

Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development®

December 2015

Volume 21, Issue 3



A Sad Milestone: Mercy-USA Marks Another Winter Relief Effort in Syria

Since 2012, Mercy-USA has been working to alleviate the winter suffering of families in Northern Syria. In years past, we've distributed winter gear to children and heavy blankets to families suffering through the cold season. When Aleppo endured a horrendous upswing in barrel bombings in the winter of 2013/14, we even followed our families out to the camps along the Turkey border. They had sought shelter in tents in the mud and Mercy-USA

distributed sleeping mattresses, mats, blankets and winter clothes to the children, including boots.

Last winter, we also gave mothers warm robes along with knitting wool for sweaters. Thousands of children were again given winter gear to stay warm.

Now, this year, we're tackling the problem of the cold head-on by distributing stoves and delivering a biomass fuel that is sustainable and ecological to boot. See the next page for the full story.

Inside

Prina Fuel and Heating Stoves for Syria	2
Indonesian Women Farmers	4
Albanian Business Success Story	6
Albanian Orphans Get Extra Training	7
Where We Work	8
Donate	8



Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is a nonprofit relief and development organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and supporting individuals and their communities in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Incorporated in 1988, Mercy-USA's projects focus on improving health, nutrition and access to safe water, as well as promoting economic and educational growth around the world.

- Registered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Special Consultative Status with the United Nations
- Member of InterAction

44450 Pinetree Drive, Suite 201
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-3869

Telephone: 734-454-0011 1-800-55-MERCY
(1-800-556-3729)

FAX: 734-454-0303

info@mercyusa.org

mercyusa.org

Other Mercy-USA Offices

Tirana, Albania
Tuzla, Bosnia
Medan, Indonesia
Kenya, Nairobi
Tripoli, Lebanon
Mogadishu, Somalia
Antakya, Turkey

Age-old traditions bring new-age solutions for Syrians



On the southern tip of Turkey there's a verdant valley named Altınözü. Among the rolling hills and olive trees as far as the eye can see, humanity and cooperation is heard in beautiful tones of Turkish and Arabic. This agricultural region is also home to a Syrian refugee camp sheltering more than thirteen hundred refugees from Syria who have been warmly welcomed by their Turkish neighbors when the conflict drove families from their homes. Even before the war in Syria, Arabic was spoken here making the transition easier for the refugees. We visited during olive harvesting time and witnessed the refugees help bring in the harvest as a means of surviving away from their own homes and farms in Syria. There's also something relatively new happening in this largest olive growing region of Turkey, and Mercy-USA is happy to tell the story as it will benefit the families we help who have been left behind in Syria.

Olive oil production and unintended potential harm to the environment

The byproduct of olive oil production—a kind of a mash of skins and pits—has traditionally been put into sludge pits as waste. Because the waste is highly acidic and saline, it can potentially harm the environment, including the groundwater. We visited



Prina fuel is produced in large logs as seen here, or in small pellets as seen below. The Prina is made at the same plant where extra virgin olive oil is produced making it efficient and better for the environment.

an olive oil plant in Altınözü where a new fuel, called Prina in Turkish is manufactured at the end of the olive oil production cycle. The olive oil waste is made into a cleaner-burning and more efficient fuel that is used in stoves instead of wood or coal.

Prina Fuel, Stoves and a Warmer Winter for Syrians

This fuel is becoming popular in Turkey because of its overall efficiency, and near net-zero ecological impact, but probably due to the war, this heating fuel was not utilized or known in Syria until now. After seeing the incidents of acute respiratory infections account for over half of the patient visits to our Aleppo clinic among infants and children under five this last year, we are installing stoves that will warm a family's main sleeping room with this sustainable, eco-friendly fuel. We'll be delivering four months' supply of Prina so that babies and children will be warm through the coldest winter nights. We hope we can alleviate some of the misery and illness that has been plaguing families, especially children each winter since this crisis began, with the added benefit of introducing a better fuel to the community.

You can sponsor a heating unit and one month's fuel for a family home in Aleppo for \$185.

A donation of \$105 will provide a month's worth of eco-friendly Prina fuel to heat one family home for a month.



These stoves and four months' supply of the new Prina fuel pellets will be distributed to families in need in Aleppo this winter.



From the olive grove to the heating stove, Prina fuel pellets make a sustainable, and near net-zero fuel that provide a superior long burning heating source.





Indonesian women support their families with a little help from Mercy-USA.

Mercy-USA began working in Indonesia to provide disaster relief after the devastating earthquake and tsunami off the west coast of Sumatra in December, 2004. We are proud to say that more than ten years later, Mercy-USA has a permanent office in Medan, Indonesia where we are offering continuing development assistance to improve the lives of many disadvantaged families.

Despite the richness of the land in Indonesia, millions of small farmers, agro-workers and fishermen are unable to tap into the opportunities available to them due to financial restrictions and lack of access to modern equipment and methods. Mercy-USA helps rural farmers increase their yields through better

seed, and fertilizers plus the very important training in best farming practices.

We offer a helping hand to many poor, rural farmers, especially single mothers who struggle to make ends meet with multiple mouths to feed.

Kartini, at left, is a mother of five and with the help from Mercy-USA, her little farm with less an acre of seed planted yielded three tons of rice. That's more than she harvested in previous years as a result of a helping hand up from Mercy-USA. This extra profit from her harvest will allow her to pay her kids' tuition and still have enough to plant vegetables in between her rice harvests.



MERCY-USA SPOTLIGHT: ALBANIA



An example of Mercy-USA small enterprise development success

Nazif Tivari, is an experienced engineer in milk processing and the owner of a milk processing plant in Durres village in Albania. After the collapse of communism, Nazif emigrated to Italy, where he worked and gained more experience in the milk processing industry. In 1996, he returned to Durres and purchased an old warehouse and converted it to a small milk processing plant. When he began work, he employed 2 workers and processed 100 liters of milk per day.

In 1997, Mercy- USA identified his business as worthy of support, enabling Nazif to expand the small processing plant into a thriving enterprise that currently employs 18 people and processes 5,000 liters of milk a day among other products and services. Nazif's small business is a contributing

part of the community, not only in terms of dairy production but also in terms of employment. He is also now a part-time lecturer at the Agro University in Kamez, Tirane. Nazif says, "We've grown over the years with the help from Mercy-USA."



Orphans in Albania find opportunities through Mercy-USA English and computer training classes

Enxhi Tuzi, 12 years old, has been taking our English and computer training courses in Albania. For an orphan like Enxhi, having access to additional training courses will give her an advantage she couldn't otherwise afford. These kids gain extra skills in computer software and English that will give them an edge for college or vocations as they enter adulthood. Mercy-USA has had hundreds of kids complete the courses that include motivational awards and gifts for dedication to learning.



Mercy-USA Board of Directors*

Chairperson
Ms. Iman Elkadi

Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Ali El-Menshawi

Treasurer
Mr. Melvin Bilal

Members
Mr. Hassan Amin
Ms. Rasha Ghobashy
Dr. Magdy M. Hussein

*All members of the Board of Directors serve as volunteers.

Mr. Umar al-Qadi,
President & CEO

Mr. Anas Alhaidar, CFO

Join Mercy-USA in
"Helping People Help
Themselves"™

In addition to your one-time charitable donation, there are easy ways to donate. Consider joining Mercy-USA in this vital effort with a sustaining gift:

Automatic Giving Program

A gift of your choice can be automatically deducted monthly from your bank or major credit card account.

Employee Matching Program

Encourage your employer to match your donation.

Stocks

Mercy-USA accepts stocks as a charitable contribution.

Make a Bequest

Remember Mercy-USA's mission in your will.

Be an Advocate for Mercy-USA's Mission

Volunteer in your community to promote Mercy-USA's work. Call us for details on how you can get involved!

1-800-556-3729

Where we work • mercyusa.org



Albania

- English and computer skills training for orphans
- Read to Succeed program for school-age children and teens

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Vocational and career training for orphans, at-risk teens and young adults
- Agriculture Education Center to aid farmers, and local communities with sustainable farming methods

The Gaza Strip

- School lunch program in Gaza serving approximately 1,500 students

India

- Seasonal food aid

Indonesia

- Aid farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Also assist farmers in forming cooperatives
- English and computer skills training for orphans

Kenya

- Nutritional support services for mothers and children

Lebanon

- Syrian Refugee assistance in Wadi Khalid, Lebanon
- Mobile Health Clinic serves refugees four times a week providing vaccines, pre- and post-natal checks and regular medical exams
- Palestinian Refugee Assistance in Beddawi and Nahr-Al-Bared Palestinian Refugee Camps
- Vocational training courses

Somalia

- To date over 400 new or rehabilitated wells for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia
- Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children
- Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion

Syria

- Monthly food baskets and infant formula for 1,000 vulnerable families in Aleppo, Syria
- Winterization projects for vulnerable children and their families
- Blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families
- Hygiene packages for 1,000 vulnerable families
- Mother and Child Health Clinic



Donate Online: www.mercyusa.org • Call Toll-Free: **800-55-MERCY (800-556-3729)**

Clip and Mail this Donation Form to Mercy-USA • 44450 Pinetree Dr. Ste. 201, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-3869 • US Federal Tax # 38-2846307
In Canada: Fiesta RPO, PO Box 56102, 102 Hwy #8, Stoney Creek, ON L8G 5C9 • Canadian Charity Business # 89458-5553-RR0001

Contribution / Pledge Form

- One Time Donation** \$ _____
- Monthly Donation** \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____
- Check**
- Credit Card** (Fill out Credit Card Section)
- Pledge** \$ _____

I give my permission to Mercy-USA/Mercy-USA (Canada) to withdraw from my Credit Card the amount I have indicated above. I also understand that I may change or end a monthly donation agreement at any time with a written notice.

Credit Card Information (Charged in US Currency)

Account No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (Please print) _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

More ways to contribute!

Many companies match their employees' donations; ask your employer if they have a "Matching Gift Program".

Automatic Giving Program: A gift of your choice can be automatically deducted monthly from your bank account. Please call us toll-free at **800-556-3729** for details on how you can make an easy and sustaining gift.