



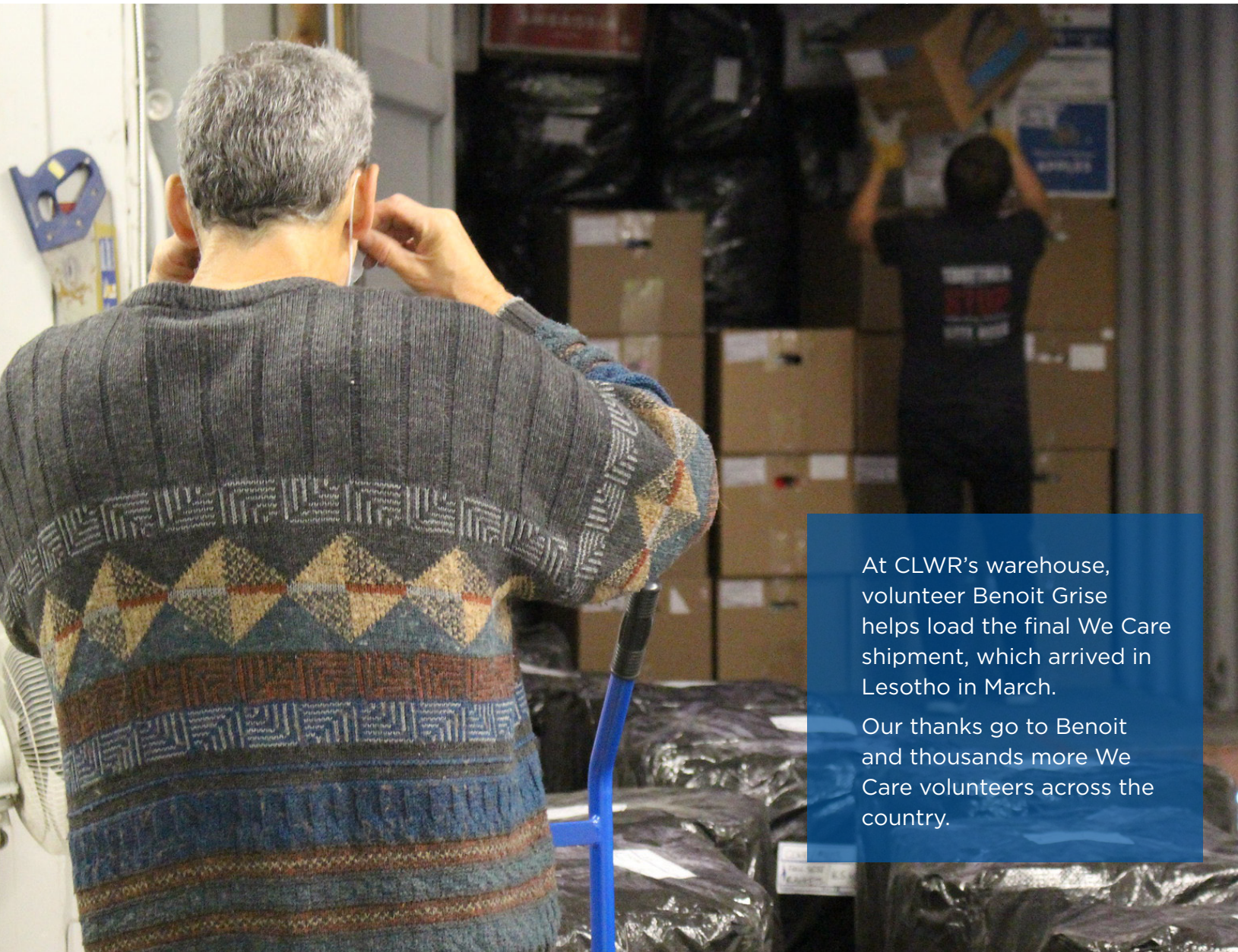
Canadian Lutheran
World Relief



partnership

Your generosity
in action

Spring 2021



At CLWR's warehouse, volunteer Benoit Grise helps load the final We Care shipment, which arrived in Lesotho in March.

Our thanks go to Benoit and thousands more We Care volunteers across the country.

Thank you — your support is making a difference!



Dear friends,

The story of the Beaverbrae is probably familiar to you by now. In the devastation of post-war Europe, it carried tens of thousands of those displaced by war to a new home in Canada. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, the story has been told many times, and we will continue to tell it to remind ourselves and each other of the spirit of service, of compassion and of mutual responsibility that launched this work.

But there is another story from those early years that I don't think has been told as often, which shows something else about the spirit we try to emulate today.

The well-known journeys of the Beaverbrae, of course, were not the first activity of CLWR.

When this movement took shape in 1946, our first emphasis was urgently collecting used clothing and then, adapting our focus, canned food. After hundreds of thousands of pounds of these items were distributed, the organization was given responsibility for a major nutrition program, and realized how much more efficiently we could respond if we collected money instead of food. Then, by the summer of 1947, the need for resettlement of refugees in Canada was also apparent.

We're always ready to tell you more about how your gift is making a difference!

Contact our office any time at
1-800-661-2597

The story I'm referring to isn't a specific event, but the story of a movement that adapted its work repeatedly just within its first few years. From the beginning, we see the signs that CLWR was listening and learning and responding to what it heard. And this trend didn't stop in the late 1940s—those who have been around can tell you of the ways CLWR has adapted over the decades since.

To me, this history encapsulates the Lutheran ideal of "semper reformanda" – always reforming. Like the churches that govern our work, we will never have fully arrived, and we must never stop listening, learning and adapting. This is why, even though we are one of Canada's very oldest humanitarian organizations, it is my hope that in another sense we are also one of its newest.

As we mark a historic milestone, I extend my deepest thanks. The world has changed many times over, and so has CLWR. With your partnership this year, we look to the future ready to do the same—ready to listen, to learn, and to serve.

Easter blessings,

Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director

"I am looking forward" - A new start across the border

Aceng Matha was a happy stay-at-home mom, community leader and small business owner when war came to her community in South Sudan.

One morning, it was suddenly clear that home wasn't safe—she ran with the kids past the sound of gunshots and beyond the outskirts of town, then snuck back in the morning for some food to carry with them.

After making it across the border to Uganda, she did what she says she's wired to do—she started a business. "It is said that 'When a farmer goes where there is land, he asks for a hoe.' A business person will start a business wherever she goes."

She started mobilizing women to support one another and develop a small business collective. Your support, through our partner Lutheran World Federation, helped her get going.

"LWF supported me with cash to boost my business, and I immediately starting buying goods in bulk and earning more profits. I used the profits to take care of my family, and life was good. I also farm and make baskets to sell."

The COVID-19 pandemic has added new challenges for her young business, but Matha is optimistic, with big plans ahead. "I am looking forward to becoming a supplier, not a retail seller. I want to sell in bulk."

Thank you — your support is helping give Matha and her kids the chance to follow their dreams.



Aceng Matha—mother, farmer, community organizer and entrepreneur, starting over in Northern Uganda (Photo: LWF Uganda)



Lian Fleifel received a grant for her project, a sensor which alerts families in case of fire or toxic gases (Photo: LWF Jordan)

Community solutions from Jordan's youth

With your support, we've been partnering for several years with Lutheran World Federation in Jordan to provide opportunities for children and youth. This year, that partnership went to an exciting new place!

As we work to build peace between Jordanians and the many Syrian youth who are in the country, we worked with LWF Jordan to establish The Innovation Lab.

The Innovation Lab is giving young people in Jordan the chance to innovate their own solutions to their communities' needs. In March, five innovative youth-led projects were selected to receive grant funding, including:

- **The Smart Hand**, by Hejres Attia, a device which alerts visually impaired people to obstacles in front of them

- **The Thermal Fund**, by Khaled Ammar and Qasim Ammar, a device that uses solar radiation to heat food

- **The Smart Container**, by Sundus and Amina Idris, which aims to reduce waste through separating metal from waste

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the project for your incredible designs, and our thanks to CLWR's donor community for helping making this work possible!

Our thanks also go to Manitoba Council for International Cooperation for funding for this project.

Building on your impact as Burundi faces COVID

Last year, with your support, we launched a short-term emergency response in Burundi, one of the poorest nations in the world.

As families there faced a hunger crisis, you provided emergency food support and the resources people needed to grow more of their own food and improve nutrition, in a region where only 11% of families eat three meals a day.

Now, as COVID complicates the picture for families who were already struggling, we're excited to tell you that we're building on last year's work and beginning a new 18-month effort in Burundi. Beginning this spring, we'll reach 4,500 people in partnership with LWF Burundi and Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Here's some of what your support will provide:

- Immediate food support for 1,750 families
- Seeds, tools, fertilizer and livestock to help 900 families improve their food security and reduce hunger
- Agriculture training programs for 1,000 families
- Focused support for women farmers, who grow 84% of the country's food but face massive resource gaps and inequities

Thank you for being a critical part of these life-saving efforts.

With your help, Nzeyimana Euphémie and her family received emergency support to get through 2020. (Photo: LWF Burundi)



Your help starts at home



As your support reaches some of the most vulnerable people around the world, our thoughts are also with our Canadian neighbours whose lives have been deeply impacted by this crisis.

COVID-19 has left our own communities facing sickness, job loss and disruption. That's why a portion of your support to Canadian Lutheran World Relief will also provide relief to vulnerable families right here in Canada. Thanks to your generous support, we're partnering with ELCIC and LCC on projects across Canada, including feeding programs for families in need and support for recent refugee arrivals whose sponsoring churches may be suddenly facing budget challenges.

We're praying for your health and well-being during this crisis, and we thank you earnestly for the love you've shared with others!

Our Beaverbrae Story — Erika Parker

"I was the first in my family to be born in Poland after my parents had been forced to flee there in 1940. Five years later, life was disrupted again when troops entered the country. Many families—including ours—became refugees. We fled west, by horse, wagon and train.

My two older brothers came to Canada aboard the Beaverbrae in 1948, and went to MacNutt, Saskatchewan where they worked as farm labourers. In 1950 the rest of us boarded the Beaverbrae and faced a winter crossing of the Atlantic. It was not an easy time, but we made it, eventually joining my brothers in MacNutt.

Eventually we all learned English, got jobs, and between us had 10 children of our own. My parents and brothers have passed on—but my sister and I are still alive and experiencing the joys of COVID!

When I give to CLWR today, I remember my family's refugee journey, and the chance we were given, and I'm grateful to give that chance to another family."

Talk to us today to find out how you can leave a legacy of hope.

Get in touch with Carla Blakley at **1-800-661-2597** or carla@clwr.org



600-177 Lombard Ave., Winnipeg, MB
R3B 0W5
204.694.5602 or 1.800.661.2597
www.clwr.org | clwr@clwr.org
CLWR is a registered Canadian charity
#106863038RR0001.

Material from Partnership may be reproduced for use by congregations.

For additional copies, contact CLWR at clwr@clwr.org or through lettermail (physical address at left).

Would you like to receive our e-newsletter? Visit clwr.org/signup to subscribe.

Moving? Send an email with your new and old addresses to clwr@clwr.org.

clwr.org