



Lutheran
Hour
Ministries

Beyond the Basics

LWML GRANT ASSISTS LHM'S REFUGEE OUTREACH EFFORTS

By Chad Fix, Corporate Communications Manager for Lutheran Hour Ministries with Cheri Fish, Mission Editor



Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Mission Outreach to At-Risk Women and Children in Refugee Camps—Lebanon" grant was one of 19 approved for the 2015–2017 biennium at the 2015 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. The LWML provided

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) with a grant of \$72,000 to help:

- share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ to the Arabic-speaking people and form relationships that enable LHM to freely and personally share God's Word through outreach meetings and events; and
- provide relief to the women and children in the refugee camps with basic humanitarian supplies, including food staples and hygiene kits so that they can live with dignity; and
- influence long-term growth and expansion of the Gospel to destitute women and children living in refugee camps now and after they return to their country.

Thankful to God for the partnership with the LWML, LHM's ministry center in Lebanon plays an active role in refugee outreach and relief in the Middle East. Millions of families and individuals have been displaced by the violence and conflict crippling this region.

The refugees that LHM works with have experienced the horror of Syrian civil war and persecution from ISIS. Syrian families have seen their houses destroyed and family members killed and are now forced to subsist in make-shift refugee camps while they attempt to determine their future. Tens of thousands of Christians in Iraq were forced to leave everything and flee to Lebanon to escape ISIS. More than 350,000 Christians living in the Kurdish territories of northern Iraq were given a 48-hour ultimatum to convert to Islam, pay the *gizya* (a high per-person tax) or leave. The only other outcome was certain death.

LHM is responding by providing food and medical supplies to these desperate souls. By acting as the "hands and feet of Christ," doors are opened for LHM to begin conversations and share the Gospel with these refugees.

In a 12-month period alone, LHM has ministered to around 10,000 people in Lebanon and Iraq. These numbers include:

- more than 3,000 Christian families
- more than 1,250 Muslim families
- more than 4,400 children, including 375 infants and toddlers.

Beyond food, medicine, blankets, and other basic supplies, LHM has also distributed hundreds of New Testaments, Bible Correspondence booklets, and Arch Books for children. Special attention is given to restoring normalcy among the vulnerable children who lack formal education and struggle with fear and stress as a result of the high levels of violence they witnessed back home.

An LHM—Lebanon staff member recently shared the story of a woman named Jasmine that they met in a Bekaa Valley refugee camp. Jasmine privately told us that she loves Jesus and reads about Him in her book. LHM staff members were a bit shocked and asked her what book that was? Jasmine replied, “It’s the Holy Bible, but I hide it so no one will ruin it.”

The LHM staff member encouraged Jasmine to continue to pray to Jesus and ask for His peace and forgiveness, and she promised to bring Jasmine more books, especially children’s books, the next time LHM staff returned to that camp.

“It’s hard to imagine living through situations like millions are facing,” says LHM President and CEO Kurt Buchholz. “The darkness that these souls are facing awakens a hunger for the light of Christ. We are proud to partner with the LWML by coming together in mission to share God’s Word with those who have not heard it. Because we have this kind of support, we can significantly enhance the help, healing, and hope that we have been bringing in the face of violence and spiritual darkness.” Q

Current Mission Grants Highlighted in This Issue

Healthy Families — \$60,000

The cycle of poverty, child abuse, and neglect can be reversed for families who participate in early intervention childhood development services such as those offered at the Centers for Healthy Families through Lutheran Family Services (LFS) of Nebraska. The goal is for each child to feel secure, nurtured, and able to succeed in learning and in life. Through this grant, the LWML assists LFS in creating healthy families, resulting in a healthier and safer community.

Bring the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel — \$100,000

Through the Apple of His Eye Mission Society, this LWML grant is used to help identify and train Jewish believers who are Israeli citizens to develop systems and strategies for outreach and planting house fellowships, as in the days of the early church. Eventually, facilities will be rented from churches or other locations to host tabernacle-type services, which means setting up and taking down each week the accouterments for worship.

Helping Hands Initiative — \$100,000

The LCMS National Housing Support Corporation (NHSC) is launching “Helping Hand,” a rehab initiative focused on supporting the critical home repair needs of low-income, disabled, and/or elderly residents near LCMS congregations. Through this grant, the LWML will assist Helping Hand in reaching out to their local communities through housing repair services. The LWML grant will help LCMS congregations provide a tool to care for their neighbors’ bodily needs while opening doors to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to unreached individuals and families.

Lutheran Youth Corps — \$25,000

Lutheran Youth Corps (LYC) members are young Lutheran adults who have been selected as volunteers to serve in areas in which their talents and services are needed. LYC members are especially trained to live and work and be identified with the people in the community, using their skills and understanding to serve these people in relation to their needs and to the skills and resources available. This LWML grant helps in funding the cost of training these young people to be Christ’s witness in acts of mercy for the church and for the world.



Grant #7: Fadi Khairallah, director of Middle East Lutheran Ministries, offers compassion and care to young refugees in Lebanon.

Mission GRANTS

Mission Goal: \$2,000,000 | 2015–2017

- 1. Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry \$50,000
- 2. Disaster Response Trailers \$80,000
- 3. Cancer Care Packages — Phil’s Friends \$50,000
- 4. Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings \$120,000
- 5. Redeeming Life Maternity Home \$100,000
- 6. Hope and Healing to the Navajo People \$75,000
- 7. Outreach in Refugee Camps—Lebanon \$72,000
- 8. Healthy Families \$60,000
- 9. LCMS Global Seminary Initiative \$100,000
- 10. Training Teachers and Leaders \$100,000
- 11. Opportunities in Uganda \$100,000
- 12. “In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts” \$50,000
- 13. “We Are God’s Workmanship” \$32,500
- 14. Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel \$100,000
- 15. Helping Hands Initiative \$100,000
- 16. Deaconess Training \$90,000
- 17. Lutheran Youth Corps \$25,000
- 18. Providing Hope for Detroit \$100,000
- 19. Rosa Young Academies \$25,000

KEY: ● — grant paid in full ○ — grant partially paid

Mission Grant updates are frequently posted at www.lwml.org.