



CLWR recognized for refugee sponsorship

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) has been recognized by the Canadian government for thirty years of participation in the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (PSRP). Fikre Tsehai, manager of CLWR's refugee program, accepted a framed letter written by the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, at a ceremony held in Vancouver in late September.

In his message, Kenney noted that the work undertaken by CLWR and its supporters "is a voluntary act, motivated by compassion, caring, and a desire to take an active role in protecting refugees. It is an amazing demonstration of the sincere generosity and good will of Canadians from across the country, from all walks of life, from small communities to large cities, who donate countless hours and make significant financial commitments to help refugees begin new lives in Canada."



Fikre Tsehai, Bob Granke and Jim Mair display certificate recognizing CLWR's contribution to refugee resettlement (Photo: B. Lorch)

The PSRP was initiated in 1979 in response to the plight of the Indochinese boat people. As an agreement holder in the program, CLWR has assisted Lutheran sponsorship groups across the country in bringing close to 10,000 refugees to Canada.

On a recent visit to CLWR's headquarters in Winnipeg, Fikre formally presented the certificate to Robert Granke and the rest of the CLWR staff. Also present was Jim Mair of the North End Sponsorship Team (NEST), a coalition of six Lutheran and two United Church Winnipeg congregations that has been working with CLWR since 1986 to bring refugees to Winnipeg. In that time, NEST has sponsored 150 refugees from 20 countries.

For more information about refugee sponsorship through CLWR, please visit our website: www.clwr.org/What-We-Do. You may also contact Fikre at 604.435.9750 or toll-free 1.888.588.6686.

New resources available on climate change

In about six weeks time, national delegations from around the globe will arrive in Copenhagen, Denmark, for a major UN climate conference. Their goal: find common ground to create a climate treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol that expires in 2012. Carol Thiessen, a public policy advisor at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), writes that "what happens in Copenhagen matters deeply. Negotiators will seek to establish substantial binding targets on emissions, while also agreeing on how to help those who are already suffering from climate change."

CFGB has recently released two resources useful for those wishing to develop a better understanding of the forthcoming conference

and the issues it will tackle. One is a primer on the conference itself. It lays out the history leading up to the conference and some possible consequences of inaction. A second resource, *Food Justice Update*, is the latest issue of a regular newsletter. It also focuses on the Copenhagen conference and draws links between food security, climate change and scripture.

Both resources have been added to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) website and are available for downloading at www.clwr.org/Resources/print.cfm.

CLWR is one of 15 church and faith-based organizations that form the membership of the Foodgrains Bank. Currently, we are working through CFGB on community development and food aid projects in Ethiopia and Zambia.

Upcoming event in the Winnipeg area

Celebration of Global Hope
Thursday, October 29 @ 7:00 PM
Park Theatre
698 Osborne St.

Enjoy an evening of entertainment and light refreshments inspired by our project countries around the world.

Tickets: \$25 available at the door!



Four Corners open house this weekend

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) supporters in the Winnipeg area will be able to check out our new facility at 549 King Edward Street this weekend at an open house hosted by Four Corners. Festivities begin on Thursday, October 29, at 9:00 a.m. and continue on through Sunday until 5:00 p.m. with extended hours on Friday evening until 9:00 p.m.

Visitors will be treated to fairly traded coffee and tea. Tours of our new warehouse facility will also be given, providing an opportunity to see how thousands of We Care kits and quilts are processed. The Four Corners store will be open and ready with lots of gift ideas for early-bird Christmas shoppers.

Can't make it to Winnipeg this weekend? Then shop online at www.clwr.org. For more information about the open house, call 204.631.0500.

LCC Members: Watch for the Gifts from the Heart Catalogue

The October issue of *The Canadian Lutheran* will be arriving at Lutheran Church-Canada congregations in the coming days. Stitched into this issue is your Gifts from the Heart catalogue.

Shipping Address for We Care kits and quilts

When shipping We Care kits and quilts to Winnipeg, please remember to address them to:

549 King Edward Street
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0N9

CLWR News Briefs are produced by Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). CLWR reports stories for the benefit and interest of its readers. News stories do not necessarily reflect CLWR policy or positions.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Through your local LCC or ELCIC congregation
- At www.clwr.org
- Toll free at 1.800.661.2597 (CLWR)
- By cheque or money order to:
Canadian Lutheran World Relief
302-393 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3B 3H6

Do you have a story to share? Send it to blorch@clwr.mb.ca, including your name and phone number.

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