

LifeLines

Connecting God's People

ELCA World Hunger is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

www.elca.org/hunger

SPOTLIGHT: Volunteers



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



The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and
Disaster Appeal

HOW TO GIVE

Checks payable to "ELCA World
Hunger" can be sent to:

ELCA World Hunger
P.O. Box 71764
Chicago, IL 60694-1764

Call 800-638-3522 to give by phone
with a major credit card. Or visit
www.elca.org/giving to make an
online gift.

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www.elca.org/hunger/newsletter.

Dear Friend of ELCA World Hunger:

Why does God send blessings into our lives? I am inspired by the way that many people see these blessings as meant for something more than their own enjoyment. To share earthly treasure and time with family or with a friend who is experiencing a moment of hardship is admirable. To share these gifts with a family or community we have never met, simply because it is God's desire and our conviction, is astounding. ELCA members never cease to astound me with their dedication and generosity.

One question I am often asked is, "What percent of my gift goes for fundraising and administration?" You will see the answer to that question in the center pages of this issue of LifeLines. **In 2010, 91.5 cents of every dollar given, on average, went to programs that address or seek to end hunger.** But the value of the work accomplished by your gifts is far more than many imagine.

Many of the costs typically tallied as program expenses by other organizations are already covered for ELCA World Hunger as we work in connection with the church and its caring agencies. Your gifts are not taken up by many office expenses. Nor do your gifts need to pay for many of the costs associated with setting up operations in other countries, because the church is already there, in our companion churches and international partners. Add to that the ways that ELCA congregations and partner organizations around the country and around the world multiply your gifts with the work of volunteers. The value of service accomplished far exceeds the dollars given.

Even more important are the values that undergird our work. These values are reflected in words like dignity, self-determination, participation, leadership, hope, compassion and justice. Care for the immediate needs of those who are hungry is matched with a commitment to helping families and communities lift themselves from poverty for the long run. It would be easy for us to garner pity by showing pictures of a hungry child, but we would rather let you know about the happy child whose life has been changed for the better.

Thank you for sharing in this commitment and in this sacred trust through ELCA World Hunger.

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

We would love to tell you more stories of how your generosity changes lives in our short monthly electronic newsletter. Please sign up at www.elca.org/hunger/enews.

“Members of the body of Christ— working together to get the job done!”



Photo: Kay Spence

LAST SPRING, ALABAMA WAS HIT HARD IN A DEVASTATING outbreak of tornadoes. Members of ELCA congregations, including Rich Edmondson of All Saints Lutheran Church in Huntsville and Kay Spence of Messiah Lutheran Church in nearby Madison, quickly went to work to serve their neighbors.

KAY: *On Sunday morning after the tornado, our congregation talked together about what we as a congregation could do to help. I offered to take a van load of donations to a smaller town nearby. Well, you volunteer for one thing and you know what happens next.*

RICH: *After the power came back on, All Saints’ intern pastor, Charlie Underwood, asked me to help investigate how the congregation could be active in the long-term recovery process. We contacted Lutheran Ministries of Alabama, our statewide partner with ELCA Disaster Response, and they put us in touch with the local Interfaith Mission Service.*

KAY: *When Messiah heard that Rich was gathering the Lutheran congregations in the area to share ideas on our response to the disaster, I was asked to go.*

RICH: *One of the programs the Interfaith Mission Service was starting was the FEMA Form Brigade—which we think is groundbreaking. Never before has a citizen group approached FEMA asking to help register people affected by a disaster in our area. But with only 60 days to complete the registrations, there wasn’t much time to get the program designed and organized.*

KAY: *I volunteered for the FEMA Form Brigade. The next thing I knew, I was named site coordinator for one of the five areas in our county where the Brigade would go to work.*

Here’s how it works. Each area has a group of volunteers assigned to find out whether homeowners have registered with FEMA. If not, we offer to help them do it.

RICH: *We are proud that our handful of volunteers from two small congregations have contacted nearly every one of the 200 residences in our area.*

KAY: *The FEMA Form Brigade has volunteers from several congregations and denominations, along with individuals who want to help. Everyone is so willing to help.*

RICH: *I believe we were called to do this work, and that the cooperation of so many Christians working together is evidence of that call.*

KAY: *We are all members of the body of Christ—hands, arms, feet, eyes and ears—working together to get the job done!*

ELCA Disaster Response stands ready to serve whenever and wherever disaster strikes. See www.elca.org/disaster for information on current responses and ways that you and your congregation can help.

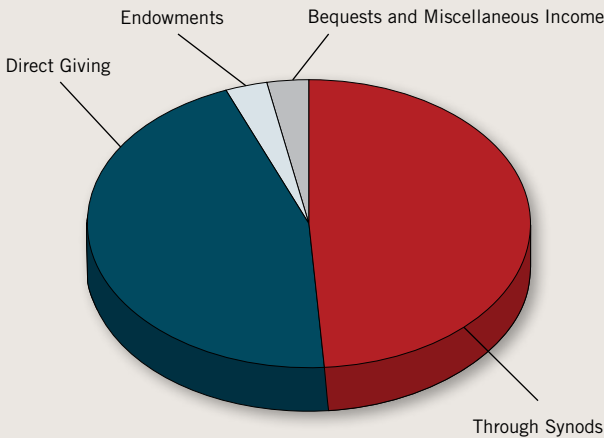


Photo: ELCA staff



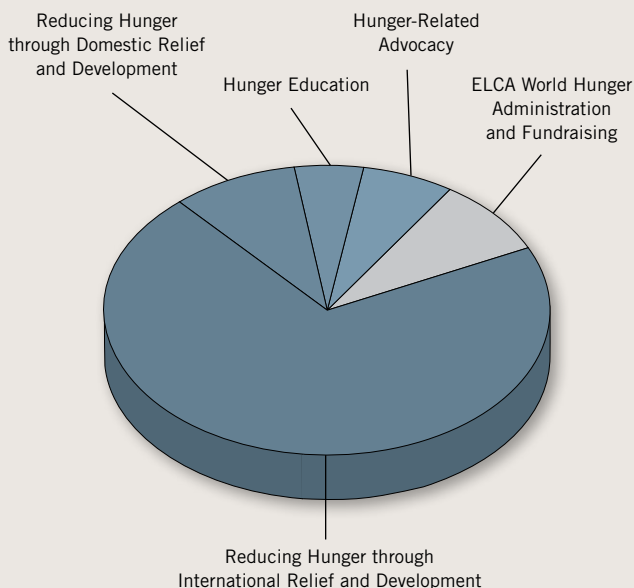
Photo: ELCA staff

ELCA WORLD HUNGER RESPONDS TO GLOBAL HUNGER and poverty by addressing root causes. Through a comprehensive program of relief, development, education and advocacy, people are equipped to lift themselves out of poverty.



2010 Income: \$17,714,121

Through Synods	49%	\$8,643,721
Direct Giving	45%	\$7,937,349
Endowments	3%	\$577,320
Bequests and Miscellaneous Income	3%	\$555,731
TOTAL	100%	\$17,714,121



2010 Expenditures: \$18,325,600

Reducing Hunger through International Relief and Development	70.7%	\$12,961,440
Reducing Hunger through Domestic Relief and Development	9.0%	\$1,646,788
Hunger Education	5.2%	\$946,890
Hunger-Related Advocacy	6.5%	\$1,184,649
ELCA World Hunger Administration and Fundraising	8.6%	\$1,575,834
TOTAL	100%	\$18,325,600

Totals may not add up due to rounding. Figures are unaudited and based on a fiscal year of February 1, 2010, through January 31, 2011. Please see www.elca.org/hunger for more detail.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT



Photo: Mark Brown

IN THE UNITED STATES, YOUR GIFTS TO ELCA WORLD HUNGER are distributed through grants in three categories: relief, development and organizing; advocacy; and education. Many of these grants are coordinated through synods or based on state or geographic regions. This funding is at work in every state across the nation. Some of our trusted partners include ELCA congregations, Bread for the World, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and many other anti-hunger ministries.

AROUND THE WORLD, HUNDREDS OF ELCA WORLD HUNGER GRANTS are implemented every year in over 60 countries through trusted partners with longstanding relationships in the communities where they work. The majority of these grants are committed to the work of our companion churches. Other partners include The Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, Church World Service/CROP and other ecumenical and related agencies.

RELIEF

In times of crisis, ELCA World Hunger is there to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies and care. Whether providing meals to homeless people in the United States or survival kits to refugees overseas, your gifts ensure that basic human needs are met.

DEVELOPMENT

ELCA World Hunger supports programs and projects that help communities lift themselves out of poverty for the long term. Cornerstones of our sustainable development work include:

Agriculture and livestock

Helping small-scale farmers improve agricultural production with training, tools, livestock, seeds and seedlings to nourish their families and communities

Water

Assisting communities with water projects that ensure access to clean drinking water or better irrigation for their crops as well as the means to maintain systems for the long term

Health care

Supporting hospitals, clinics and community health programs that combat diseases of poverty, especially HIV and AIDS, malaria and water-borne diseases

Education and training

Providing access to schools, supplies and uniforms, support for teaching careers, and job skills training for children and adults

Peace and human rights

Helping communities overcome poverty and suffering that results from war, racism and other forms of oppression

EDUCATION

We engage members of the ELCA—including children and youth—in opportunities to learn about hunger and how our daily choices can make a real difference in people's lives.

ADVOCACY

By speaking with and on behalf of those who are hungry, ELCA World Hunger works to change systems that perpetuate hunger while equipping and encouraging members of the ELCA to do the same.

“Alone we can do nothing, but together with God miracles happen.”



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT

THROUGHOUT THE ELCA, HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEER hunger leaders help others learn and act to end hunger in our world. Mary Delasin, of Palm Harbor, Florida, serves as World Hunger/Advocacy co-chair for the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA, and as synod co-chair for the Haiti Program through ELCA Global Mission.



Not only is she a busy and effective volunteer leader, she's a woman of prayer. "I truly pray that God will use me for [God's] purpose," Mary says, "and I am blessed by all the ways that God has.

"Growing up in Rapid City, South Dakota," she continues, "it was evident to me in working with many American Indian youth that the playing field was not level for all. Those who are living in poverty have so many obstacles and, being brothers and sisters in Christ, how could we walk away?"

"Volunteering for ELCA World Hunger was not a conscious decision, for me. It was the Holy Spirit putting opportunities in front of me to learn about hunger and justice issues.

"I am very thankful that I have had the opportunities that I have in both the United States and in Haiti to serve," she says.

"Most of my learning has come from people I have met through my work with ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Global Mission, and through people in need whom God has put in my path.

"I am inspired every day by those whose lives are difficult by the world's standards, but whose faith is unwavering. Their strength and their trust in God are amazing. It is truly humbling to be in Haiti and hear someone preach on Matthew 6:26-27: 'Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?'"

"God always brings together the people with the gifts and talents that are needed at a particular time. Each one of us can only do so much, but when we have people from across the country working together and contributing what they have in resources, time and talents, the world is changed. Alone we can do nothing, but together with God miracles do happen."

You can be a volunteer ELCA World Hunger leader too—serving your synod, congregation or campus. Contact Nancy Michaelis (nancy.michaelis@elca.org) or your synod office for more information.



Photo: Fredrick Nzwilli

“We tell the people that peace is crucial.”

BETTY ADAU BUL HAS A MISSION: ENDING CATTLE RAIDS.

“Raiding kills, so they must stop it,” says this member of the volunteer peace committee in Twiic county, South Sudan. Volunteer peace committees throughout the region are trained thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

In Twiic county, people of the Dinka community graze their families’ cattle near their homes during the rainy season. In the dry season, the men and boys move the herds closer to water. The neighboring Nuer and Murle communities follow the same ancient pattern.

When herders of different communities clash, cattle are stolen and men can be injured, even killed. Arms left over from the long civil war have brought a new level of violence to the cattle raids.

“We tell the people that peace is crucial and why it is important to keep peace. Tension can easily become a community-wide conflict,” explains Bul Mayen Deng, head of the peace committee.

Mary Abuk of The Lutheran World Federation speaks happily of fewer raids since the peace committees began their work. Community leaders agree: The trained volunteers of the peace committees are making a difference.

As Sudan separates into two countries, violence has broken out in places along the proposed border. Twiic county has remained mostly calm but the many people making their way south are straining already scarce resources. Keep up with the ELCA’s response at www.elca.org/disaster.

OREGON: CARING FOR CREATION



Photo: Chris Bekemeier

“Let’s celebrate what we are doing!”

NEW INSPIRATION AND A NEW NAME WERE ONLY PART OF what Central Lutheran Church’s Green Team brought away from a workshop offered by Lutherans Restoring Creation last year.

Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) seeks to foster care for God’s good creation in all expressions of our church’s life. Its work is supported by a grant from ELCA World Hunger.

According to Steve Lebahn, chair of Central’s newly renamed Care for Creation Team, the team is planning activities and events both to help restore creation and to support people who are hungry.

“People in the community are interested in food issues,” says Steve. “We talked about doing a community garden. We also talked about showing documentaries like ‘Food, Inc.’ to address some of the issues of food in our society.”

Another idea was the Care for Creation Tree. During worship, ushers hand out paper leaves on which members

write down something they are doing to be more green. Noah Oyen, 16, is shown posting his leaf on the tree.

“There’s so much to do to restore God’s creation,” says committee member Chris Bekemeier. “But it’s not like we aren’t doing anything, so let’s celebrate what we are doing.”

Congregations like Central Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon, are learning new ways to serve both God’s good creation and God’s hungry people—thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

You can bring an energizing, inspiring educational activity to your own congregation with one of our free online ELCA World Hunger Toolkits, available at www.elca.org/toolkits.

For more information about Lutherans Restoring Creation, visit www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 W. Higgins Road | Chicago, IL 60631 | www.elca.org/hunger

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

Connect global and local near you!

God's work in mission always propels us to encounter the neighbor, particularly in the stranger. Want to learn more?

These lively gatherings feature stimulating workshops, worship with a global flavor and plenty of opportunities to network with other leaders in your area.

Registration is only \$35.

See www.elca.org/glocal, e-mail globalmissioninfo@elca.org or call 800-638-3522 for more info or to register.

August 4–6
Norcross,
Georgia

**September 30–
October 1**
Wichita, Kansas

November 11–12
Columbus,
Ohio

September 23–24
San Antonio,
Texas

October 21–22
Los Angeles,
California

