

World Vision

WINTER 2022

When God gives you goats

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Families embrace
new dreams



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THOUGHTS IN OUR
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HUNGER CRISIS

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HOPE FROM
UKRAINE

Share joy this Christmas!

Send a Special Gift for your sponsored child.

When you send your love with a Special Gift of \$100 or more for your sponsored child, our local staff connect with their family to find out exactly what they need most and then purchase the gift. This extra support may be needed now more than ever, and it's sure to be treasured and appreciated. You'll get a thank-you letter and photo once the gift is delivered!

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
 Scan the code to take our reader survey and share your thoughts about *World Vision* magazine.

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—Vivienne, 44, Zambia

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EXPLORING OUR WORK
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- Gender equality
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- Emergency response
- Disability inclusion
- Clean water
- Hunger and food security
- Refugees
- Prayer



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

In a land of scarcity, amazing generosity

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

WHEN OUR LAND CRUISER rolled to a stop in a village in Turkana, northern Kenya—a hotspot of the global hunger crisis—I braced myself to encounter desperation and heartbreak.

I didn't expect to find extravagant generosity and faith. On the journey to East Africa, my head was full of facts about this crisis. Alarmingly, 50 million people worldwide are facing starvation. Hunger was escalating even before the war in Ukraine due to extreme and unpredictable weather patterns, protracted conflict and violence, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, by limiting access to critical wheat exports from the region, the war inflated food costs even further—at a time when families were already suffering.

This was true in Turkana, where the worst drought in four decades has dried up grazing lands and caused the widespread death of livestock. Families who didn't have safety nets to begin with now lack milk or meat from their animals and face food prices beyond what they can pay. Pushed to the limit, they subsist on food rations from World Vision and wild fruit with the consistency of sawdust.

As I arrived for a food distribution, I thanked God that World Vision was there to deliver life-saving food for Turkana families. In the prayer time before the distribution began, our staff and community members thanked God too, and

Edgar prays with Ekidor, who shared the food she received in a distribution with neighbors who had not received food.



Edgar Sandoval Sr. is president and CEO of World Vision U.S.

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expressed gratitude for you, our donors.

With your help, we strive wherever we work to serve the most vulnerable. This particular food distribution reached 150 families identified for their critical need, based in part on whether they still had animals. Among them was Ekidor, who came with three of her six children. She and her husband sell charcoal and handmade reed baskets, earning enough for some of their kids to go to school. But since their camel died, there's been no milk for the children.

Ekidor collected her ration of vegetable oil, sorghum, and beans—only enough to last her family a few weeks—and I walked home with her. Waiting at her gate was a group of neighbors who were not eligible for the distribution—yet they were still hungry. Without hesitation, Ekidor took a cup and began scooping out portions of her food for them. Her generosity left me speechless.

"We've been taught this at church," Ekidor later told me. "These are people with no place else to go."

I quickly learned that the Turkana people have a strong sense of community. Sharing with others is common, even in a time of dire need.

Imagine if we expanded our vision of community to encompass all God's children around the globe. How beautiful it would be if we embraced the Turkana spirit of generosity—not just at Christmas but all year round!

I was also struck by the vital role the church plays in Ekidor's community. "The church is like our second home," she explained. "We get spiritual nourishment. Without it, life would be hard."

This touched my heart even as it challenged me. Church can so easily become a weekly task rather than a second home. And how much more can I, like Ekidor, truly depend on God as my "daily bread"?

In Kenya, I was troubled to see hungry children and parched animal carcasses. But I was also blessed to see vibrant faith and amazing generosity, unmistakable signs of God's presence in the midst of suffering—beauty amid pain. 🙏

PRAYER

Almighty Savior, we thank You for the ways in which You have guided, provided for, and protected us this year.

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.
—PSALM 16:11

Niger

In a small clinic in the southwest corner of Niger, Haoua Hassane holds her one-hour-old baby boy, her fourth child. The four-room clinic in Dosso Region serves 9,200 people across five communities, but lacks toilets, electricity, or a reliable water source. Haoua rests in the maternity ward where the only bed and delivery table sit. Without a water source, patients must carry water with them to the clinic. "The next time I come, I want

to see water and latrines," Haoua says. And she will. World Vision will install a mechanized water supply for the clinic and the village. Every room will have running water. Latrines will be built on the east side of the clinic—two blocks, with one devoted to menstruating women. Inside the latrine, women will have space to wash themselves and their clothes. The clinic will also get electricity.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

● Embark

OVER
17,000
FARMERS IN HONDURAS
HAVE PARTICIPATED IN
THRIVE TRAINING.



Honduras

Juan Carlos, 40, helps his son, Carlos Joseph, 12, with his schoolwork when schools were closed by the pandemic and students were learning remotely. Carlos, a sponsored child, says his best subjects are math and science. Their family participated in World Vision's THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) program, which helps farmers increase their growing techniques and yields. Since the family went through the program, their monthly income has doubled to more than US\$800 thanks to a sweet potato contract with Walmart alone.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



IN FISCAL YEAR 2021,
A GLOBAL TOTAL OF OVER
70,600
WELLS AND WATER POINTS
WERE BUILT OR REPAIRED
THROUGH WORLD VISION
WATER PROJECTS.



Kenya

In one of Kenya's smallest communities, the safety of schoolchildren is being threatened by the rising waters of Lake Turkana—the world's largest desert lake—due to climatic events like extreme rainfall and soil runoff from deforestation and agriculture. Once accessible by roads, the community is now cut off from the mainland, and children can only reach their school by boat. "There are many challenges that children in my community face," says Sereya, a resident and the first in the community to graduate from college. "I am passionate about education because I would like many children to be empowered. Thankfully, World Vision has enhanced the safety of children in water through provision of life jackets." Along with life jackets, World Vision has equipped kids with water safety training to help protect them as they get to school.

MARTIN MULUKA/WORLD VISION



Guatemala



SCAN THE CODE

to get the full story and see more photos.

At 4 a.m. every Wednesday, Nicolasa and her daughters leave their home in the mountains of Los Cuchumatanes for the local market in La Capellanía. Their goal? To sell piglets. Nicolasa and her oldest daughter, 9-year-old Johana, proudly hold some of these piglets, which they raised as part of a World Vision food security project in their area. “We did not imagine that we would have so much support

from World Vision,” says Nicolasa, “but thank God, as you can see, this is the product.” She now has 12 piglets for fattening and four for breeding, and the income has enabled her family to build a sturdy home and gain financial security. “Now when my daughters get sick, thank God, I have my savings to ... take them to the doctor and buy the medicines they need,” she says. “Before I couldn’t.”



ANDRE GUARDIOLA/WORLD VISION

A GROWING CRISIS
See page 11 to learn how the ongoing war in Ukraine is worsening the global hunger crisis.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

Looking for specific ways to pray for global challenges, but not sure where to start? Visit wvmag.org/prayer-guides to find different ways to pray for people in need this season.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Kenya

In drought-stricken Turkana, a health worker measures the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) of 10-month-old Daniel. Red in the MUAC tape indicates extreme malnutrition. Daniel is one of 76 malnourished children being treated with ready-to-use therapeutic food at the World Vision-supported clinic in the community of Nakorio.

World watch

REFUGEES

Global displacement hits record high

Today, more people than ever before—over 100 million—have been forcibly displaced from their homes. That figure includes 26 million who have fled their countries because of conflict, hunger, persecution, or human rights violations and 53 million who are displaced in their own countries by conflict, including the war in Ukraine.

In responding to refugee and displacement crises around the world, World Vision provides basic survival supplies such as food, clean water, shelter materials, blankets, and household goods. We set up and run Child-Friendly Spaces where children



GWAYI PATRICK/WORLD VISION

Children peer from behind folds of fabric covering a makeshift shelter at a displacement camp in Baidoa, Somalia.

← **100M**
PEOPLE ARE NOW
DISPLACED AROUND
THE WORLD

can play, learn, and enjoy normal childhood interactions. Our Infant and Young Child Feeding Centers give displaced moms a private place where they can breastfeed their babies and have them screened and treated for malnutrition. Healthcare, livelihoods training, cash-for-work opportunities, and educational programs are other ways in which we provide support for uprooted families.

World Vision coordinates humanitarian activities with national governments and partner organizations to achieve the best outcomes for people affected by crises. With our presence in nearly 100 countries, we are well-positioned to help meet the needs of displaced people, whatever their situation. +

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

After conflict, Iraq's next phase

As Iraq works toward post-conflict recovery, progress has been slow and reconstruction projects remain incomplete, hampering many displaced Iraqis' ability to return home. At the start of 2022, at least 2.5 million people—including 1.1 million children—needed humanitarian aid. Since World Vision began working in Iraq in the 1990s, we've provided short-term emergency relief in addition to medium- and long-term recovery assistance to help alleviate suffering and empower families to rebuild their lives.

From October 2020 to September 2021, our staff focused efforts on food security, water and sanitation systems, health, child protection, education, and livelihoods, reaching over half a million people with life-changing resources. Throughout the year we partnered with Procter & Gamble to distribute more than 4 million water purification packets to over 51,000 people who lacked access to clean water. +

CHILD PROTECTION

Child labor steals kids' futures

Eleven-year-old Nuri* is a child laborer in Bangladesh. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began and her father abandoned the family, she has worked under intense sun, hammering bricks into tiny pieces to earn money—only 60 to 80 cents a day, on average.

"It is very hard to break bricks. I often miss the brick and land the hammer on my fingers. It hurts so much," says Nuri. Yet, she explains, "I cannot stop working for a second." Nuri is among the 160 million children ages 5 to 17 around the world who are engaged in child labor, many of them missing out on schooling like Nuri.

*Name changed to protect identity

Nearly half of them work under hazardous conditions.

Poverty is the primary reason children are sent to work. Nuri is determined—against all odds—to make enough money to go back to school.

World Vision empowers children to work toward their own well-being. And we work with their parents and communities to help ensure that kids are protected and that their futures are not stolen by exploitative labor. +
—Sevil Omer

Visit wvmag.org/child-labor to read more about how World Vision is working to end child labor.

UPDATE

The global hunger crisis

GLOBAL HUNGER FACTS

UP TO

828 MILLION
people regularly went to bed hungry in 2021.



According to the World Bank, the war in Ukraine, supply chain disruptions, and the continued economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic are reversing years of development gains and pushing food prices to all-time highs.

OUR RESPONSE

We're responding in

25

countries where hunger is at its worst.

We're aiming to reach

22M

people with life-saving aid.

#1

World Vision is the World Food Programme's largest distribution partner worldwide.

World Vision provides more than

1,000

life-saving meals every 60 seconds for people affected by disaster and conflict.

Over the last 10 years

89%

of the severely malnourished children we treated made a FULL RECOVERY.



SCAN THE CODE to see a virtual photo gallery and learn more about the global hunger crisis.

A GOOD LIFE

**Global
impact fact**

In 2021, 4.5 million people participated in World Vision livelihood programs like animal management.



WITH GOATS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
AGATHA MALI



Vivienne and Martin's family used to struggle with hunger and lack of income. In 2018, World Vision provided them with training and five goats. The family is now thriving and has grown their livestock herds to include 70 goats, 43 chickens, and 15 cows.

Vivienne smiles as she prepares dinner for her family in a small grass-thatched-roof kitchen while watching over her youngest daughter, Chileleko, 8, who is playing a ball game with her friends. The 44-year-old mother of seven wasn't always able to smile, because scenes like these used to be a rarity. Her family's life was so much more difficult just six years ago. Vivienne and her husband, Martin, 47, couldn't provide basic necessities for their kids, generally earning less than US\$2 every two weeks clearing other people's fields and doing household chores like laundry for them.

"There were days when my husband and I would sacrifice our little food for our children," Vivienne recalls. "We couldn't afford to eat more than one meal a day because the daily income we earned from odd jobs was insufficient to provide us with a decent meal."

She says having an adequate meal, with at least eggs, typically happened only once a year—usually at Christmas.

"Some days, we only relied on wild fruits and unfamiliar green-leafed plants that we would try to eat so that we could call it a day," she says. "Even though we were scared that the plants could be poisonous, we placed our hope and faith [in] God to see us through."

The poverty Vivienne's family experienced impacted their lives in other ways: Her children were expelled from school because their fees had not been paid.

"It used to break my heart to see the children coming back from school in less than an hour after they reported," she says. "I'll never forget the day they were sent home from school and went and [lay] down under a tree and took a nap—hoping to wake up later ... to find food, given that they hadn't had a meal the night before."

Putting poverty in the past

In 2018, Vivienne was selected by World Vision to participate in a goat-rearing program. Along with the training, she would receive five goats of her own. When she first told Martin about it, he thought it was too good to be true.

"I did not want her to join in any of these projects because I thought that people were just lying to her and she would be wasting time," he says. "But she insisted and pushed through."

World Vision distributed 1,650 goats to 330 families in the region that year—Vivienne's community alone received 300 goats that helped 60 families—along with training and support on how to raise them and keep them healthy. As Vivienne went through the training program, she learned that goats are easy to care for and provide many benefits, such as nutrient-rich milk for children.

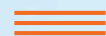
And they multiply! Less than a year after Vivienne received the five goats,



"They are easy to rear, they multiply fast, and they are very easy to sell."

VIVIENNE

"The goodness with goats is that one can also use the manure to enhance the quality of the soil."



VIVIENNE



Vivienne sold some of her goats to buy the supplies needed to start a garden. Now her children have fresh beans and other vegetables to eat, and she's even selling her surplus to Zambia's Food Reserve Agency.

she had a herd of eight. She says, "The goats have made our lives easier because we have continued to benefit in different ways. They are easy to rear, they multiply fast, and they are very easy to sell."

The training Vivienne received transformed her mind, inspiring her to dream of the possibilities for her family's future. "I did not want to get used to the life of always begging for food or picking wild fruits for a meal," she says. "Receiving goats was a life-changing experience for me. I knew immediately that living in poverty would become a thing of the past for my family."

Expanding opportunities

In 2019, after just a year in the program, Vivienne was ready to expand into new ventures. She and Martin decided to sell some goats to purchase farming equipment and begin to grow crops. They started a small garden within their homestead where they grow vegetables

such as cabbages, leafy greens, tomatoes, and onions. The goats even helped improve their garden!

"The goodness with goats is that one can also use the manure to enhance the quality of the soil," says Vivienne. "I tried it in my garden, and the results were good."

By 2020, after receiving training from World Vision in conservation farming, Vivienne's family was growing so much that they were able to sell their surplus for income. They have also been able to grow maize and groundnuts (similar to peanuts), which they sell to Zambia's Food Reserve Agency. They typically harvest about 40 50-kilogram bags of maize, which they sell for US\$11 a bag, and 10 50-kilogram bags of groundnuts, which they sell for US\$27 a bag. The family that once didn't have enough food and was often near starvation now has an abundance.

"Unlike in the past when we would go to the bush to look for food, nowadays I

just walk to my garden to pick any vegetables I want, and my family will not have to go to bed on empty stomachs because through the goats God has provided," Vivienne says.

In 2019, Vivienne was invited to participate in World Vision's Biblical Empowered Worldview program to learn more about financial literacy and continue to build her identity, hope, and vision for the future. With others in her community, she joined a savings group, one of nearly 80,000 supported by World Vision worldwide. These groups are designed to equip and empower people who lack access to traditional banking services with ways to save money and access small loans to help them rise out of poverty. Members each contribute a set amount on a regular basis agreed upon by the group. As needs or opportunities arise, members can request a loan, which they pay back with interest. At the end of a set period

• Discover

of time, the money—with the interest that's been paid—is shared out among the group members, proportionate to how much each has contributed. Vivienne started saving with just US\$5 a month. As time went on, she took out loans of increasing value through the group and was eventually able to purchase a piece of land. She continued saving, with an even more ambitious endeavor in mind.

“I built a five-roomed house, which I put on rent, and when the tenants pay their rentals, I use the money to pay back my loan,” she says. “And now, through the same house, my husband and I agreed to buy a cow, and today, we have 15 cows.”

In addition to their cows, today Vivienne and Martin own an astounding 70 goats and 43 chickens. “The goats have not only been a source of income to us, but they have also brought us joy and removed poverty from our lives,” Vivienne says.

A flock of blessings

As the goats have continued to multiply, Vivienne and Martin have diversified into many other activities to increase their household income, such as making bricks to sell and renting out their cattle and

ploughs to other community members. The US\$60 to \$90 a month they now earn has opened the door to other new dreams. While their first three children missed out on an education, it's not too late for the younger four. Vivienne is grateful she can pay their educational fees now.

“In the past, [I] had no means to support my first [three] children with education. Today, whenever any of the schoolgoing children requests for any school materials, I quickly go to the goat's pen, pick one goat, and sell [it]. Then I pay for what has been requested,” she says.

She has hopes for Gloria, 18, Miyanda, 14, Gift, 11, and Chileleko to receive the best education and have bright futures. Chileleko wants to be a teacher when she grows up, but for now, she enjoys caring for the goats. Her favorite goat is named Kasalala, which means “clean” in Tonga, the local language.

“I like to feed and play with my goat, and I pretend to cook nice things for it and feed it,” she says. When she is not at school, she helps her mother water the vegetables in the garden. When she's not helping with chores, she enjoys playing ball games with her friends. In the evenings, after playtime, Chileleko

and her siblings sit around the fire while their mother prepares dinner. They sing merrily as they wait, confident that meals are now consistent.

“Our lives have changed,” Martin says. “We are here now because of World Vision and the goats we received. My children are in school, we have enough food, and we now have livestock that [have] continued to generate income for us.”

As part of the animal distribution program, once their goats reproduce, families are encouraged to bless others in their community by gifting goats. Vivienne's goat flock had grown to 23 by the time it was her turn to bless another family in 2019.

An answer to prayers

In 2019, Loveness and her children were busy rebuilding their lives about 5 kilometers from Vivienne's household. Loveness's husband had died the year before, and his family had grabbed all the property the couple had acquired, leaving her with nothing. Life became very hard for her as she had to take care of her six children single-handedly.

With no shelter to live in, Loveness and her children had relocated to a small



“After receiving the goats, I knelt and praised my God.”

LOVENESS

When Loveness's husband died, she was left with no resources to provide for her children. In 2019, she received goats from Vivienne's family, and the gift has given her a fresh start. Today, her children all attend school and the family lives in a newly built house.



Chileleko, center, is now able to attend school consistently and hopes to become a teacher when she grows up. Before her family received goats, she was often dismissed from class for failing to pay the required school fees.

piece of land that was allocated to her by the village leader.

“We started life from scratch,” she says. “The community helped me to build a small shelter that we used as a kitchen and a bedroom.

“I used to cry and pray every night, asking God to come through for me and change my life. But little did I know that God was preparing something for me, and that was a blessing of goats that changed my life.”

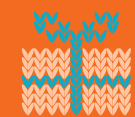
That year, Loveness joined a community savings group that had been formed and trained by Vivienne. She was able to save with the group from the little income she earned doing odd jobs. A few months later, Loveness's family was selected to receive five goats from Vivienne and her family.

“Indeed God answers prayers,” Loveness says. “After receiving the goats, I knelt and praised my God. I started making plans and hope[d] for them to multiply sooner.”

And multiply they did. Loveness has already been able to sell goats from her growing herd, using the proceeds to build a better house and enroll her younger children—Venus, 11, Nector, 8, and Kinet, 5—in school.

All she wants is for her children to have a better future, and the goats will help ensure that happens.

“My wish is to educate my children so that they can [live] a comfortable life and not have to go through what I went through,” she says. “If not for the goats, I can't imagine what my life and family would look like today.”



Give today!

Empower families like Vivienne's and Loveness's to leave poverty in the past through your gift of a goat. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, call 1.888.852.4453, or visit wv.org/givegoats.



Chileleko got to choose her sponsor at a Chosen® event in September. **SCAN THE CODE** to watch her experience!

AS OF SEPTEMBER, OVER 7 MILLION REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE had found shelter throughout Europe since the war began on February 24. Most refugees, as well as people displaced within Ukraine, are women and children. Since the onset of the conflict, World Vision has been working in Romania, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine through churches and local organizations and with government groups to provide support. **STORY AND PHOTOS BY LAURA REINHARDT**

COMFORT IN A TIME OF CRISIS

SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT, ANA STRUGGLED with the idea of leaving her home in Ukraine until finally, she felt she had no choice. As she was out walking with her husband, Oleg, two rockets exploded in the sky over the city center of Mykolaiv where they lived. They knew the time had come for Ana and their 18-month-old son, Leonid, to seek safety.

They fled to Moldova as Oleg stayed behind to defend Ukraine, along with most men ages 18 to 60.

Ana saw the explosions' toll on little Leonid: "For a day and a half, he didn't get any sleep. The moment he would fall asleep, he would wake up shaking. It was not a place for me to stay, especially [being] pregnant."

Moldovan doctors felt that Ana could deliver before full term, so she began frantically filling out paperwork so that Oleg would be allowed to leave Ukraine and be with her for their baby's birth.

Ana and Leonid found shelter at Centrul Crestin Sfanta Treime (Holy Trinity Christian Center) in the city of Chişinău. The church had opened its doors to help refugee families by offering beds, home-cooked meals, and hygiene supplies.

Pastor Alexandru Malancea doesn't call them refugees, but rather guests. He tells his staff, "I don't see a person running away from the war. I see Jesus."

Ana sees that sentiment lived out.

"I feel like I'm home, that I belong here," says Ana. "We all have one God and

we're here on earth to be able to support each other and to be there for each other."

Through tears she says she's grateful that, even though separated, her family members are still alive—that, and thinking about welcoming her soon-to-arrive child keeps her moving forward in this troubled time.

The right place

Television host and Presbyterian minister Mister Rogers famously reminded people to "look for the helpers" in times of trouble. Around the world, many helpers have stepped up to support people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The support comes in ways as varied as the people offering it.

At the church where Ana found shelter, 21-year-old Alina greets arriving refugees with care, kindness, and a shy smile that blesses those receiving it.

Dima and Sonia embrace their mother, Marina, who cries as she recounts the story of their flight from Ukraine.





Elisabeth, a Moldovan 19-year-old (left), ensures that Ukrainian sisters Eugenia (center) and Ana (right) feel welcome in her home. They spend time together drawing, playing, and going on walks.

Alina says she's guided by Galatians 6:2, which reads, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (ESV). On staff at the church, she normally works in the library. Now she's dedicated to helping refugees from Ukraine to feel at home and welcomed.

"It's a blessing for me to be here," she says. "God has given me the honor to be here and to serve these people."

Alina registers refugees and leads them to their beds, which she's made up with clean sheets. She also helps cook and cleans up after meals.

"What motivates me the most is the people and their stories and what they're going through," she says.

She remembers a time in her life when she was so busy and felt herself drifting away from God. Now she's busier than ever but finds herself closer to God and feels Him working in her life.

"I feel a great dose of joy that I can do this," Alina says. "I think that all this is what God wants me to do, and I feel fulfilled as I never felt before."

Supporting the helpers

Angelica Tanasi also finds herself in the right place at the right time. "I think I'm a person who always helps someone who needs it," she says.

In late February, Angelica began offering shelter to as many as 14 people in her three-bedroom apartment, where she lives with her 19-year-old daughter and 30-year-old son.

In Moldova, the World Food Programme (WFP) has partnered with World Vision to provide a special cash grant to families hosting at least two Ukrainian refugees for more than one week. The program began in

April, with each host family receiving 3,500 Moldovan lei (US\$190) to help cover expenses.

Angelica learned about the program through the people she was hosting. She was grateful for the assistance because her expenses had risen, especially for electricity and water. The cash can be used on anything the family deems necessary to help in their support of refugees.

Youssef Mhanna, World Vision's Moldova operations team lead, says, "We know that the majority of this cash grant will be spent on food, but also non-food items ... as well [as] paying ... utility bills and other invoices."

Building an extended family

By April 2022, one family remained in Angelica's home—a mother and her three daughters. Angelica and her children embraced them. She says, "We do everything together. We cook, clean, go for a walk." Angelica's family even included

"I THINK THAT ALL THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO DO, AND I FEEL FULFILLED AS I NEVER FELT BEFORE." —ALINA

them in their Easter celebration.

Living with Angelica and her kids has offered an extended family to Ukrainian sisters Eugenia, Ana, and Arianna.

"When we were leaving, everything was usually like they show the war [on TV], shooting, bombing," says 14-year-old Eugenia. "I was very scared. I didn't know how I would be received."

In Angelica's 19-year-old daughter, Elisabeth, Eugenia and Ana found an older sister—someone who helps them navigate the unfamiliar environment of Chişinău. Angelica and Elisabeth babysit the younger girls while their mom works.

Elisabeth's face lights up as she explains how the girls have also made a dream come true for her. "They helped me to feel like I'm a big sister," she says. She takes this role seriously by walking with the girls to local parks and helping 9-year-old Ana with her homework.

Elisabeth doesn't see her family's generosity as anything extraordinary. "It's important to help because we are people, and we don't know what it will be tomorrow," she says. "Today, I help. Tomorrow, you help."

Even though Ana and Eugenia miss the family and friends they left behind in Ukraine, they didn't feel safe once the war began. "I couldn't sleep well there," says Eugenia. "I couldn't go out for a walk, but I can do all these [things] here. I'm happy here."

Youssef thanks all the Moldovan host families, and stresses the need for continued global support: "We as World Vision appreciate what you are doing. And we will pray for you, and we will try to help you to continue supporting the Ukrainian refugees."

City center community

As the war began, World Vision's 32 years of experience in Romania offered a solid foundation to partner with the government and local organizations in quickly setting up places for refugees to find help.

One such place was Romexpo—Bucharest's largest, 2,000-person overflow shelter, but normally an exhibition center and indoor arena.

In April, an average of 900 people were visiting the location each day. World Vision's emergency logistics director Mark Mitchell explained, "World Vision has been working with Romexpo to provide basic food materials, things like rice and pasta and oil ... [along with] hygiene items,



Alina registers refugees from Ukraine at her church in Chişinău, Moldova.



Anticipating the birth of her second child, Ana holds her 18-month-old son in the Romanian church where they found shelter after fleeing Ukraine.

• Discover

feminine hygiene products, diapers for children, etc.”

Families were able to come every 10 days to pick up more supplies.

A place to connect and find normalcy

Understanding the need for connectivity in times of crisis, World Vision worked with a coalition of partners through the Geeks Without Frontiers–led N50 Project to set up the first of 10 Portable Connectivity Centers just outside of the original Romexpo location.

The easily transportable centers, like internet cafés, can charge multiple devices at a time, provide a powerful hotspot, and include laptops, tablets, and smartphones that kids can use to continue their education. Parents can also access vital information on the go.

Tatiana, 36, brought her three sons to the location to pick up food supplies. Her son Ivan had a birthday the next day, and would be turning 13 in a country not his own. But the family received food vouchers, and they hoped to get some sushi (Ivan’s wish), then take a walk in a city center park.

“We want to say thank you to everyone who is helping,” said Tatiana. “Thanks for the peace that we find here.”

A place to play and catch a breath

World Vision offers a peaceful place through its child-safe play area at Romexpo.

Mark explains that as a child-focused organization, World Vision puts service to kids at the forefront. “Thinking in terms of Romexpo,” he says, “it was important to have a [supervised] space where children can be children and they can play.”

Diana, age 31, came to Romexpo with her 5-year-old daughter, Yeva, and 2-year-old son, Artiom. While she picked up much-needed food supplies, Yeva and Artiom colored and played with toys.

Diana said, “It’s great to have this place here especially because where we live, we don’t have space for kids.”

She added, “We can leave our kids here and walk ... without worrying what the kids will do.”

Peace of mind

As more refugees entered Romania from Ukraine, children’s entertainer Cristian Russ began delighting kids at Romexpo once a week, with his show becoming a high point for families.

Cristian regularly performs at birthday parties, so this was a completely new experience for him. “Here the people don’t expect to have fun. They come here for getting help ...” he says. “Maybe this is the better way to make a surprise and give some joy to the people.”

Though he’s unable to speak Ukrainian, he notes that “fun has no language.” To get around the communication barrier, he pours his energy into big gestures.



Cristian’s dry ice show fascinates 2-year-old Alisa.

“WHEN THINGS ARE REALLY TOUGH, LAUGHTER CAN BE A GOOD ROUTE THROUGH.”

—CRISTIAN



“We need laughter to get through these difficult times,” says Cristian Russ, who switched from birthday parties to entertaining Ukrainian children at World Vision’s child-safe play area at Romexpo.



Ukrainian mother Tatiana visits Romexpo in Bucharest, Romania, with her sons to pick up food and hygiene items for her family.

He says, “When things are really tough, laughter can be a good route through. For children, and for everyone, it helps us to forget our struggles, even if it is for an hour, or even just 10 minutes.”

An island of safety

As a child, Natalia dreamed of being a teacher, but she ended up becoming an auditor instead. Six months before the war, she says, “I just decided that dreams from childhood should be true.”

At the age of 41, she made a 180-degree life change. She went back to school and, in October 2021, she started teaching math to fifth through seventh graders.

Little did she know that her life was about to change drastically once again as the war began in Ukraine.

She and her 15-year-old daughter, Kristina, fled Odesa the Thursday before Orthodox Easter. Bombs fell close to home two days after they left.

They found respite at a shelter in Iasi, Romania—a city bordering Moldova—that houses up to 450 people. World Vision pays for utilities such as electricity, gas, and laundry services, as well as all volunteer-related expenses. World Vision staff also offer anti-trafficking seminars, a critical resource for displaced women and children.

Natalia and Kristina left behind relatives, friends, and Natalia’s students.

Despite circumstances, Natalia hasn’t given up on her dream. Now she shares her love and lessons virtually with students from the shelter’s cafeteria.

Kristina also continues her studies as she’s able. But it’s difficult because she’s struggling with the trauma of having to flee her home. She finds comfort in painting and knitting.



Natalia and her 15-year-old daughter, Kristina, share a tender moment at the shelter in Iasi, Romania, where they found safety after fleeing Ukraine.

Natalia expresses gratitude for the shelter, which provides a roof over their heads and the food they need. She says, “It is an island of safety and the place of hope and calm.”

Changing needs and response

With the generous help of supporters around the globe, World Vision reached more than 116,000 people in need in the first 100 days of the war in Ukraine (see sidebar for more details).

The war’s ever-changing landscape means World Vision’s work adapts to meet refugees’ evolving needs.

But ultimately the hope remains for the return of peace. “In New Zealand we have this phrase, *tūrangawaewae*,” says Mark Mitchell, whose regular role is with World Vision’s New Zealand office, as head of fragile contexts. “It means [in the Maori language] ‘a place to stand.’ And for all of us, we have a place where our heart belongs.” For Ukrainian families, the support they’ve found outside their war-torn country gives them strength until they can go back to where their hearts belong. +

You can be a helper too!
Donate to receive the crossbody purse shown in the insert

between pages 18 and 19, and your gift will benefit those impacted by the war in Ukraine. Or use the insert between pages 8 and 9, call 1.888.852.4453, or visit wvmag.org/help-Ukraine to donate.






SCAN THE CODE
to read more stories from the response.

Our Ukraine crisis response

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

116,313
refugees assisted

69,337 adults
46,976 children

-  60,274 people supported with food aid
-  12,181 people supported with temporary shelter
-  42,215 people provided with hygiene kits
-  \$624,170 in cash assistance distributed

GET CRAFTY

Bring some international flair to your family’s holiday traditions this year. Find Christmas crafts from around the world at wvmag.org/crafts.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”
—ISAIAH 12:6

IN THE KITCHEN:

Githeri

By Laura Reinhardt

Githeri—a traditional one-pot dish that originated with Kenya’s Kikuyu tribe—is now enjoyed by people across Kenya. This simple but flavorful combination of beans, corn, onions, and tomatoes makes a colorful and nutritious meal.

A meal consisting of these basic, accessible ingredients takes on increased importance in light of compounding crises that have left many struggling to

feed their families—crises like the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, worsening drought conditions, rising costs, and ongoing conflict.

One of those conflicts—the war in Ukraine—has exacerbated an already difficult situation. Grain from the Ukraine–Russia region is used to feed millions of refugees and vulnerable people in Africa and the Middle East, but the war has complicated access to that grain supply.

Through World Vision’s child sponsorship programs, families receive training in improved agriculture methods along with

seeds that can weather drought conditions. Farmers also learn techniques that restore nutrients and stability to the soil. This empowers them to grow healthy and diverse crops that provide nutritious food for their families.

The ingredients needed for githeri can be grown in families’ gardens. Having a recipe that calls for homegrown ingredients can be especially reassuring in times of food shortages. +



SCAN THE CODE
to get the recipe.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Experiencing the **HOPE-FILLED JOY** Jesus brings

By Elisabeth Rickard

✚ DURING THE CHRISTMAS season, joy fills our songs and our celebrations. For God’s people around the world, the source of this joy is our Savior’s incarnation—His love-filled entrance into the middle of the human story that so deeply needed a new vision of life.

We can say with Nehemiah that “the joy of the Lord is [our] strength” (8:10), and this season of incarnation is a chance for God’s people to display the depth of our joy to the broken world. But the joy that Jesus’ birth heralded doesn’t end with individual or personal happiness—after all, His first recorded quotation of Scripture, in Luke 4:17–19, is about “good news,” “sight,” and “liberty” to people who are poor, captive, blind, and oppressed. It’s an early glimpse of Jesus’ mission to shine the light of God’s kingdom into the darkest places of the world and human hearts. And it’s a foreshadowing of His ultimate call on all His followers to go and do the same for people in need.

Exalting the humble

The goodness of God’s kingdom is especially for people who are most oppressed, whose lives seem furthest from anything resembling joy. In World Vision’s work, we get to witness the new life that God’s Spirit brings into spiritual poverty—and the joy when physical poverty is overcome. We see restoration of broken relationships with God and others—and progress from despair to hope as a family takes hold of their future. We witness a deepened trust in God’s truth—and people’s new understanding of their capacity to tackle poverty as image-bearers of God.

Remember who God exalts in the words of Mary’s famous song? “He has brought down rulers from their

thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty” (Luke 1:52–53). The people our culture marginalizes and see as most forgettable are the ones God came for in Jesus.

This season, reflect on these stories that show the joy of vulnerable people living into their God-given potential. We pray that they also bring *you* joy as you celebrate what God is doing around the world.

Strong families display God’s goodness

The close relationship that Meshack has with his wife, Abigail, and son, Rashford, is rare in most rural communities in Kenya, where culture dissuades men from expressing emotions. Though men are expected to provide physically for their families, they’re not typically responsible for

raising children or cultivating a loving relationship with their wives. But World Vision’s Men Care training, a global fatherhood campaign, seeks to enhance men’s involvement in their families as equitable, responsive, and nonviolent fathers and spouses who promote gender equality and seek to improve all children’s well-being.

Abigail persuaded Meshack to join a local Men Care group, where he met with others to discuss and learn about childcare, maternal and reproductive health matters, good parenting skills, and the significance of strong marriages for the well-being of children and families. Meshack has learned how “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him” (Psalm 127:3). Now, Meshack and Abigail pray together about challenging situations or decisions that affect their family, and their joy-filled unity points their community to God’s transformative power.

A generous heart molded by service

In the rural Honduran community where Eber lives, thousands of families used to have no access to clean water. But Eber had abundant clean water on his property in the hills. When he witnessed firsthand the muddy pools that children were collecting water from, his compassion prompted him

to undertake a seemingly impossible project. Twelve years spent caring for a severely disabled daughter—whom he saw as a gift from God—had softened his heart toward children in need. He was determined to make sure families in the valley below had clean water.

Eber and the community dug trenches, laid pipes, advocated with the government for funding, and prayed for over a year until they finally saw the clean water flowing down from Eber’s land into homes. “God has been with us at all times, in every step we have taken,” affirms one community member who helped with the project, which has blessed thousands with clean water. Eber trusted God with his resources, believing that “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Education opens new doors of hope

In India, the name of the informal settlement Anand Parbat means “joyous mountain,” but it’s an ironic name for a place of deep struggle and poverty. When their impoverished neighborhood was demolished as part of a government promise to build better housing, thousands of families were forced into worse temporary conditions, with no end in sight. Opportunities for earning incomes

here are limited to begging and sorting garbage on the streets.

But because donors and partners support World Vision educational centers, three teenage girls have become the first ever from this struggling community to take India’s national class 10 exam and pursue higher education. As Proverbs 24:14 explains, education and knowledge are ways God’s goodness reaches many people—“Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.” For Poonam, Tulsi, and Pooja, their difficult background didn’t define their dreams, and their achievement has become an example to other girls from their community who faced a future of extreme poverty—but who now see the possibility of a future hope.

Our call this Christmas

May the joy of the Lord be your strength this Christmas as you consider the incomparably good news of Jesus’ arrival into our stories and the stories of people around the world. Let’s celebrate our Savior’s birth as “good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10)—including the most vulnerable. ✚



Kids helping kids

By Lisa M. Anderson

“Our hearts should break for this, but we can’t stay there.”

—Katie Wiens



Young students from Park Street School in Boston listen to a staff member share how they can help children affected by the war in Ukraine.

† **FOR MANY YOUNG PEOPLE** in the U.S., the Ukraine war is the first they’ve witnessed in real time. Their hearts have been broken by footage of children clinging to their mothers, clutching bags containing all their earthly possessions.

“I feel bad for the Ukrainian kids because I feel they should be able to live a normal life,” says Taury, a student at Park Street School in Boston. For young people like Taury, it can be overwhelming to see their peers suffering.

“When you have so much of this information, you can easily be paralyzed by it and lose hope,” says Dr. Katie Wiens, executive director of the Council on Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA). According to Wiens, it’s critical for Christians of all ages to respond with support, but also to remember that God is love, and that He is in control.

“If we know that God is truly a God of justice and compassion, then we know He is all-powerful and we can respond with wisdom, with purpose, and without being weighed down to a degree that’s not helpful,” she says. “Our hearts should break for this, but we can’t stay there.”

As an experienced Christian educator, Wiens wanted to help young people find a way to process their feelings about the war by creating an opportunity for them to help. Her thoughts turned to World Vision Ignite—a partnership with Christian schools that challenges young people to engage with the world and live out their faith. She drafted a letter to CESA schools,

encouraging them to support families displaced by the conflict through Ignite. One by one, CESA schools began to respond as students, families, and staff came forward to help. Other schools were stirred by the need as well. In all, students at Christian schools around the U.S. have raised more than \$80,000 through World Vision to benefit children and families impacted by the war.

The funds raised by these schools are already being put to good use. World Vision’s emergency response programs meet physical needs by providing access to essentials like food and temporary shelter. And World Vision’s Child-Friendly Spaces help meet the emotional needs of children impacted by traumatic experiences. In these safe spaces, kids can play, engage in informal learning, and express their worries and fears to trained, caring staff.

At Park Street School, Taury and other students felt compelled to help ensure that kids from Ukraine were protected and cared for. They approached staff members, asking if they could help as a school.

One Park Street student, Eleanor, was stirred to action by seeing displaced children in the news. “I wanted to help because I was watching TV one night and I saw a lot of kids who had no place to go,” she says. “Kids who don’t have the privileges we do. Kids who have been separated from their families and have no safe places to go. It made me sad.”

“It would be hard to grow up in the middle of a war and have to flee,” says another student, Draper. “I [thought], we should raise money so they can have a safe way out of there.”

So together, students and staff at Park Street created the “Children Helping Children” Ukraine Fund to support kids impacted by the war through World Vision. They held a walkathon that netted more than \$16,000—far more than they anticipated.

“Students have not only met their goal, but have surpassed it six times over,” says Tracy Bradley, head of school for Park Street. “We are so proud of them, and so grateful for their hearts that are growing in empathy and compassion for others. We are excited to see the real-life leadership skills they are developing, and for the hope they’ve expressed in wanting to be a part of making a difference.” †

World Vision built a new water point with funds raised in memory of Rob Moll, who died tragically in a hiking accident.



EVYSON MASINA/WORLD VISION

Giving out of grief

By Clarissa Moll

† **IN 2010, I RAN DOWN** the center of Chicago’s Michigan Avenue proudly wearing my orange “26.2 for Africa” shirt. I’d never run a marathon before, but I was thrilled to be here now. Each footfall with Team World Vision would make a difference in the life of someone in need of clean water.

I wasn’t one of the fastest runners, but running with Team World Vision changed my life. Over the years that followed, our family became enthusiastic supporters of World Vision’s work. We sponsored children, ran more distance events, and supported special campaigns. We even moved across the country so that my husband, Rob, could serve with World Vision at its headquarters.

I loved World Vision’s mission and ministry, but I didn’t realize how much until my husband died in a tragic hiking accident in 2019. In their grief, friends and family reached out to help and, under World Vision’s care, we established a fund to provide water for a medical clinic in Malawi. We reached our goal and set another, this time to support World Vision’s THRIVE economic empowerment program in Malawi.

As I watched these outpourings of generosity, my own heart expanded with gratitude. I saw how tragedy could become a catalyst for flourishing in

unexpected ways. God could take broken hearts and use them to mend broken places in the world. Perhaps He could turn my sorrow into something beautiful too. I’d lost the primary breadwinner for my family, and I knew my finances would change dramatically as I shifted to managing a household alone. In many ways, I’d have less to give than ever before. However, grief had placed the world’s sorrows in sharper focus. As a widow with four young children, I looked at others’ suffering differently now. From what little I had, I knew I wanted to keep giving.

We all must make meaning from the sorrows that befall us, and I’ve chosen to view mine through the eyes of grace. Our global brothers and sisters each carry their own unique sorrows. They endure trials and griefs of various kinds. But our common longing for a better world invites us to transform our pain into purpose.

The young widow in Malawi buys a sewing machine with a World Vision microloan, creating a hopeful future from the ashes of her loss. The Rwandan father who has buried children because of disease plants a field, a gesture of hope that new life can grow from barren places. So I, too, can invite my pain to be shaped into purpose. The loss of my husband has painfully required me to acknowledge that everything I have belongs to God. I could clutch what remains or release my grasp in trust. Generosity has compelled me to open my hands.

Today, I give as generously as I am able, not simply because it’s the right thing to do but because it is a vehicle through which I can share the consolation I’ve received (2 Corinthians 1:4). World Vision’s programs invite me to learn the names and faces of others who’ve experienced sorrow.

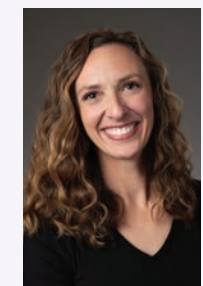
I see loss reflected in mothers’ eyes.

I see concerns for the future written across the wrinkled brows of men standing along dusty roads. I don’t know their unique suffering, but I carry my own. Grief binds us to each other, and my heart compels me to act. I’ve received comfort. Through giving, I can extend it as well.

Sorrow does not leave us defenseless. In God’s goodness, He has wired us for resilience and offers us His gift of resurrection. Even in the face of unlikely odds, real change is possible. I enthusiastically support World Vision with my “widow’s offering” (Mark 12:41-44) because I believe good things can grow even in the midst of suffering.

I don’t have the kind of budget I did before my husband’s death. I’ve had to tighten the purse strings in many areas of my life. But loss has taught me that generosity is the fruit of love, and I want love to always be my story. Through partnership with World Vision, I’ve seen God work in seemingly forgotten places, transforming them through global generosity into flourishing communities. World Vision’s work has allowed me to channel my pain into purpose, to comfort with the comfort I’ve received, and to help affect real change in the face of uncontrollable tragedy.

I am convinced that little becomes much in the Master’s hands. Our small gifts given with great love multiply into work that heals and transforms those around us. My husband’s death broke my heart but, even in the midst of grief, I’m grateful that it broke my heart for the things of God. †



Clarissa Moll is an award-winning writer, podcaster, and author of *Beyond the Darkness: A Gentle Guide for Living After Grief and Thriving After Loss*. Connect with her at [instagram.com/molclarissa](https://www.instagram.com/molclarissa).

Give joy

By Amy Van Drunen

WITH AN
artisan-made
GIFT

BRING MORE MEANING to your gift-giving this Christmas through the World Vision Gift Catalog. Our artisan-made celebrity gifts are ethically sourced and culturally inspired, and best of all, available to you with a donation through the World Vision Fund.



COURTESY OF GIFTS WITH A CAUSE



Fair-trade handicrafts help women in India move out of poverty

WHEN CHAMPA (ABOVE) WAS 13, she had to drop out of school because her family could no longer afford the fees. With no say in the matter, she was married off at 16, and soon found herself a young mother. She and her husband were devoted to their three children and strove to provide opportunities—like education—that they had both missed out on. But after Champa's unexpected hospitalization pushed her family into debt, her husband's wages were no longer enough to care for the family.

Once Champa recovered, she found a starting-level position with a fair-trade group. Her passion and diligence helped her advance, and six years later she is thriving as a skilled artisan. The fair-trade group has helped provide educational support for her children, while her consistent wages have helped her family rise out of debt.

Today, Champa is delighted to produce bags like the "All Things Possible" crossbody purse featured in our Gift Catalog by TV host and multimedia personality Tayshia Adams (below)—yours with a donation of \$120 to the World Vision Fund. "I am inspired by the artists behind my crossbody purse. Champa, a mom of three, wife, and full-time fair-trade worker created the 'All Things Possible' crossbody tote.

She has provided her family with a more financially stable life through determination, grit, and trust in God's timing. Thank you for supporting World Vision and all the artists within the Gift Catalog this holiday season."



CALEB & GLADYS FOR WORLD VISION



COURTESY OF GIFTS WITH A CAUSE



Weaving sari bowls leads to sustainable income for husband-and-wife team

WHEN SAMAIRA, 36, and her husband, Intizar, 44, (both above) began working in a fair-trade artisan group in India, it was the first step on their path out of poverty. Samaira had only been educated to eighth grade, and the family struggled after Intizar lost his wages to an unscrupulous business partner. Fortunately, Samaira had discovered a talent for basket-weaving. The two now work together, along with Intizar's brothers and other family members, to create fair-trade sari bowls—earning wages that allow them to provide healthcare and education for their children.

Intizar builds a wire frame for the bowls while Samaira and other women in the family weave cloth strips from recycled saris around the wire. Samaira, a gifted seamstress, hopes to also create clothing someday. Through their reliable income, Samaira and Intizar have gradually grown their incomes while also supporting their extended family. They've even built a house and a workshop in their village.

When you donate \$90 to the World Vision Fund, you'll receive the "Woven Together" sari bowl featured in our Gift Catalog by Emmy®-winning actor, producer, and bestselling author Patricia Heaton (left). "We want to really make sure that when we're helping people, that they are ... being empowered to use all their God-given gifts," explains Patricia.



SEBASTIAN SMITH FOR WORLD VISION

Vietnamese artisans bring new life to ancient tradition



COURTESY OF GIFTS WITH A CAUSE



SEBASTIAN SMITH FOR WORLD VISION

FOR 700 YEARS, THE PEOPLE of Le's village have been known for their craft in sericulture—the rearing of silkworms. For centuries her village created silk clothing for the imperial Vietnamese court. But in recent years, people began to flock to cities in search of better income. Large silk manufacturers created competition that made sales more difficult.

Le, now 60, learned the art of silkmaking from her parents and grandparents when she was 10, and was among the last remaining artisans in her village. Though she thought about giving up the trade as well, she instead decided to differentiate her craft.

Through passion, talent, and creativity, Le improved the quality and smoothness of the silk she produced. She also found that creating scarves with different colors set her products apart, increasing their popularity throughout Viet Nam and improving sales significantly.

Le's traditional village craft has been restored, and more and more families have returned to make silk scarves as the

market has grown. Today Le continues to pass the skills she's learned to others so they too can support their families.

For a \$100 gift to the World Vision Fund, you can add the "Wrapped in Peace" traditional silk scarf featured in our Gift Catalog by actor, director, and producer Melissa Joan Hart (above) to your wardrobe or that of someone you care about. "Give this gift, and your donation will help empower kids and families around the world out of poverty and into a better future," says Melissa. "This is a little thing we can do this Christmas to make a big difference and spread joy."



Choose joy with your gift giving

Give joy with these gifts! See the insert between pages 18 and 19 for more information.

Together, we can make lasting change possible. With your donation through the World Vision Fund, you'll help to meet critical needs both today and tomorrow—equipping kids, families, and communities in need to build futures once thought unimaginable.

You'll be helping them tackle the big issues that keep them in poverty, equipping them to thrive with reliable access to basics like clean water, nutrition, healthcare, education, and more. And that's a great way to share joy. 🌟

Joy is...

By World Vision global communicators

THE BIBLE IS FULL OF REFERENCES TO JOY.

In Luke chapter 2, Jesus' birth was proclaimed as good news of great joy.

Before that, the prophets spoke of joy. My favorite is Isaiah 55:12—"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Mother Teresa said, "A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love."

Joyful children have hearts that burn with love. Their pure pleasure in the smallest of things, that sudden burst of happiness, fills us with delight, too.

We asked children all over the world, "What is joy to you?"

Here is what they said. 📌 —Jon Warren

GUY F. VITAL-HERNE/WORLD VISION



Haiti

For 9-year-old Louisina, 13-year-old Sophie, and 11-year-old Jilienne, joy is being back at school. "We are so happy to see our school rebuilt," one girl shares. On August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Haiti caused widespread destruction affecting 800,000 people. World Vision responded immediately with life-saving food, clean water, and shelter, and helped support families through health, education, and child protection. Communities were equipped to repair infrastructure like the girls' school.



El Salvador

"Joy is playing with the ball," says Wilbur, who uses a wheelchair. He rolls the ball again and again, knocking down colorful pins while his mother observes in the background. On this day, Wilbur scores double—happily hitting plastic pins one by one and getting ready to go into the white tents where he'll pick his World Vision sponsor through World Vision's Chosen® program.

ABNER ELY CASTILLO CASTILLO/WORLD VISION



SCAN THE CODE

to see more photos of joy.

Uganda

"My joy is playing soccer with my friends ... It's my best part of the day," shares 10-year-old Timothy. He and his friends are elated after Timothy scores a penalty kick during a lunchtime soccer match.



CLIVE INYHENSICO/WORLD VISION



Ghana

Brothers Godwin, 8, and Kofi, 12, get airborne through a local game called bonke. **“Joy is bonke after COVID. No more stay[ing] home,”** says Kofi. Their mother, a local farmer, has also felt a lift—out of poverty, that is! She’s been empowered through VisionFund, the microfinance subsidiary of World Vision, which equips rural entrepreneurs with small loans that unlock the growth potential of their small businesses.

ABBAN ENOCH JOHNSON/WORLD VISION



CATHERINE TURCIOS/WORLD VISION



SAW MOO KALE/WORLD VISION

Myanmar

For this family, joy is the animals that have transformed their lives. Ngwar Tar, 62, and his grandchildren, Ngwar Lay, 5, and Nwgar Sar, 3, enjoy laughing and caring for the goats they received from World Vision. **“Every day, we wait for our grandfather to go to the goat farm, and then we accompany him,”** says Ngwar Lay. **“When we arrive, we cuddle and feed the goats. We really like playing with them. They are not afraid of us, and they also love us.”**

Honduras

“Joy is learning how to write the number eight while singing songs to God,” says Dulce María, a 6-year-old sponsored child.

Carefree joy in India

INDIA IS KNOWN FOR its diverse culture. For celebrations, women and girls dress up in colorful traditional attire, which is the most interesting element in all Indian events. I went to the community of Dhar and was lucky to meet 10-year-old sponsored child Varsha (left) and her friends Shivkanya, 11 (center), and Gareema, 11 (right), as they were practicing a cultural dance in their traditional costumes for a village function. I sat down to watch. Their smiles enhanced the beauty of their outfits, and their laughter highlighted their confidence.

Their innocent giggles showed how happy children are when they have their freedom. These girls attend school together, but Dhar is a community where many girls drop out of school to be married. The community did not realize the serious harm that child marriage does until World Vision started working here. In partnership with the government, World Vision is working hard through various community activities to help parents and leaders prevent child marriage and keep their girls and boys in school.

How great it will be when every child around the world wears this same smile and shares this same laughter. That reminded me of my responsibility in supporting this as a program manager. My contribution might be the size of a drop in the ocean, but every drop matters. 🌊

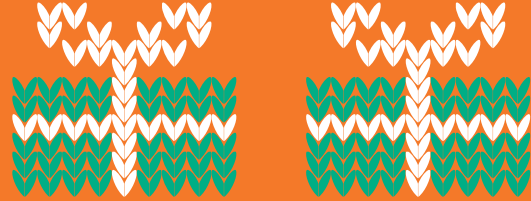
Written and photographed by Luke Aslaksan, World Vision India program manager

Canon 5D Mark III
35mm lens, 1/200 at f/6.3, ISO 100



#GIVINGTUESDAY

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World Vision 

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