



You're amazing x 18 x 3!

REPORT BACK
July 2023

When it seemed that the world had forgotten the children of Somalia as they were threatened by famine, forced from home, kept out of school ...

... something extraordinary happened. People like you stepped in through ALWS!

Early in 2023, ALWS secured an 18:1 Matching Grant with partners from Europe and the US to support children in Somalia to go to school.

Our ALWS commitment for Year 1 was \$150,000.

That's when love and kindness began pouring in from people like you!

Our Year 1 commitment has been met. Plus, Year 2! Plus, Year 3! That's 18:1 x 3 years for 8,080 children in Somalia to go to school! Thank you!



Photo: LWF Somalia

Sahra was forced to drop out of school at Grade 2 to look after her siblings. Before your help, Sahra said:

"From dawn to dusk we girls are always burdened with doing something."

Now, in just two years of your support at school through ALWS, she's reached Grade 6:

"Now I am able to read and write! I am proud these accomplishments in a such short time!"

Your generosity provides each child with a School Kit with everything from books and pencils to school uniform.

Plus, you provide a School Lunch of porridge each day for the whole year.

Plus, you train teachers and renovate classrooms

All with a special focus on girls, to protect them from being forced into early marriage or child labour. You also make sure children with disabilities don't miss out!

Thank you for bringing love to life for these 8,080 children. For them, you will be a blessing ALWays!

2022 – your ALWS action!

Boundless blessings >

You were a vital part of ALWS-supported projects that brought love to life for 406,173 people in 2022. These two children in Burundi now have enough to eat because you helped train their mum Josephine in modern climate-smart farming methods.



< Home away from home

In 2022, through ALWS people like you cared for 198,242 people displaced from their homes by conflict, poverty or natural disaster. Your ALWS action helped ensure they were welcomed as guests, and supported with food, safety, shelter and school. Thank you!



Making the most of Myanmar >

A military junta has ruled Myanmar since February 2021. Despite this, in 2022 you reached 87,170 people inside Myanmar, and 22,638 people who fled to Bangladesh. Your work continues inside Displaced Persons Camps, supporting children to go to school, and rebuilding after Cyclone Mocha.



< Direct after disaster

As climate changes, natural disasters hurt the world's poorest communities more. In 2022, you supported ALWS action to help 267,279 of these people. In 2023, you have already supplied \$100,000 worth of emergency aid to families hit by the Turkiye/Syria earthquake.



Breaking down barriers >

Too often, people with disability are overlooked or suffer stigma. Your ALWS action helps make sure these people aren't forgotten. In 2022, you supported 3,859 people with disabilities to gain human rights and make the most of their skills.



Discover more about your ALWS action in your 2022 Annual Report at alws.org.au OR call 1300 763 407 for a printed copy.

Thank you!

Blessed by you, to now bless you!

Effendi was 16 when disease left him unable to walk. His parents sold everything to pay for treatment, but nothing helped. Before your help through ALWS and our partner in Indonesia, CDRM&CDS, Effendi felt challenged that he now needed to use a wheelchair ...

"I felt so frustrated. I could talk and think but I could not move any other part of my body.

By now, my parents had no money, so they put me in a room in their house and I stayed like that for the next 8 years. There was much stigma from the community, and my mother would be teased and be crying because of it.

I didn't think I would live, but my father and mother were committed to caring for me."

Through ALWS, you support more than a hundred people with disability through PK Hephata Centre. This is when Effendi's life changed:

"I was feeling very distressed because my brain was working but my body was not working.

When I went to the Centre, I saw many others with disability. Many of them could not talk or think properly, but they were laughing and happy.

This changed my mind-set when I realised others were in a worse situation, but they could still be happy. I started to accept my condition, and this began the healing inside of me."

Effendi was supported by his friends to do a Batik Training Course. He was inspired to open a business, and you have supported him to expand.

"We are the only Batik business in this area, and we are making Batak Batik designs. Every time we make a piece, we pray over it so that it can bless the receiver.

In the future we want to share our skills with others so that they can learn.

What we are doing would be impossible if we just tried to do it by ourselves. It is only possible because others helped us and encouraged us, so now I want to help others."

Your Gifts of Grace gift!



The first 500 **Gifts of Grace** orders this Christmas receive this gift from Effendi. He and his wife Betty create and paint their own Batak Batik designs, print them on material, then stick them on recycled CDs to create a unique Christmas Tree decoration! Your new **Gifts of Grace** arrives mid-October.



Photo: ALWS / CDRM&CDS



Photo: ALWS / CDRM&CDS



See for yourself

Robin and Dorothy Mann are not only two of Australasia's favourite Christian musicians, they are Ambassadors for ALWS Gifts-in-Will program **Lives you touch**. Robin and Dorothy saw first-hand your ALWS work in Indonesia - even planting mangroves, as you see in photo with **Lives you touch** Coordinator, Julie Krause. They will share stories and songs at **ALWS Asante** events across Australia over the next 18 months, starting with:

- 23 July: Box Hill, Victoria
- 13 August: Loxton, SA
- 25 November: Toowoomba, Qld
- 26 November: Rochedale, Qld

You are invited to attend any of these events, or ask about holding your own. **Simply contact Julie:**
0448 818 129 • juliek@alws.org.au

Powered by people like you!

Sock it to me! >

They say you can't know someone's story until you've walked a mile in their shoes ... how about in their socks? Students from St John's Lutheran School in Kingaroy Queensland donned their favourite silly socks to support their ALWS **Walk My Way**. By putting their foot in it, they were sock-cessful in raising \$7,540 - to support 290 refugee children to go to school!



< Take the cake

It's amazing the ways people like you find to help people through ALWS. Cornerstone College at Mt Barker SA takes the cake - 52 cakes in fact! Each year they hold a Bake-Off. The best cakes are judged, and then sold off slice-by-slice to raise money. This year, the 7th Annual Bake-Off, raised \$2,217 - showing that raising funds truly can be a 'piece of cake'!



< Teaching teachers ABC

This September, in Adelaide ALWS will hold its first ever Ambassador Boot Camp - ABC. Teachers and Principals from Lutheran schools are invited to this FREE two-day event with inspiring guest speakers, warm hospitality and even an Adelaide Oval Roof

Walk! ABC will train and equip participants to be Ambassadors for ALWS in their school community with activities like ALWS **Walk My Way**.



Porridge Parties

Through ALWS you supply School Lunches of fortified porridge to children in camps for displaced people in the Horn of Africa. In Australia, groups like Adelaide technology company, Communet, local Lutheran churches, even the Board of ALWS ... have held Porridge Parties to raise money to protect children from famine, and support them in school.

Like to know more?

- ask for a printed 2022 Annual Report
- invite an ALWS Guest Speaker
- consider an ALWS Asante Event
- visit alws.org.au or call **1300 763 407**