

SPECIAL REPORTS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Thanks to your love and generosity, children like Luciana Sosa now enjoy a healthy diet of vegetables, grains, meat, milk, cheese and eggs — everything they need to grow up healthy and strong.

Your Love Is Planting Seeds of Change

High in the Andes mountains of Peru, there are small remote villages filled with happy, healthy children. Where the ground was once bare and desolate, now there are bountiful crops and diverse animals.

It's transforming the future for these communities. But more than that, it's changing the health of children today.

Many of the children in the village suffered from chronic malnutrition and anemia without enough protein and nutritious food to eat.

Harsh weather and limited job opportunities had kept these hardworking families in dire poverty. The harsh climate made finding the right seeds and mastering the skills to grow vegetables impossible. Buying food was out of reach for

most because of limited income and narrow, treacherous roads in the steep terrain.

Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, life here has changed in a big, big way.

"Thank you. I have my chard, my spinach and my lettuce. Because I have my hen, I sell eggs. **I feed my children. That's how I live,"** Eusebia, Micael and Luciana's grandmother, shares. **"I am grateful."**

Through the love of people like you, families learned how to make hearty and nutritious dairy products. Your

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A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL



When I reflect back on this past year, it's hard not to think about the war in Ukraine.

Millions have fled with little more than the clothes on their

backs. Millions more have been trapped inside the horror.

Despite the devastation, in each remarkable story there is hope — in a warm blanket, a hot meal and a comforting smile ... all things made possible by generous friends like you. We know ripple effects from the war will push suffering children and families around the world even closer to the brink. But as we celebrate Christmas, I am reminded that Christ's light shines amidst the darkest despair.

In the most challenging times, Christ is there. And with your love, we will be too.

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

Called to Love Our Neighbors

"To shepherds as they watched by night
Appeared a host of angels bright;
Behold the tender Babe, they said,
In yonder lowly manger laid."

— Martin Luther, 1548



Luciana with her grandparents, Eusebia and Juvenal, outside of their farmhouse in Castrovirreyna, Peru, high in the Andes mountains.



Your willingness to share your love and blessing with families like the the Sosas is giving Luciana and her older brother Micael a healthy start in life.

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Your Love Is Planting Seeds of Change ...

generosity provided hens and chicks for families to raise. The chicken's eggs are a rich source of protein as well as a vital source of income.

You also helped deliver drought resistant seeds and critical knowledge and training on farming successfully in harsh temperatures.

And that's not all. Community seed banks and innovative ways to store vegetables through the long winter were established to keep this community thriving all year long.

It's just one way that your love for your neighbors is making a difference that will last for generations to come. ■



Donor Spotlight

A Lasting Legacy of Love and Giving



Dick and Carolyn enjoy knowing they're doing God's work with their DAF giving.

Dick and Carolyn Sellke have always believed that what has been given to them has come from God. Sharing those blessings is a fundamental part of their faith. It's central to who they are and the legacy they want to leave behind.

"God has given us everything and wants us to be good stewards," Carolyn shares. They have always found joy in taking care of others but helping their global neighbors in need feels like a calling — one they want to pass down to their family.

That's why Dick and Carolyn set up a donor advised fund (DAF) — a charitable account that allows owners flexibility in where and when they want to give. It also gives their children a way to continue that stewardship once Dick and Carolyn have passed away.

Through the donor advised fund, the Sellkes' legacy of faith and charity will continue on for generations to come. It reflects who they are, their beliefs and values, and what they want their family to always remember. ■

Starting Over With the Love of Friends Like You

The decision to leave your home, your job and everything you know behind is not easy. But for Mariby and millions of other Venezuelans, it didn't feel like a choice. **"It was so hard to leave Venezuela," she shares. "I had to leave so much behind."**

Thankfully, it wasn't long before Mariby learned about a program helping Venezuelan refugees start small businesses in Peru. This LWR-supported program gives refugee business owners seed capital and training in digital marketing and business development. It's just one of the many programs that is changing the future for families in need, thanks to your generosity.

"We came to this country with many dreams," Mariby shares. **"I wanted to work and support my family."** Now, that's exactly what she's doing through her successful gifts business. She's just one of hundreds of Venezuelans in Peru that are building new lives, because of you.

"Give your donors a big hug from me. Tell them how grateful we are," Mariby beams. Thank you. ■



Your love made it possible for Mariby to open a gift shop and start a new life.

YOUR LOVE AROUND THE WORLD

Guatemala

In the San Marcos region of Guatemala, the rates of poverty and malnutrition are devastatingly high. Through your support, LWR and partner organizations help establish farmer co-ops for new farming support, youth entrepreneurship opportunities, women's leadership, maternal and child health initiatives, clean water and more.

Lebanon

You are helping women in Lebanon to break barriers. Through your compassionate support, they're becoming entrepreneurs and coming together to support each other. From leading food enterprises to handmade décor, these women are contributing to the country's economic growth.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Your love has provided essential training to aid in safe birth and delivery for moms and their newborns. Through hands-on classes, nurses learn vital interventions in the moments before, during and after birth to save hundreds of lives and ensure a safe and beautiful start to life.

Your gifts and your love are making a difference worldwide.

HOW **FAR** CAN **\$100** GO IN THE **NEW YEAR?**

A new coat ...
dinner and a movie ...
or a **lifesaving source of income**

\$100 sends a goat to a family in need.

Send lifesaving love.
Give gifts that matter more.

Gifts of Love



Shop the catalog at [giftsoflove.org](https://www.giftsoflove.org)



Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.



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