," Pastor Lockard said. "Throughout the process, they grow and understand those deeper issues. They learn to navigate the world as they become more independent and productive."

"I've learned how important it is to develop my own skills and to be self-sufficient," said Mary Grace, who emigrated from the Philippines four years ago. "I am learning American Sign Language (ASL) and studying for my citizenship and driver's license. I look forward to becoming a citizen and voting someday."

"Refugees and immigrants are often vulnerable to hunger and poverty as they rebuild their lives. When this vulnerability intersects with the challenges often created by a lack of services for people with disabilities, the risks can be more severe. When Beth Lockard, pastor and executive director of DeafCAN!, first met her, Mary Grace was at risk of experiencing poverty and hunger. She had just left an abusive relationship, was unemployed and lacked a support network in her new country. Through DeafCAN!, Mary Grace received

A one-in-a-million ministry

WEST CHESTER, PA. ELCA.org/hunger



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Mary Grace said, "Today I have a life." I have new friends and a family at church," "church family." "I'm in a community now," that has been true for Mary Grace, who now calls Christ the King Deaf Church her director of DeafCAN!, first met her, Mary Grace was at risk of experiencing poverty and hunger. She had just left an abusive relationship, was unemployed and lacked a support network in her new country. Through DeafCAN!, Mary Grace received

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On his parents' large plot of land in Tapah in northwestern Malaysia, Haslan Chong harvests a batch of ginger alongside his relatives and neighbors. The work is hard and, at times, tedious. But according to Benson Yeoh, head of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia's (LCM) Orang Asli Committee, this work also signals to Haslan that his "dream has finally come to pass." Together, the farmers are part of the Orang Asli Community Project of the LCM.

The Orang Asli are an indigenous people of West Malaysia. In recent years, they have been the focus of "development" by the government. This fraught process has left the Orang Asli without access to land and markets for \$3.38 per kilogram. Benson Yeoh says the "mutual trust" between LCM and Orang Asli farmers like Haslan has helped both learn valuable lessons throughout their work together. This accompaniment has built a bridge for sustainability – of the land, of household income, and of relationships in their community for years to come.

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Working with consultants and local farmers, Haslan and his Orang Asli neighbors were trained in sustainable agriculture, allowing them to learn while earning a sufficient income for themselves and their families. Because of its long shelf life and popularity, the project's participants chose to grow ginger. With support from a no-interest microloan from LCM – made possible by gifts to ELCA World Hunger – the project began in July 2016 with preparation of the land and installation of drip irrigation. Today, the Orang Asli look forward to harvesting the 900 plants in their second batch of ginger, which can be sold in local markets for \$3.38 per kilogram. Benson Yeoh says the "mutual trust" between LCM and Orang Asli farmers like Haslan has helped both learn valuable lessons throughout their work together. This accompaniment has built a bridge for sustainability – of the land, of household income, and of relationships in their community for years to come.

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'Root' solutions

MALAYSIA ELCA.org/hunger



Reproducible Stories 2017

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 more than 60 countries around the world, we start by listening and learning about 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 2017, 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.

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ELCAMA1343

Fulfilling our mission

SERBIA ELCA.org/hunger



Amira was pregnant with twins when she fled her home in Syria with her other children and two female relatives. Her husband was already in Germany, and Amira made the dangerous trek from her war-torn country to Europe, hoping to join him. The family made it as far as Serbia when Amira went into premature labor and had to be hospitalized.

twins. The Asylum Protection Center (APC), an organization accompanying both refugees and residents of Serbia, provided psychological care for Amira, helping her manage her stress and make healthy decisions for her newborns. APC is supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

Like many Syrian refugees, Amira and her family were under pressure to continue their journey. But since the "Balkan route" through Hungary closed in March 2016, many asylum seekers and refugees have been forced to remain in Serbia far longer than they had planned. The increase in refugees in Serbia has created a crisis, both for families like Amira's seeking a better life and for the Serbian communities welcoming the massive influx of international migrants.

The stress of her journey weighed heavily on Amira, who could barely eat or sleep and, as a result, was having difficulty breastfeeding her newborn

In addition to psychosocial support, APC provides humanitarian aid and legal support – to both asylum seekers in need of protection and their hosts who are adjusting to an unprecedented number of new people within their communities.

The accompaniment of both migrants and hosts is part of the calling of the church, according to the Rev. Cindy Halmanson, the ELCA's area director for the Middle East, Europe and North Africa. "We are an immigrant church," she says. "If we can accompany our partners as they discover the ways to offer hospitality in their own places, we're fulfilling our mission."

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