



March 17, 2019

Church World Service Kits Needed; Grants Extended

PSEC congregations have been faithful in completing Church World Service kits in response to the many storms. Because of this faithful response, CWS was able to get nearly 50,000 CWS Kits into the hands of families impacted by storms, fire, and other disasters. However, these continuing events brought the supply of CWS Kits to a critical low. Therefore, it is important that our churches keep putting these kits together. To encourage us to complete kits, UCC Disaster Ministries has extended the matching grant program for churches that want to build Disaster buckets! For the details go to: http://www.ucc.org/disaster_2018_matching_grants_for_cws_kits_home_page

You can help in another way as well. We need churches that have a room to spare that can serve as CWS Kit Depots. For more information on this opportunity please contact Conference Disaster Coordinator Karl Jones at kjones275@comcast.net.



Stewardship Workshop
This Saturday—March 23rd
St. Luke's UCC, Trappe
9:30 am—12:00 noon



Is your church in need of a good Stewardship campaign? Spend a Saturday morning with Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister and learn about Stewardship good principles and practices and how to run an effective Stewardship Campaign. This is a **FREE** workshop!

Register at: <https://psecstewardship.eventbrite.com>

Why Give to One Great Hour of Sharing?

Read below:

Imagine a 12-year-old child that you know. Maybe this is a neighborhood child, one of your own children or perhaps a grandchild. In your mind, what does the child do on a normal day? Go to school? Eat breakfast with friends? Argue with a sibling about what game to play after school?

Today I would like to tell you about another 12-year-old child. Her life is a little different from most children you know. We're going to call her Z, which is the first letter of her name. For Z, a German language course in Serbia felt like the most normal thing she could imagine. She was born in Iran, but her family came from Afghanistan. They were refugees. And, like millions of other refugee and immigrant families, Z's family began the long journey towards a better life. They went through Serbia, and eventually made it to Germany.



In Germany, aid workers spotted Z and her family. They were walking through a park, looking out of place and afraid. The aid workers offered them hope in the form of a safe space to rest and warm noodles, which Z described as "the sweetest food she had tasted in years."

"O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God," the Psalmist sings.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help the aid organization, Info Park, assist refugees with a safe place to rest, educational opportunities, and nourishing food to eat when they are hungry.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help children like Z, inch closer and closer to the goals they only dream about as they navigate borders, checkpoints, and an exilic life.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing assist learning centers where girls and boys can escape the life of refugee camps and experience the normalcy children in many parts of the world take for granted.

Because of your generosity, Z is on a path towards education that only she and her mother dreamt of for her. Z won the Hamburg regional competition for best writing skills among newcomers to Germany. Two years earlier she didn't know a word of the language. She had only begun attending a German school in Hamburg a month before the award, and yet she walked away with the prize.

Thank you for making it possible for families like Z's to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Your gifts provide more than we can imagine!