

LWR 2013 QUILT CHALLENGE RESULTS



SHARING GIFTS OF COMFORT and **Hope**





New Hope Lutheran Church in Sand Creek, Wis., made a whopping 1,026 quilts in 2013.

The city of Salt, Jordan, lies about 22 miles north of Amman. One of the Orthodox congregations in the area gives significant time and resources to serving the city's poor, much like our congregations do here in the United States. Also similar to here, women are often among the most active, present members of the community.

Late one evening in Holy Week, one of these dedicated women, who visits the homebound and reaches out in service to her impoverished neighbors, asked the priest to stop by her home. Assuming she had a family concern, he made his way to her neighborhood and knocked on her door. When she opened it to welcome

him in, he was shocked to find that her family lived in more desperate conditions than many of those she served. Her two children, age 5 and 7, slept on a torn mattress with only a thin sheet to keep them warm.

Shyly, she asked the priest, "I like the kits and the quilts you give to me to distribute to the poor families,

and I ask you if I may have two quilts with two personal care kits for my children on Easter.”

The next night, taking care not to draw attention to this humble, yet dignified and generous family, the priest made his way back to their home with quilts, personal care kits, and food.

She kissed his hand, asking him to express her gratitude to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and to International Orthodox Christian Charities, LWR’s partner in Jordan. Humbled himself, the priest left her home thinking of this family and many others who lack so much and yet continue to give as though they live in abundance.

This woman and her family represent hundreds of thousands of people all over the world whose lives are affected each year by the generosity of faithful people like you who respond to God’s call through the ministry of making quilts and kits.

RESPONDING WITH CREATIVITY AND JOY

In 2013, LWR boldly asked you to join us in the 2013 LWR Quilt Campaign—a challenge to gather 500,000 quilts in a single year. In honor of the 25th anniversary of Women of the ELCA, we invited you to make 25 more quilts—or 25 percent more. So many of you responded with creativity and joy.

In the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Women of the ELCA quilters rose to the challenge as a synod, and together they made 10,170 quilts! New Hope Lutheran Church in Sand Creek, Wis., made a whopping 1,026 quilts in 2013.

We heard about quilting groups all over the country finding new ways to get their congregations involved (Saturday quilting marathon); new groups getting started for the first time (hooray for quilting mentors); summer camps taking on quilting for their service project (two camps together made 479 quilts); and countless veteran quilting groups finding renewed energy in this shared challenge.

The question on everyone’s minds this year has been: so how did we do? Did we meet the 500,000 goal? LWR learned a lot throughout this campaign, and one of those lessons was how tricky it is to count quilts and kits on a calendar-year basis. Our warehouses continued to process quilts and kits from fall ingatherings (or collections) through the end of May. We also know that many quilters who have spring ingatherings donated their 2013 quilts in the spring of 2014.

So we had to choose a cut-off date, and we landed on the number at the end of May: 485,931. This is by far the most quilts ever donated to LWR in a one-year period.

A SMASHING SUCCESS

Typically, an LWR quilt is used by more than one person in a family—perhaps a couple or two or three siblings share it. Imagine your 485,931 quilts warming that many bodies like those of our friend from Jordan and her children. Quilts, lovingly pieced by quilters like those at New Hope in Sand Creek, are comforting spirits and providing a tangible and beautiful reminder of God’s deep love and care. Nearly 500,000 quilts are bearing your prayers, hopes, and love to brothers and sisters across the globe.

I’d call that a smashing success, wouldn’t you?

Through this project, I’ve been reminded that when God calls us to an important task like this one, it not only transforms the world, but it transforms us, too.

What a gift: to give of ourselves, and not be diminished, but rather to grow. Thank you for taking the risk to give of yourselves and your time for the sake of the world. Thank you for embodying the love of Christ in your hearts. And thank you for keeping faithful to your ministry, ensuring that LWR can continue to respond with these gifts of hope and love to those who need them most. 

Melanie W. Gibbons is quilt and kit ministry manager for Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore, Md.

TOP 5

LWR GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS CHOOSEN BY YOU!

5

LWR Medical Supplies

support Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, which cared for more than 7,000 inpatients in 2013 alone.



4

LWR Dairy Cows provide nourishment and income for families in Peru. A good dairy cow can produce more than six gallons of milk a day!



3

LWR School Supplies

mean that children in Nicaragua have the tools they need to achieve in the classroom.

2

LWR Hens and Chicks

give families in El Salvador eggs to eat, eggs to sell and chicks to grow a flock.

1



LWR Goats reach families in Niger, Burkina Faso, India, Indonesia and Nepal. In parts of the world where food supply is precarious, a hearty goat can thrive, giving milk that nourishes and sells.

Honor your friends and loved ones with LWR Gifts!

Shop more of your favorites at lwr.org/gather.

Pair LWR Gifts with LWR Fair Trade!

A portion of your purchases benefit the **LWR Small Farmer Fund**, which supports small-scale farmers and their families. Shop coffee, chocolate and more at lwr.org/gather.



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