

Partnership

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Silkscreening of the We Care bags is done by the same work cooperative from which CLWR Four Corners purchases its alternative trade Indian rugs. CLWR Photo

Thanks to you, they know We Care!

Just over one year ago Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) launched the We Care program. The idea was simple: First, support impoverished workers in India by paying a fair price for custom CLWR bags and labels. Next, let Canadians fill those bags to make a relief kit or sew the label onto a quilt. Then, ship those kits and quilts overseas to those in need. Thanks to you the idea has turned into the We Care program, and it's a major success! In this edition of Partnership we'll follow the path your We Care goods take across the globe.

MADE IN INDIA...

The morning sun is starting to heat up the streets in a village just east of Jaipur, India, as a CLWR work cooperative comes to life. Inside, men unfurl a bolt of bright yellow cloth and begin silkscreening with blue ink. The CLWR logo appears with the words "We Care..." The ink dries, then women and men cut and sew until the familiar CLWR handbags and backpacks take shape. These people are grateful for the opportunity to work for fair wages in a part of the world filled with impoverished workers.

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ACT Photo

A KIT FOR EVERYONE

- School Kit
- Sewing Kit
- Hygiene Kit
- Baby Kit
- Children's Kit
- Personal Kit (Woman)
- Personal Kit (Man)

WHAT'S IN A KIT?

www.clwr.org/WeCare.pdf



SHIPPED IN 2006

13,807

Assorted Kits

11,799

Quilts • Blankets

The view from here

BY ROBERT GRANKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Action by Churches Together (ACT) International was created more than 10 years ago as a global alliance of churches and related agencies working together to save lives and support communities in emergencies. CLWR has been a member of ACT since its inception.

Today, ACT is a global leader in providing a response to emergencies worldwide, with more than 100 members and the ability to reach into virtually every corner of the world. Last year, ACT provided US\$122 million in emergency assistance, as well as offering training and support to its members. Millions of people are touched by support through ACT each day. There is much to be proud of in terms of our engagement with ACT, especially when you consider that the administrative carrying costs of ACT are a modest 1.5% of ACT's annual disbursements.

In 2007 the ecumenical community is taking action to expand international cooperation amongst churches and related agencies, beyond the present mandate of ACT International. ACT Development is being created, a mechanism through which related agencies and churches may collaborate specifically in areas of international development programming. Steps are being taken to ensure that CLWR, on behalf of Lutheran Church–Canada and together with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), is engaged with this new initiative, which will increase our effectiveness on the ground as we seek to rehabilitate communities and empower them towards sustainability.

The creation of ACT Development is part of an overall process towards the establishment of a new umbrella agency in the future which will also include advocacy within its structure. CLWR and the ELCIC (which has the mandate for advocacy) will both participate in this new entity with the goal of closer collaboration in advocacy and integration with the full cycle of development.

Action by Churches Together...more than just a name. ACT...a visible and growing witness to the world by churches and agencies such as CLWR. ☛

CLWR encourages increased understanding of development issues

Applications are now being accepted for Leadership Development Program

Canadian Lutheran World Relief's Leadership Development Program (LDP) aims to encourage activities among people in our constituency that increase their understanding of injustice, poverty and world hunger, while exposing them to ways in which CLWR and other church partners are addressing these issues through overseas programming.

Supported projects such as learning tours and servant events give participants, especially young people, formative first-hand exposure to the challenges and joys of development work, as well as a greater appreciation for the significant role CLWR plays in this international context.

"Hearing the stories of people whose lives are being transformed and experiencing the impact CLWR programming is having on developing communities instilled in me a commitment to support this important work unlike any other educational endeavour," says Daranne Mills, who first participated in a CLWR-supported learning tour when she was a student at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon. Mills is now CLWR's Communications Director.

Groups are invited to submit project proposals that create opportunities for raising participants' awareness of development issues. In the past this has often involved travel to CLWR project areas; however, groups are encouraged to consider other means as well, such as arranging for international partners to share their experiences with people in Canada. Priority is given to projects which draw attention to CLWR's five priority countries—Bolivia, Peru, India, Mozambique and Zambia. Projects that focus on partner churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Lutheran Church–Canada, or member churches of the Lutheran World Federation and International Lutheran Council are also eligible, though secondary in focus.

CLWR accepts LDP project proposals on an annual basis. The application deadline for projects that will take place between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008 is Wednesday, February 28, 2007. Guidelines and application forms can be requested by calling 1.800.661.2597 or emailing clwr@clwr.mb.ca. ☛



The village of Chiandane uses a treadle pump next to a small stream to irrigate their crops. *Photo: Lorne Kletke*

CLWR reaches new area of Mozambique

A snapshot of two districts added to our development program

As the dry season stretches to a close in September, in the Province of Tete, Mozambique, the districts of Chifunde and Tsangano are already beginning to see the first rewards of the hard work they have applied to the resources provided to them by Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Through CLWR, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is able to carry out field work in these geographically sprawling districts, providing material resources and professional expertise in agriculture, economic development, health care and other areas.

It is not an easy life here. To reach Chifunde village (administrative centre of Chifunde district) from the main provincial city, LWF staff must travel hours along a combination of highways and paths cut over the rocky terrain, crossing shallow streams in the dry season that are impassable in other months. Thankfully, field staff do not make this trek daily; instead they live among the villages they

serve and use dirt bikes or their own two feet to move between the scattered communities.

Chifunde district, sharing a border with Zambia and Malawi, has a population of 63,000. It is difficult to itemize the challenges faced here because they are so numerous and interconnected. Among them, a high illiteracy rate (only one out of every four adults can read), a lack of medical resources (often located in a distant village), a large number of orphans (from parents migrating to bordering countries), soil erosion (due to poor land use and construction practices), inadequate drinking water (from a lack of water retention systems and wells that were destroyed during war), deforestation, poverty stemming from a lack of economic opportunities...the list goes on and seems impossible to tackle.

Yet simple acts and the sharing of basic knowledge go a long way in combating these problems. Some CLWR resources address immediate concerns, such as nutritional

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How the We Care Program works

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PLANNING A WE CARE DRIVE 1. Order We Care bags → 2. Select one or two kit types → 3. Order We Care kits → 4. Distribute We Care bags → 5. Post a drop-off area in your church → 6. Consider Sunday school



Many people make the We Care kits a group activity.
Photo: Ian McCausland



Erin Brucker (right) and her Nana hold up quilts destined overseas.
Submitted photo

STUFFED...

The Christmas tree in the sanctuary at Central Lutheran Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, is surrounded by We Care bags. “They’re not exactly Christmas hues, but the blue-and-yellow We Care bags really resonate with our Swedish congregation!” jokes a church member.

Like Central, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Regina is also holding a We Care drive for the Advent season. Younger children take ownership in filling their bags, while older members often contribute the \$5 per bag to offset overseas shipping costs. By Christmas Eve the two churches will have 150 to 200 filled bags under their trees.

Churches and individuals can contact CLWR to order We Care bags and to find a free shipping provider in their area.

...AND STITCHED IN CANADA

In Kelowna, British Columbia, nine-year-old Erin Brucker has just finished her first two quilts. Grandmother, “Nana” Verna Knoernschild, has volunteered her sewing machine and support.

Erin’s quilts are received at the CLWR warehouse in Winnipeg with a handwritten note. “I am making quilts with my nana because I feel sorry for children and babies that don’t have food, shelter or warm blankets,” the letter says.

Meanwhile in London, Ontario, the quilters at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church have reached 99 quilts for the year. The group, started 15 years ago, is about eight in number. When asked what message she would send along with their work, quilter Lorine Ryan contemplates an answer. “I wish for God to look after them.”

Good Shepherd’s pastor, Orland Welke, recognizes the value of the We Care quilts. “It provides a way for our church members to work in service to God,” he says. “One quilter cannot make it to services that often due to her hours of work, but she finds a way to serve through quilting.”



3. Place in bulletin: a. List of kit contents, b. Invitation to bring in items, c. Invitation to donate \$5/bag school tie-ins → 7. Designate a Sunday to celebrate → 8. Arrange shipment to CLWR



Patrick Stewart prepares a bale for shipping at the CLWR Winnipeg warehouse. *Photo: Ian McCausland*



Children, like this one at Holy Family Children's Home in Bethlehem, receive material comfort through We Care. *Photo: Irma McKenzie*

BALING ON THE PRAIRIES...

Throughout the day trucks drop off boxes at the CLWR headquarters in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The warehouse crew unpacks each box, the contents of which are always a surprise: We Care bags with a little holiday tinsel clinging to the fabric, a set of quilts with a handwritten note attached.

Volunteers and staff sort the kits, processing any loose items that were donated along with the quilts and kits, such as new and used bar soap. Medical supplies and new soap are earmarked for hospitals and medical centres. The We Care quilts and kits are grouped and baled using cardboard and burlap. Each bale holds up to 25 quilts or 50 kits and weighs anywhere from 32 kilograms to 45 kilograms (70 lbs to 100 lbs).

From Winnipeg, the bales are loaded into a 20-foot or 40-foot shipping container and transported by ground to the Port of Montreal, Quebec.

...AND HEALING AROUND THE GLOBE

One ocean crossing later, 405 We Care bales and 20 boxes of soap arrive in Israel, as the MSC Sabrina pulls into the Port of Ashdod. As with most CLWR shipments, staff from Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is on hand to transport the goods to their final destination.

Some of the quilts and kits find their way to Bethlehem, where the Sisters of Charity care for children at the Holy Family Children's Home. About 90 Palestinian children live here—abandoned, orphaned or referred through the state social system. A staff of 36 cares for the children, who range from newborns to six-year-olds. The children face a tough life ahead, but for now, with the help of strangers a world away, they are able to receive care, love and an education.

We Care materials also arrive at the LWF-operated Augusta Victoria Hospital, which serves Palestinians who do not otherwise have access to essential medical services like cancer diagnosis and treatment. Soap and medical supplies are gratefully accepted by the international staff. Quilts keep patients warm during their recovery; their unique designs a reminder to the hospital visitor that someone cares, and God has remembered them. ♡

Thanks for giving from the heart

You overwhelmed CLWR with your support of the Gifts from the Heart campaign

Over this past Christmas, the quilters at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Edmonton planted 16 hectares of native food crops in Bolivia. They weren't alone: CLWR supporters from across Canada planted 234 hectares (578 acres) in Bolivia, an area large enough to cover over half of Stanley Park in Vancouver! They did this by making gift donations through the Gifts from the Heart campaign.

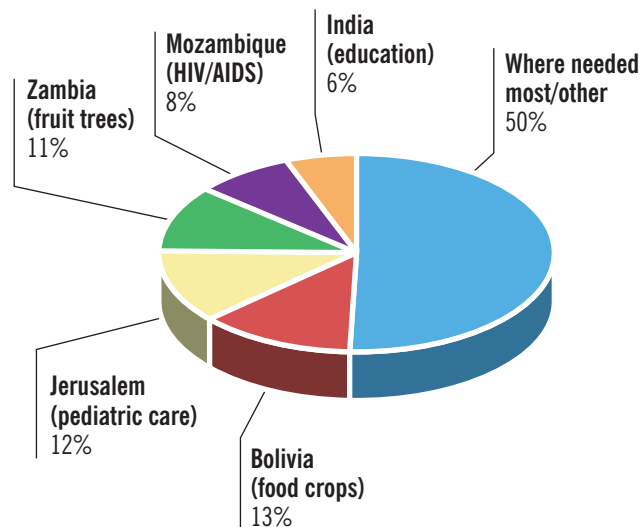
Congregations from across Canada made Gifts from the Heart a part of their Christmas celebrations. For instance, Hosanna, Edmonton, also ran an Advent Generosity Appeal with a special collection held at a Christmas carol potluck.

Thank you to all the congregations, groups, families and individuals who remembered CLWR this Christmas. Your donation to these CLWR projects allows us to access much needed funding from Canadian International Development Agency, which is based on the income raised from our donors.

Over \$90,000 has been raised for Gifts from the Heart 2006 as of December 22. Many more donations were received in the following days, which means the final total will be considerably higher! ♡

WHERE THE GIFTS WERE SENT

Based on total dollars as of December 22, 2006.



My country is my heart

Call it a heart transplant, if you will. Since birth, Mohammed Ali Younesi faced a restricted life as an illegal Afghan refugee in Iran. Now, thanks to CLWR, he has been given a new start in Canada, a place where Younesi feels he can begin to live fully. His love for Canada is captured in a stamp he designed that proclaims "My country is my heart." Younesi arrived in September with his parents and two siblings, a younger sister and brother.

Younesi, now age 23, was born a refugee, his parents having fled Afghanistan to Iran 26 years ago. Without even knowing his homeland he was ostracized for not being Iranian. He faced restrictions and discrimination, such as being unable to wear a school uniform and attend classes. Rights that others around him enjoyed—such as health care and access to work—were denied to Younesi. If caught by the police in Iran, Younesi would face deportation to Afghanistan, a place he had never seen.

Younesi dreamt of living in a place where his personal dignity would be respected and where he could openly study and work. Through CLWR, Canada has granted him his dream. Younesi and his family now live in New Westminster, BC where he and his father work in a bakery. ♡





A child walks to school in Chifunde District Centre.
 Photo: Lorne Kletke

Mozambique new project areas

Continued from page 3

biscuits, soap and school supplies for children, including orphans. "Those who are very poor feel very encouraged when they receive this material, as do the disabled," says Celestino Guidione, the local HIV/AIDS prevention coordinator in Tsakale, a village of 3,000 people. This village alone has more than one orphan for every 15 families.

Ultimately, CLWR is in Chifunde and Tsangano for long-term, sustainable community development. To this end, realistic environmental and economic assessments are first made in each serviced community, and the relationship is outlined. "We do not come to work for you, but rather with you," Maria Jonasse, LWF provincial coordinator tells villages, reminding them that the goal is to make each community self-sustaining in the end.

Over in Calipale village they have embraced this idea. Calipale is one of 16 communities in Tsangano district, one kilometre from the mountainous border of Malawi. Surrounded by dry, brownish-red scrub and rock rests a rich green garden covering an impressive area. Irrigation channels feed the crops. CLWR entered this particular community earlier than those in Chifunde, back in June 2005. A new irrigation pump will allow Calipale to open yet another field in May 2007, with cabbage, potato, onion and tomato crops planned. A sewing/baking group sells their goods at a fair profit and dreams of one day having a machine to increase production. ♡

For more stories on Mozambique, visit www.clwr.org and click on Partnership Online.

Special gifts

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS WITH ALL

CLWR wishes to belatedly acknowledge the donation made by FaithLife Financial towards the Indonesia earthquake emergency relief efforts in May 2006. Thank you.

In memory of Ladies of St. Matthew's, Hanover ON, Brian Anderson, Marie Bahr, Bob Cameron, Katherine Dean, Voldemars (Walter) Dreimanis, Peter Dyck, Edmund Engel, Dallas Faeh, Joanne Flath, Elsie Gniewotta, Edwin Gose, Al Gray, Gabriel Jeffrey Habermann, Edna Hansen, Ethel Haukeness, Harry Hendricksen, Jerry Hendrickson, Sid Henney, Helena Hintz, Irvine Hundebby, Janet Ingibergsson, Karl Kemp, Tanya Kilkenny, Rev. Herbert Kleiner, Adolph & Fred Kletke, Irene Koentopp, Fred Kraushaar, Magda Lewke, Gertrude Long, Jeffery Maldaner, Mart Miller, Rev. Viggo Mollerup, James Nimchuk, Andy Olson, Irene Patzwold, Terry Paulson, Clarence Petersen, Burt Purves, W. Reimann, Libby Ritter, Frank Robinson, Rev. William Roesler, Ralph Rud, Pastor Earle Schartner, Lawrence Schienbein, Marville Skaret, Rev. Oscar Sommerfeld, Frank Stiten, Gladys Strom, Marjorie Tiefenbach, Norman Unterschultz, Herbert Webber, Dale Weiseth, Bill Wiesener, Eva Zielke.

In celebration of Aiden & Ashton

Anniversary: Ken & Evelyn Arndt (50), Eric & Ricky Belke (50), Art & Lynn Bucholtz (55), Doug & Sheila Gowing (40), Vern & Jo Hoff (50), Alex & Margaret Miller (78), Anker & Valerie Olsen (50), Tim & Whilma Studer (50), Rev. & Mrs. G. Thompson, George & Elaine Wicke (50).

Birthday: Rev. Rudolph Busch (85), Frieda Engel (90), Greg Harris, Katharine Hensch (90), Martha Hoppe (90), Ethel Kasaof (90), Alex Miller (100), Margaret Miller (100), Samuel Scherk, Rev. & Mrs. G. Thompson.

Engagement: Corrie Forsman & Ryan Ford.

Reunion: Fingas/Mack.

Bequests and endowments of Freda Brenner, Edith Jensen, Herbert Millar.

In honour of Rev. Kwang Soo Kim, Confirmation students.

In estate of John Knipfel, Myrtle Hansen, Katherine Stein, Hilda Tunem.

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Pre-authorized donations make it easy for you to give regularly and provide stable funding for our valuable programs.

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New resources

Information and ideas from CLWR and others

HUNGER (INTER) MISSION

Youth leaders definitely want to check this out! Learn about global hunger and how to be part of the solution. Call 1.800.661.2597 for your free guide or speak with your pastor today.

LENTEN CALENDARS

New for 2007, CLWR presents an interactive Lenten calendar at www.clwr.org. Paper calendars are also available for your Sunday school by calling 1.800.661.2597. Free.

MORE PARTNERSHIP ONLINE

Find late-breaking stories and photos, plus in-depth articles in Partnership Online, the web supplement to this newsletter, at www.clwr.org. Please visit us today! ➔

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