

Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development®

December 2016

Volume 22, Issue 3



Cast iron stoves, and eco-friendly olive pit bio-mass fuel is keeping tens of thousands of Syrians warm this winter with Mercy-USA's winterization project.

Better, Safer Way to Bring Warmth to Syria

Tens of thousands of internally displaced Syrian families are living in a large swath of Northern Syria in makeshift camps and in small, underserved villages. Refugees in their own country from cities that have been decimated by war like Hama or Aleppo, they are living in desperate conditions.

Last winter, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development listened to families we serve and their overwhelming request for help was not for blankets and coats, but for fuel and a better, safer way to heat their homes or tents. We distributed cast iron stoves and a new eco-friendly fuel manufactured from olive oil production waste called

Prina to families in Aleppo and in makeshift camps. The project was such a great success that this year, with the generous help of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), we are distributing stoves and Prina fuel to over 35,000 people in Syria. The fuel is manufactured in Syria helping the devastated local economy as well as the most vulnerable Syrian families. The heavy stoves are safer for use around children, and can be used to cook and boil drinking water as well as heat a home or tent.

Read one family's story on the next page.

Inside

Winter Stoves for Syria.....	2
Medical and Bread Projects in Lebanon.....	4
Agricultural Livelihood Project in Kenya.....	6
Ways to Give.....	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
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Tripoli, Lebanon
- Mogadishu, Somalia
- Antakya, Turkey

Winter is Coming in Syria and We're Making Sure These Children Will be Warm this Year

Kefeya, her husband Khalid, and their eight children (six of them pictured below) fled violence and bombing in their village and are now living in a small tent on grazing land in a makeshift camp in Northern Syria. The couple are unemployed and the family has barely enough to survive.

In early November, we brought them the news that

they would soon be receiving a new stove and eco-friendly fuel. The Prina fuel pellets burn hotter and cleaner than coal, and the stove is designed to vent the smoke out of the tent. Kafeya told us that last winter they resorted to burning nylon bags and trash to keep warm and as such the children suffered from respiratory problems due to the toxic fumes.

Kefeya (at right) cooks outside with the precious little fuel she has left. The primus stove she's using is dangerous to use around the children and the fuel too expensive to buy most of the time. Fuel, like diesel or kerosene is expensive, and worse, its source can't be trusted. The indoor cast iron stove and eco-fuel Mercy-USA is providing will allow her to cook and keep the family's drafty tent warm and healthy without danger to the children's health or safety.





Mahassen's Story

Mahassen, now 10, lives with her mother, two sisters and brother in Lebanon. Three years ago, Mahassen was a little girl with a pink bedroom filled with dolls until the day her father, a driver in the Syrian city of Tal Kalakh, was arrested and jailed. Nahla, Mahassen's mother, gathered her children and fled the violence and chaos to Lebanon leaving the dolls and pink bedroom behind.

The family survives on humanitarian aid and nothing else; without the help of her loving husband, Nahla struggles mightily to support her four children in a one room flat lacking decent living conditions. She told us she's grateful that the Mercy-USA Mobile Medical Unit offers her family free medical attention when they get sick, because like most everything in Lebanon, health care is expensive.

Three mornings a week, Mahassen walks with her friends to the Mercy-USA bread distribution point where she brings home freshly baked bread for her family before going to school. The bread bridges the gap left when the family's food voucher isn't quite enough. Mahassen told us the bread keeps her going and helps her to study hard in school because she is determined to become a civil rights lawyer "to help my father and those who are oppressed in the world."



Free Medical Care and Bread for Syria's Refugees in Lebanon

For the past five years, Mercy-USA has been assisting Syrian Refugees and their host families in Lebanon.

Currently, we are distributing fresh bread to families three times a week. This is important as Syrian Refugees are not given permission to work in Lebanon and must rely on humanitarian aid for survival. Food vouchers from the UNHCR are not always enough and so families need help to meet their nutritional needs. We're pleased to offer this simple, but life sustaining food aid in Lebanon.

Since 2012, Mercy-USA has been providing free

health care to Syrian Refugee families in Wadi Khalid, Lebanon. Wadi Khalid is a very poor, hard to access valley where thousands of Syrians have been surviving in impoverished conditions. Almost forgotten, the families need help to care for their health and that of their children. Lebanon has no health care safety net and for much of the Syrian Refugee population the cost of a doctor's visit often means giving up another vital need like food. Our mobile medical unit travels throughout the valley offering medical checks by our physicians and medicine—all free of charge.

Keeping Ayoub's Dreams Alive with Love

Khalil and Mahdiya had a good life with their own home and security when their first child Ayoub was born in 2011. They planned for his future, hoping he would have the freedom to grow up healthy with a good education and find prosperity, until a year later when they were forced to flee their home in Syria and live in Lebanon as refugees. The young family has found life in Lebanon almost an insurmountable struggle for survival. The Lebanese government does not issue work permits to Syrian Refugees, so Khalil has to find casual labor in agriculture whenever possible, but for the most part, his family relies on humanitarian aid for survival. Due to Lebanon's relatively high cost of living, life for a Syrian Refugee family is extremely precarious. Housing, transportation and food costs are all very high, and medical care is prohibitively expensive, especially when you can't work.



The Mercy-USA Mobile Medical Unit serving their area in Wadi Khalid supports Khalil's family with free medical care. It's a good thing too, their one room apartment is squalid, poorly heated and cooled and lacks clean water. The children get sick from the poor living conditions but our physicians are available to treat illnesses before they exacerbate into worsening conditions. Almost just as importantly, our doctors not only offer reassurance to the parents when their children fall sick, as with five-year-old Ayoub, but also they offer comfort and encouragement to the children suffering from so much uncertainty. Ayoub loves our Dr. Firas so much that he has decided he wants to study medicine. Dr. Firas is always quick to remember this about Ayoub and offers encouragement toward this dream every time he treats the little boy. The joy that Dr. Firas brings to Ayoub's face is something to witness.

Livestock Keepers Get Methods to Feed Their Flocks, Farm Their Land and Educate Their Children in Kenya.



Gediya Ali Alio is a widow with 8 children in Garissa County, Kenya. She has subsisted on a small herd of goats and six cows using the milk and meat of her goats to stay afloat and support her children. She told us she sometimes had to sell off some of the livestock in order to purchase clothing or grains. She tried to grow tomatoes and melons on her land but without experience in farming combined with the successive droughts, her crops failed and put her in deeper financial straights.

Mercy-USA instituted a livelihood project in Garissa County for would-be farmers like Gediya, where she received expert training on better growing methods plus irrigation equipment and fertilizers.

With the help from Mercy-USA, Gediya has been growing crops that not only allow her to sell the produce in the market; she is growing Sudan grass,

a hearty and long-harvesting grass that benefits her livestock. She told us her goats and cows are now healthier and their weight has increased significantly. She said, "Now I feel so relieved. I have this piece of land producing crops; and I'm able to generate good income from the sale of the Sudan grass and melons. Now I am planning to introduce new crops into my farm such as tomatoes and onions."

Gediya has not only become a successful farmer, her children are benefiting from more than full stomachs. She proudly told us, "I am able to send my children to school. My oldest son is participating in this program, (on his adjacent farm), and now we are working together cooperatively to earn even more money for all of us." For Gediya and her family, this project grows more than her crops; it's growing her family out of poverty and need.



With the onset of frequent droughts, livestock herders are not able to sustain their herds well enough to support their families. Mercy-USA conducted a new agricultural support program to help Garissa County families with cultivating their land with cash crops and Sudan Grass. Sudan Grass, a hybrid of sorghum, is a fodder for livestock that is easy to grow, harvest and is an excellent source of nutrition for livestock. Farmers are not only earning cash for their crops of melons, tomatoes, onions and other produce, they are able to feed their herds even during times of drought which in turn brings more value to the animals.

Other Ways to Give

There are many other ways you can give to Mercy-USA. Here are a few ideas you may not have considered!



Join Our Continuous Kindness Campaign

Consider designating a monthly gift that you can afford and you will see that what's easy for you to do makes it easier for us to make a larger impact on the people we serve around the world.

Combined Federal Campaign & State Employee Campaigns

For the past 18 years, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development (CFC identification number 10914), has been participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), as well as the annual campaigns for State government employees in California, Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey. Please choose Mercy-USA as your designated charity and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Charity Motors Your used car can be a charitable gift to Mercy-USA. Contact Charity Motors and designate us as your beneficiary and they'll take care of it including towing! charitymotors.org

AmazonSmile Next time you shop on Amazon, visit smile.amazon.com and designate Mercy-USA for Aid and Development as your beneficiary. Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to us.

Mercy-USA Board of Directors*

Chairperson

Ms. Iman Elkadi

Vice-Chairperson

Dr. Ali El-Menshawi

Treasurer

Ms. Rasha Ghobashy

Members

Mr. Hassan Amin

Mr. Yassine Benzinane

Dr. Magdy M. Hussein

Ms. Samar Mady

Ms. Clareen Menzies

Dr. Hesham M. Mesbah

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

Mr. Umar al-Qadi,
President & CEO

Mr. Anas Alhaidar, CFO

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

- Aid farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Training in business development and marketing for farmers.

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 about 500 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 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.