

Classis Huron Report – spring, 2021

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Canadian Director of Church and Community Engagement

We are grateful for you and your passion for the work of the Lord; grateful that the churches of Classis Huron continue to work for justice, for poverty alleviation and food security in the face of disasters and conflict. **Thank you!**

Your donations to World Renew to continue this work on your behalf are working virtual miracles in so many places around the world. Some of these miracles are described in our **2020 Ministry Report**, which can be accessed on our website [here](#). During this fiscal year (July 1/20 to April 7/21), the churches of Classis Huron have donated an astounding \$260,553.44! Through those donations, your churches have ministered to more than 1,400,000 participants in 35 countries. Your donations have delivered food, hygiene, housing, justice and advocacy and development support; the donations have helped to settle 147 refugees into Canada; of the more than 1 million participants, almost 300,000 improved their lives through development programs. **Thank you!**

A. General Updates:

Through the pandemic, your donations have enabled world renew to not only continue its global activities but also continue its sharing of the work to Canadian Christians. Earlier this year, we hosted a live interview with Andy Harrington (new CEO of the CFGB), three devotions and webinars on refugee sponsorship through World Renew, highlighting our work in Maternal and Child Health (the designated Sunday offering opportunity of May 9), as well as a webinar dealing with ways in which churches can increase their engagement with global partners, notwithstanding the pandemic. Thank you for your support which allows World Renew to both continue its programming, as well as offer new opportunities of engagement for the churches. (Should you wish to view any of these recordings, please contact pbulthuis@worldrenew.ca); I'll be glad to send them to you.)

B. Upcoming Important Dates and Activities

June 27: Human Trafficking Awareness Sunday: World Renew works globally to assist communities to enable sustainable livelihoods for families.

October 11: Thanksgiving: The offering is for World Renew's Free A Family® program. Bulletin inserts and/or covers, social media graphics, worship resources and PowerPoint slides can be ordered. The Free A Family® program is an alternative to sponsorship based on community development.

Nov. 7: World Hunger Sunday: *Hunger for Good* is the theme of the worship, video and devotional resources that can be used by congregations for this special Sunday.

Churches can order resources for each of these special Sundays quarterly through the regular ordering process.

C. Community Development: Development shifts for COVID-19 Conditions



In March 2020, World Renew began to shift its focus in development programs to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions worldwide. In many of our ongoing programs in food security, community health, economic opportunity, and peace and justice, we worked quickly to restructure and implement pandemic support for those most affected by lockdowns and travel bans.

- Community Health Volunteers in Bangladesh counseled women individually in preventing and protecting their families from coronavirus.
- A Honduran partner developed a social audit for teachers on the efficacy of online learning.
- World Renew distributed PPE, raised awareness in communities, and made in-home visits to teach prevention and hygiene practices in Malawi.

- In Tanzania, World Renew reached more than one million people with radio broadcasts.
- In Senegal, a partner provided hygiene products, health manuals, and food to vulnerable people. Another partner distributed washing stations and hygiene products to literacy groups.
- In West Africa, church leaders, who receive training through World Renew, used WhatsApp to practice their lessons during pandemic lockdowns.

D. International Disaster Response (IDR)

In BANGLADESH, Rohingya refugees continue to live without reliable access to work. A distribution of food each month brought families hope in the midst of precarious life in a refugee camp. In LEBANON, food vouchers were a lifeline for Syrian refugee families who have depleted their savings, but can now afford to purchase food from markets, even in an economic crisis. In NIGERIA, a distribution of cash each month meant that parents who had no reliable income, because of ongoing conflict, were able to buy enough food to feed their families. In SOUTH SUDAN, World Renew walked alongside families with reliable food for who experience the double burden of devastating floods and war that has ravaged the country for years. In SYRIA, years of conflict left families hungry and without savings. A basket of food from church partners demonstrated Christ's hope, despite years of unrest.



E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

On February 26, 2021, World Renew received 200 sponsorship allocations for 2021 from *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)*. We are pleased to receive this number early in the year as we continue to receive many requests for sponsorship.

F. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Huron do?

Encourage your church to partner with a church or community outside North America. Call the office. Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.ca ; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Maria Oliveira (moliveira@worldrenew.ca , ext. 4319) for more ideas on how we can help you achieve your ministry objectives. To learn more about World Renew's ministry and/or to sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit www.worldrenew.ca.
Please continue to pray for the world. May the God of peace grant wisdom and healing to the nations.

Blessings,

Handwritten signature of Peter Bulthuis

Peter Bulthuis, Director, Church and Community Engagement Canada