

Mission Grant Story

Tanzanian Sewing Center

\$25,000

In a remote area of Tanzania, southeast of Lake Victoria, is an extremely arid region of 19,601 square miles. Many girls live here in small villages who do not go to school or work. They are at the mercy of their villages for assistance. Many of the girls end up getting married at a very young age just to have someone to take care of them. Some end up as slaves as a result of human trafficking. Many become prostitutes and end up with AIDS. These girls have no skills to rely on for their own support. Their lives are filled with despair and desperation.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania-South-East Lake Victoria Diocese (ELCT-SELVD) is aware of their situation and wants to help. They are dedicated to helping these girls, bringing them the Good News of Jesus and baptizing them. Once these girls know of our Savior's love and sacrifice for our sins, they can share it with their families and friends. Teaching them to sew will help sustain them physically as they make items for others that can be purchased. Teaching them about Jesus will sustain them spiritually. All this is happening at the new Missional Sewing Center.

This center will be a school and a place to live, housing 50 students. All the supplies, including sewing machines, sewing supplies, furniture, and instruction will be provided with this grant chosen at the 2017 LWML Convention. The churches in the district are very compassionate and caring, showing their support by purchasing the items the girls make. Thanks to the church leaders, there are also markets where these goods can be sold.

This center will help the ELCT-SELVD fulfill their mission of connecting with all their people, even those living in the remote bush areas, bringing them the Gospel and the hope of eternal life with Jesus. One of their primary purposes is "to serve all people spiritually, mentally, and physically through Jesus Name."

After one year, each girl will:

- 1) have her own pocket money;
- 2) be able to feed herself for one year;
- 3) have enough money to buy her own sewing machine; and
- 4) have enough money to buy her materials for projects to sell for the next year.



All of this is in response to Mt. 25:36 & 40, *“I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me ... And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”* The leaders of the ELCT-SELVD believe they can make a difference in the lives of these girls, showing them the love of Jesus; teaching them about Jesus, and showing them a future with hope and the knowledge of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.