

## MISSION OUTREACH FOR AT-RISK YOUNG WOMEN IN AFRICA Lutheran Hour Ministries — \$100,000

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*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'  
(Matthew 25:40).*

Young women in Kenya and Cameroon live in extreme poverty and violence; hunger and limited education force many to sell themselves for mere dollars. Nairobi has one of the highest HIV rates in Africa. With few public resources for treatment, dying from HIV/AIDS is a very real possibility.

In Cameroon, sexual exploitation, prostitution, and trafficking is so common that about 30 percent of girls ages 12 to 25 have given birth at least once. Many young pregnant women are forced from their homes, often after rape or domestic abuse. These women are outcasts with nowhere to go — not even to their church.

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these countries. Through ministry centers, LHM reaches out by sharing hope and faith in Jesus, changing the lives of these women both physically and spiritually.

Through our mite offerings, “Reaching Rahab,” a Christ-centered program in Kenya, is making a difference in the lives of women and their young children who often live on the streets or in prisons. The program offers counseling and teaches life skills to help break the cycle of poverty and prostitution. Income-producing trades help these women become independent and successful. Sharing Jesus and God’s forgiveness, they become reconnected to the church.

A network of prison chaplains and volunteers helps these young women through counseling and Bible studies. Groups with mature female volunteers from a partner Lutheran congregation are formed to help them transition into productive lives outside prison. The Prison Mums project provides help through HIV counseling and testing services.

In Cameroon, unwed teenage mothers and victims of sexual abuse are offered a holistic outreach program to empower and promote integration into society through education and spiritual growth. This provides the tools to prepare them for a better life.

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