



September 2009 Mission Story
Defray the Costs of Shipping Quilts Overseas by Lutheran World
Relief - \$80,000

With the imagination of the mind, the creativity of the hands, and the love of the heart, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) have been in partnership in Christian love to provide for the needs of hurting people around the world.

Every year, countless Lutheran groups and individuals join their hearts and hands in sewing quilts and assembling layettes and school, health, and sewing kits to be distributed by LWR.

Since the birth of LWR following World War II, quilts and kits have been a hallmark of this amazing ministry. Every quilt and kit serves as evidence of a loving God for people who have been hurt by war, natural disaster, or ongoing poverty.

LWR ships quilts, kits, soap, and basic medical supplies worth approximately \$12 million to roughly 20 countries every year. The annual shipping cost for these donated items is more than \$500,000, plus more than \$1 million in expenses related to warehousing and distribution. In 2007, LWR sent 452,870 quilts, as well as kits and other materials, to 25 countries and territories.

Due to the rising costs of fuel, the costs of shipping quilts and kits overseas has increased. This \$80,000 grant will help offset the increase in shipping costs so that LWR can continue its ministry of extending Christ's love to vulnerable people through the tangible gift of a quilt, lovingly made by Lutheran women as an expression of their care and concern.

Burkina Faso, a 67- year old woman who received a LWR quilt explained that it was the first gift she had received in her lifetime. She had always heard stories about assistance for the poor, but that the distribution of quilts was the first time she ever saw such assistance reach her community.