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**LOVING FOR  
26 YEARS**

**STARTS  
WITH  
*Love***



circa  
**1991**

one

1

*Dear Mike, Dana,  
and Partners' Family*

Whether you have supported Partners Relief & Development for 26 Years, like Mike and Dana, or you started giving today, **this letter is for you.**

Dear Mike and Dana,

I'm writing to you today because you two have supported Partners since **we started working with refugees and displaced people in 1994**. I'm grateful for your friendship and support.

Do you remember the first letter we sent you about our trip into Sho Klo refugee camp? The subject was the story of a 4-year-old child who was the only known survivor from her village after it was attacked by the Myanmar military. She was found among the rubble, likely hidden by her loved ones during the violence, then hand carried to the refugee camp by pro-democracy soldiers and handed to our new friend Rose Mu to be her foster mother. Rose asked us to help children like her. **We said yes. We asked you to help us help children like her. You said yes. We've been a team ever since.**

Back then all we wanted to do was help a few children find their way from war induced trauma and deprivation to being provided for in a loving foster home. The more we learned and experienced the consequences of armed conflict, violence, and political movements that exchange human life for economic advantage, the more motivated we were to find a place in this terrible story where we could do something transforming and healing.

**We found that place together. Where politics and violence prevent children from access to food, shelter, and basic provision, that's where we go. When large agencies won't or can't go to where these vulnerable people suffer, we go there.**

With this driving value we helped more than 317,000 people in countries like Syria, Iraq, Bangladesh, Thailand and Myanmar in 2019. Who could have predicted that together we could make an impact like that?

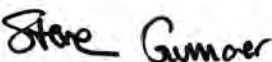
**Then came COVID-19.** This new threat doesn't care about national borders, social status, or economic mobility. The immediate difference we recognized at Partners is that the poor and those displaced by war don't have access to healthcare, the ability to isolate or even quarantine, and are generally more vulnerable due to poor nourishment and limited access to clean water. This means that they stand to suffer and die at a vastly different scale than those of us who are born with access to all the basics like adequate food, water, and healthcare.

Even in this time of crisis, you guys stepped up and helped us keep food on the table for tens of thousands of displaced and refugee families, work on medical interventions like the hospitainer in Idlib, Syria, and a host of other life-changing, even life-saving programs in Southeast Asia.

I hope you like this journal. The articles are meant to give you a creative look at our year and the ethos behind our work with families displaced by war. **We started this outfit with love, and each step demanded action.** That's in line with the teachings of Jesus, who said the ultimate test of faith is loving God wholeheartedly and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Our tagline for the past couple of years, "to love is to act," didn't come from Victor Hugo. It came from Jesus.

Every step of the way, for 26 years, you two have stood side by side with us. You helped us write this story. Where we go, you go too. I am thankful and looking forward to what the horizon holds as we continue to act on the imperative of love.

Your brother and friend,



Steve Gumaer  
President, Founder of Partners Relief & Development

two

**2**

**STARTS  
WITH  
YOUR  
LOVE**

**Look At What You Are Doing**

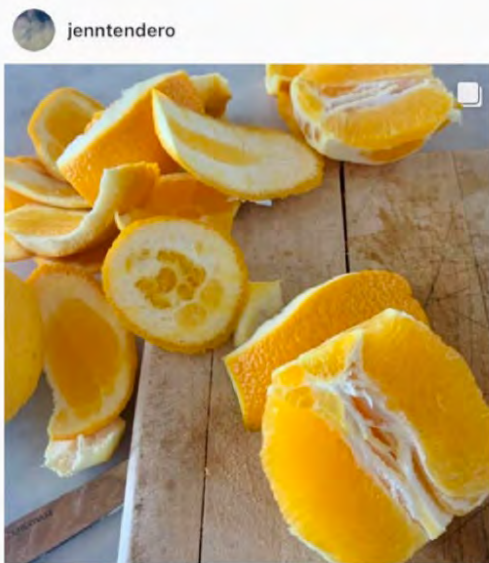
**#Stronger2getherChallenge**

STARTSWITH



# Your love can go viral!

One donation may seem too small to make a difference, but it only takes 50k individuals, donating \$2 each. We can make love go viral.



jenntendero #thisishowquarantine: make wellness shots - citrus, turmeric, lots of fresh ginger, basil, mi...



michellereethiel #thisishowquarantine by baking @paleorunningmamma 's Paleo "No'atmeal" raisin co...



# LET'S LOVE WITH OUR ACTIONS, NOT JUST OUR WORDS, AND RISE UP, STRONGER 2GETHER!



**A lot of things spread quickly.** Think ice-bucket challenge, man buns, and viruses. We think love can too.

We challenged you to: stay home and stay safe, video yourself in quarantine, donate \$2, and challenge some friends. You said, “sounds fun, let’s do it!” And you did! You understood that your \$2, your friend’s \$2, and your friend’s friend’s \$2 would add up. And it does.

If you didn’t see the challenge, we get it, we’ve been working on balancing screen-time too. If you’re not busy this afternoon, maybe get your phone out and make a video to share what you do in quarantine. We all can be encouraged and rise stronger together.

**Our Goal** to reach \$100,000 and make love go viral.

**Bonus** a generous donor has agreed to MATCH up to the amount raised, which means your \$2 will help twice as many people.

**Where it goes** Covid-19 prevention and medical aid for individuals made vulnerable by conflict and oppression in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

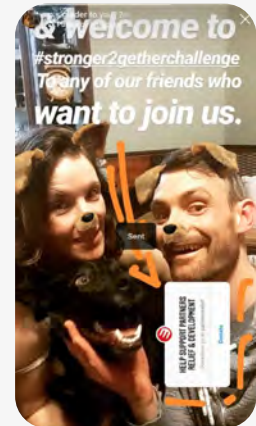
# 1

Make a video of how you quarantine.



# 2

Donate \$2  
Venmo @partnersrelief  
Instagram "DONATE" sticker in stories  
partners.ngo "Donate" page



# 3

Post your video with caption:  
I venmoed \$2 to @partnersrelief for the  
#Stronger2getherChallenge  
+ tag 5 friends to nominate!



STARTSMITH

three

3

# FREE, FULL LIVES: DEFINED

Because It Can't Be Googled



STARTSWITH

**Our Vision is “Free, full lives for children affected by conflict and oppression”.** Which sounds good; we should know, we wrote it.

But what does a free, full life look like?

We recently posed this question to our team, asked them to write down what they believe to be the essential elements of a free, full life, then we categorized their answers. A pattern emerged...

Overwhelmingly, they agreed that in order for a child affected by conflict and oppression to have a free, full life, the following must be true:

**They have access to education.**

**They have their physical needs (food, shelter, health care) met.**

**They have to be in a safe place (family, community, etc) away from violence.**

This is how we give life to what appears to be an esoteric vision, and when these things are true in a child’s life, our job is done. Many times, violence prevents this from happening, but so long as there are kids caught in the crossfire of adults fighting, we will walk toward them and remind them the world is not all bad, that people they’ve never met bought this blanket and knit this hat for them, and that they are loved.

**Step by step, this is how we get them to freedom.**



**ENDS  
WITH  
*Action***



four

4

**4.9  
MILLION  
MEALS**

**How Did You Feed  
All Those People?**

**Words  
Jenn Tendero**

**Photos  
Steve Gumaer  
Brad Hazlett  
Scott Brindle  
Shihab Hussein**

ENDSWITH





**In October 2019, the United States abruptly pulled troops out of Syria and Turkey promptly invaded with mortar shells and drone strikes aimed at Kurdish civilians.**

Terrified families fled quickly, taking what they could carry or throw in the back of a truck. Because we had team members already in Syria, we were able to mobilize within hours of the first strike. What followed was the largest relief effort we've ever done to date. **Here's how it happened.**



2

ENDSWITH



**1** We had team members on the ground in Syria who immediately drove to the area where families were arriving and asked them what they needed.

**2** Families arriving at the shelters did not have anything to sleep on, so we bought 1200 blankets and mattresses for them, with an additional 3900 sleeping bags in 2020.

**3** As is typical, once active conflict began, aid agencies packed up and left, evacuating all non-Syrians from the country.

**4** These agencies did, however, leave behind over 200 volunteers in all who were suddenly without an NGO to work for during an acute crisis. Helpers want to help.

**5** 270 volunteers joined up with our team to distribute emergency relief, unload mattresses, set up kitchens in schools, and do all of it in an orderly manner while working with families in trauma.

**6** What began at one makeshift shelter in Hasakah City grew to 78 shelters.

**7** By the end of 2019, we **served over 4.9 million meals** to displaced families.

**8** In early 2020, with families continuing to be displaced from their homes, we delivered **food packs to displaced families in Raqqa and Manbij.**

**9** Thousands of additional IDPs fled from Idlib. We began food distributions outside of Idlib and moved our hospitaier there to **provide 24-7 healthcare to displaced families.**

**10** **Our response to COVID-19: A Mobile Hospital.** We are working with people who can't shelter at home because they don't have one.

**11** What's next? Coronavirus education, protection and medical aid for displaced families.





five

5

# AS SEEN ON

**You Gave. We Went.  
People Talked.**

We are grateful to the following news organizations for drawing attention to the terrible situation as it unfolded in Syria in late 2019 because it enabled us to raise more money and help more people. We got to share stories from the ground and **the media gave empathetic people around the world a way to act, to help.**



**CNN**

**FOX NEWS**

**abc NEWS**

**Newsweek**

**The Guardian**

*The Atlantic*

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

**METRO**



**INDEPENDENT**

*The Telegraph*

**CT**  
CHRISTIANITY TODAY

**WORLD  
MAGAZINE**

**PB**  
POSTBULLETIN

**THE  
CHRISTIAN  
POST**

 **msn**



**WSB-TV**  
ATLANTA

**BOSTON  
25  
NEWS**

**wtop**

six

6

# PURL SOHO COLLAB

#ToLovesToKnit

Words  
Jenn Tendero

Photos  
Scott Brindle  
Rachel Bruursema  
You





In late summer 2019, as I was scrolling through the gorgeous Purl Soho Instagram feed wondering what to knit for fall, I had a wondering that seemed outlandish: why couldn't we give to kids forced to spend the upcoming winter in a refugee camp the warmest wool hats we could source? If they don't deserve the very best, who in this world does?

I wrote to Purl Soho asking if they ever donate yarn. I expected either no reply or a polite decline. They wrote back, enthusiastic and kind, and a few weeks later a large box arrived at HQ. The To Love is to Knit Kit was created.



Knitters purchased the kits, we mailed them yarn and a pattern, and they sent back the finished hats. But here's the thing: more than half the packages returned to our office contained not just one, not two, but several hats. Hats in stripes and with pompoms and hearts embroidered on them.

I won't ever claim it's easy to click a button and give a donation; every dollar you give to someone else is one less dollar you can spend on yourself, and making that choice can be difficult. But the time and love our knitters put into the hats they created was next-level sacrificial.

And so when photos started coming of kids in Syria wearing those very hats, I couldn't have been happier. Those kids will probably never know the love and prayers that knit their hats; I don't think that matters. **What matters is that love sprang into action and love made the winter a lot less miserable for hundreds of kids living their worst lives.**



For women and men who knit, #toloveistoknit was a tangible way to use their skills to help others. Golfers raised money for Rohingya kids by playing a game they love and #toloveistogolf was born. Teens in Switzerland held a bake sale and created #toloveistobake.

Here's the thing: just by reading this article, by being on our team, you have half the equation down pat, because you already love. You just need to figure out what action you will take to give your love life and legs.





**What will your action be?**

**Tell us by emailing Adrienne at [info@partners.ngo](mailto:info@partners.ngo) and we will share it on our social media.**

## MAKING PEACE WITH CONFLICT

**As an organization, our commitment to financial transparency has earned us the highest possible ratings from three charity watchdog organizations for our accounting and reporting practices.**

**Yay us.** You deserve to know exactly how we are using the money with which you've entrusted to us.

But there is something else you deserve to know and that we - and every non-profit who deals in crises - keep densely opaque, often even from ourselves: as far as income-generators go, nothing brings in more money than an acute and violent crisis event.

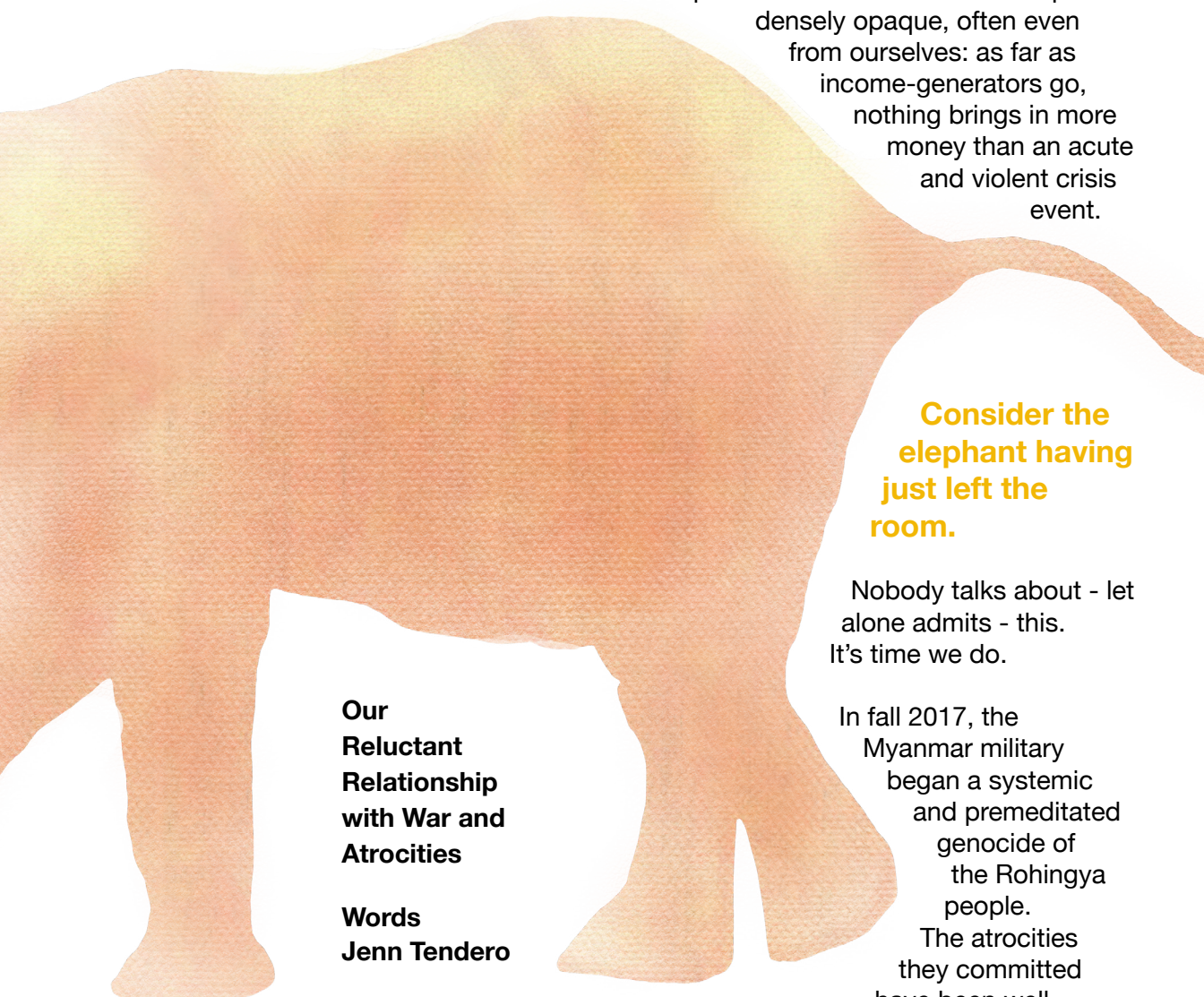
**Consider the elephant having just left the room.**

Nobody talks about - let alone admits - this. It's time we do.

In fall 2017, the Myanmar military began a systemic and premeditated genocide of the Rohingya people. The atrocities they committed have been well-

**Our  
Reluctant  
Relationship  
with War and  
Atrocities**

**Words  
Jenn Tendero**



documented and roundly condemned by anyone with a conscience and by International Court of Justice, who ruled in January 2020 that Myanmar's actions constituted genocide.

Over 700,000 Rohingya walked/ran from Myanmar, crossed over the Naf River and landed in Bangladesh. Stories of mothers who couldn't swim strapping their children to empty oil barrels and pushing them into the river in the hopes of saving them Moses-style, abounded.

We read and retold these stories with genuine horror, only dimly imagining the anguish of these parents, or of the mothers whose newborns were ripped out of their arms and who were forced to watch their precious babies tossed into the fire and burned alive. An excess of 700,000 people caught in a campaign of brutality such as that is as close as it comes to an iron-clad guarantee of material and income for organizations who need both in order to do their work.

**The very thing that displaces families from their homes puts us on the map. Ugh.**

It happened in 2017 with the Rohingya genocide, and it happened again in the fall of 2019 when the U.S. unexpectedly pulled out of Syria, leaving the Kurds unprotected. When Turkey pummeled them, we were on the ground delivering blankets and hot meals and the subsequent flurry of press coverage - Fox News, CNN, World Magazine - about our relief efforts propelled us from obscurity to prominence, practically overnight.

**It is right and fitting to be grateful that in the middle of the ghastly violence of war there is also this:**

**a team of bravest souls who work tirelessly to make sure traumatized children can play and have enough food to eat and people around the world empathetic and kind enough to pay for all of it.**

Non-profits are one part of a long and mostly noble line of professionals who only kick into action when something - in the body, in society, in government - is not working as it should: surgeons rely on people getting sick; nonprofits exist because there is injustice; law enforcement is there when people break the law.

Which doesn't mean that doctors take delight in illness or that police officers wish more people would commit violent crimes. And it doesn't mean that when donations are low we secretly wish for a war to erupt so we can make our annual budget.

The truth is, there isn't a person on our team who wouldn't be thrilled to work himself or herself out of a job. Indeed, very few professions have as their stated goal to become obsolete. I am proud ours does and that it's even in our vision statement:

**Free, full lives for children affected by conflict and oppression.**

**When we meet our goal every one of us will be unemployed. Bring it!**

Until then, we will continue to work in the tension that conflict creates with as much love and resolve as we have.

eight

8

# CLEAN HANDS

## Handwashing and Brave Friends

### Do you know what's brave?

Sheltering at home to protect others.

### Do you know what's hard?

Sheltering at home when you don't have one.

This is why Partners' Community Health Workers are teaching handwashing to Rohingya kids in a refugee camp in Bangladesh and why our friends at Bravery Magazine have joined us in order to spread healthy habits to your kids too.

The image is a collage of three photographs. The top photo shows a classroom with children sitting at desks, a teacher at the front, and a COVID-19 poster on the wall. The middle photo shows a close-up of the same COVID-19 poster. The bottom photo shows a woman in a black dress and red headscarf washing a child's hands at a table, with other children watching. A large yellow quote is overlaid on the center of the collage.

**“We are  
in this  
together!”**

# HANDWASHING 101

SCRUB RINSE REPEAT!

WHEN?



AFTER USING THE BATHROOM

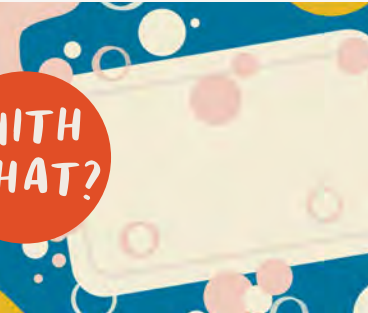


BEFORE AND AFTER YOU EAT



AFTER PICKING YOUR NOSE

WITH WHAT?



SOAP: GERM KILLER



WARM WATER: MICROBE REMOVER



YOUR HAND: SCRUBBER EXTRAORDINAIRE

HOW LONG?



SING YOUR ABC'S



COUNT TO 20



SING 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' TWICE





Handwashing 101 poster brought to you by Bravery Magazine.

**Download your own free poster here:** <https://braverymag.com/blogs/blog/how-to-make-handwashing-fun-for-kids>

Bravery Magazine is a print publication for girls and boys ages 5-12 that highlight strong female role models in a fun and engaging way.

**Subscribe now and get 20% off using the code PARTNERS20.**

Art by Libby Burns.

# 3 ACTION Stories

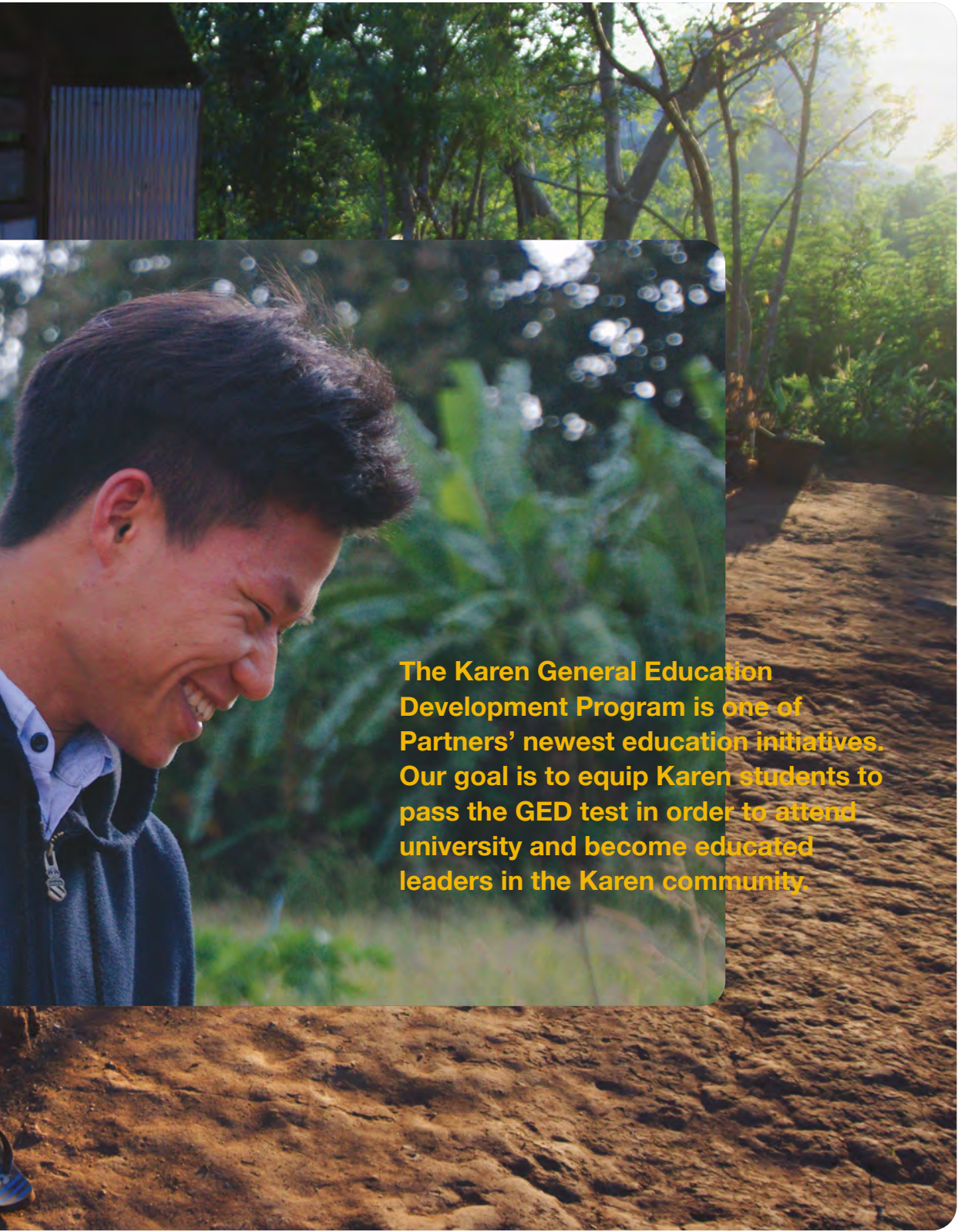
## **My name is Saw Hsa Hay Say.**

I am 21 years old. My village is Ter Kaw, and it is located in Karen State, Myanmar. Most of the villagers are farmers: they plant rice and vegetables for daily food. They have less opportunities for further education because higher education costs a lot, and they cannot afford it. There are around 25 households. There is only one middle school in my village. The children become farmers and get married. There are just a few people trying to complete high school.

I always wanted to study higher education when I was a child, now I am doing what I dreamed about. I came to GED through information from local education leaders, and I took the GED entrance exam because I believe this is the way I can reach my goal. I want to be a journalist because I want to report the news that is happening in the world. I see myself as an educated person who can help my community in the next 5 to 10 years. My commitment to my community is to help them in any parts of development.

**Southeast Asia - GED Program**





**The Karen General Education Development Program is one of Partners' newest education initiatives. Our goal is to equip Karen students to pass the GED test in order to attend university and become educated leaders in the Karen community.**

**We walk through the doorway into a building and are greeted by dozens of shoes in all sizes and colors strewn around the entrance.**

We can hear singing coming from one room, children's laughter echoing through the entryway.

From another classroom sounds of English lessons can be heard as children eagerly answer questions on vocabulary and sentences.

We walk into the last classroom where a young female psychologist is teaching a class on women's health to Yazidi mothers. It's obvious the women are engaged, curious, and attentive as they raise their hands with questions and comments.

This is Panaga (Haven in English), a child trauma center in a Yazidi village run by local staff who are invested in supporting and empowering the Yazidi people after the genocide they experienced in 2014.

**Empowering women to know the basics of their own health, development, and health of their own daughters is a key component to a thriving society.**

When Partners Relief & Development inquired if they would be interested in being trained on women's health to pass on to the women who come through their doors, the female staff at Panaga jumped at the opportunity. From the minute we began training the female psychologist on the material, she began implementing the information into her curriculum with an overwhelmingly positive response from the Yazidi women attending.

This is a beautiful example of how when women stand together and are given the tools to be able to build up other women, all aspects of family and communities are strengthened. We know that women who have been empowered in turn go on to support and build up those around them.

Partners supports and empowers the Yazidi people, helping to restore psychological health after the genocide they experienced in 2014.



ENDS



**Al-Zamel's son, Nour Mosa, suffered a severe wound on his forehead.** Al-Zamel was afraid that no one would help, knowing that the nearest medical point was difficult to reach and more than an hour's drive away.

When a passer-by told him about the hospitainer, Al-Zamel rushed to the clinic with his son, who was about four years old and bleeding from his forehead. Al-Quneitra, one of the hospitainer nurses, and the medical team, received the father and son, sterilized and treated the wound. After giving Al-Zamel the necessary counseling, and his son the necessary antibiotics to prevent infections, they were able to send him home. Al-Zamel stated, "Without you in the area it would have been impossible for me to get help for him."

**Syria - Hospitainer**

**Al-Quneitra brings the love  
and knowledge. We bring the  
resources, thanks to you.  
Love ends with action!**



**ALWAYS**  
*has*





ten

10

ODDNY

Wife.

Mother.

Humanitarian.

Inspiration.







**O**ddny Gumaer, Co-founder of Partners Relief & Development, embodies our enduring call: **to love is to act.** Her passionate love for children affected by conflict propelled her for decades to play with kids in refugee camps, to make them smile by taking selfies, and to advocate relentlessly on their behalf.

**Oddny has done it all.**

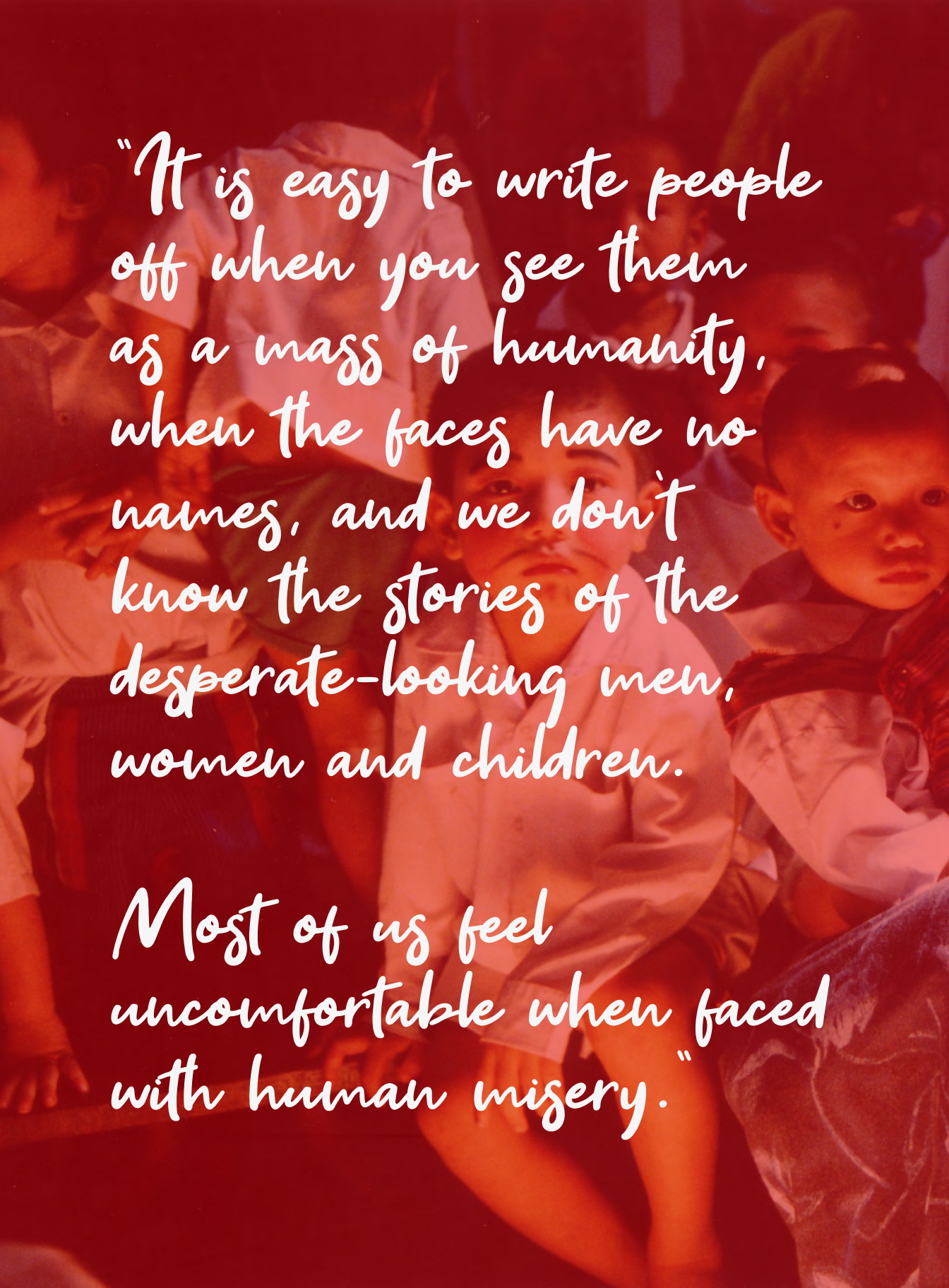
As a child in Norway she collected apples to send to the poor children in Africa. At nine years old she was the founding member of an environmental group that worked for the rights of the animals and against the cutting down of trees.

Oddny made her parents eat weeds to save money and be kind to the planet. Through her teenage years she carried membership in many different activist groups such as No to nuclear weapons, No to the building of dams, Amnesty International, and Soviets out of Afghanistan. Oddny was founding member of the Socialistic Youth Forum and was a featured face of the local newspapers.

The world is a happier place because of her love. And thousands of kids are happier because of her actions.

**We can all learn from Oddny and her experiences, which is why the next few pages hold truths she has shared about how she lives out loving and acting.**

*Thank you, Oddny.*

A photograph of a group of children, possibly in a classroom or a community setting, with a strong red color cast. The children are looking in various directions, some towards the camera. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, handwritten-style font.

"It is easy to write people off when you see them as a mass of humanity, when the faces have no names, and we don't know the stories of the desperate-looking men, women and children.

Most of us feel uncomfortable when faced with human misery."





“When I first got to know Major Lah Muu’s widow, the Karen and their costumes, **I noticed strings hanging from different places on their garments.** To me they looked like somebody had been in a hurry and hadn’t taken the time to fasten the threads when the piece was ready. They were annoyingly messy. Then they told me the meaning of those threads and I learned to love them.

They would hold the threads in their hands and say, ‘Try pulling one of them apart!’ I did, and it was easy. Then they asked me to take a whole bundle of the threads and try pulling them apart. It was impossible.

**‘This is a symbol of our people,’ they explained. ‘If we stand alone, it’s easy to break us, but together we make one strong bunch.’**

Since then I have never been annoyed with the threads that get tangled with each other after a little bit of use. I just say, ‘It’s the Karen people learning to get along so they cannot be broken.’”



"It may not be this way for you, but the way I see it, I've been given a calling to love and respect all people. I've been called to love my neighbor like myself, and that includes my children as well as the people living in the jungles of Myanmar."



"I left the camp that day with a heavy heart. I felt like I hadn't done enough for the mother with the five kids who was living on a green mat in the middle of an ocean of desperate people. I have been thinking of her every day since. I wonder how she is doing now that the winter has gotten even colder. **I pray, and I ask for money for sleeping bags. That is what I can do right now.**"

eleven

11

# TWENTY-SIX YEARS

**Even Better  
Than 25**

**Turning 26 is a celebration.**

**Operating as a non-profit for 26 years in remote areas of the world, usually in the midst of crises?**

That's an accomplishment.

What started in 1994 as an act of love toward one little girl by a young couple who had no idea what they were getting into, grew into a humanitarian organization that has helped millions of children and their families caught in the crossfire of conflict and has garnered top ratings as a charity.

Our **partnership with you** made everything we've done possible. At our staff retreat this year, we had the best time poring over photos, telling stories and being grateful beyond words for the past quarter-century we have gotten to do this work.



ALWAYS HAS



twelve

12

# HOW PARTNERS HAS CHANGED ME

**We Asked The Staff,  
Here's What They  
Told Us**

**We believe** that the work we do with families affected by conflict and oppression transforms their community, makes kids freer and restores dignity.

We rarely take time to reflect on how our work changes us. After 26 years, we thought it was time to do just that.

### **Naw Hsa Ghay**

Partners makes my life easier. Partners changed my life to be a useful person. Partners helped me when I was a child and still does today.

### **Anonymous**

I am not Partners' staff. But being part of attending staff retreat for many years made me realize that this is **a real family**. I have worked with many organizations, but realize Partners is different.  
Thank you Partners and thank you God.

### **Chris**

**Partners has given me an outlet for compassion that does not have a hidden agenda.** Rather, it has a clear mandate that I can get behind and believe in, and then act on. Partners takes the Gospel message seriously; **to LOVE is to ACT.** I can get with that!

## **Ghay Ah Ah (Pu Dah)**

I have known Partners since 2001. I was only 11 years old and I didn't know anything. **I came to Mae La Karen refugee camp without shoes or shirt.** I was given many things like basic needs. I also know how Partners is great for me. I can see Jesus' love in Partners.

I studied in the camp with support from Partners. I also became a caregiver in the children's home (Baw Naw Church) worked with Clasper and Arthur. **And now I teach at Hsa Thoo Kei migrant school located in Mae Sot and help children in education.**

Partners has changed my life from zero to something, even if not one hundred.

Learn to love and have empathy for people as human beings.

*Love my neighbor as I love myself.*

To give without taking.

**- Bom**



## Anonymous

Partners helped me change a lot, firstly to feel empathy and **feel human**. I see value in people because they are human. And helped me be part of the team.

Partners has shown me that there are still people trying their best to make a lasting difference and restored my faith in the results of international aid efforts.

What I have learned from Partners can probably be summed up as **increased empathy**.

## Steve

Partners has transformed my idea of faith, community, and what it means to interact with impoverished people.

Faith = love for neighbors is proof of love for God. The only thing I need to master in this life.

Community = Stand together. Don't gossip. Build trust and love one another.

Impoverished people: **More than any material aid they need a friend beside them, not a human savior above them. Give presence. Give dignity. Give friendship. Give loved trust.**

These matter most regardless of what I may be able to provide.

## Claire

Partners has taught me what it means to put legs on my faith, what it truly means to love people like Jesus does, and **how precious every single person is**. These were conceptual ideals to me before and now I have the privilege of living these out through a job that hardly feels like work at all.



Anonymous

I have increased my horizons, seen the faces of stories often reported in facts and figures, and had to recalibrate my ideas of safety and what constitutes a good living.

Of all the work we could be doing, we studied to do, we thought we would be doing: we get to do this work, with these people, in such a time as this. What a gift.

thirteen

**13**

# **THIRTY-FOUR PROJECTS**

For Those Who Love Numbers  
**2019 Impact Report**

ONE TWO THREE  
FOUR FIVE SIX SEVEN EIGHT  
NINE TEN ELEVEN  
TWELVE THIRTEEN  
FOURTEEN FIFTEEN  
SIXTEEN SEVENTEEN  
EIGHTEEN NINETEEN  
TWENTY TWENTY-ONE  
TWENTY-TWO TWENTY-THREE  
TWENTY-FOUR TWENTY-FIVE  
TWENTY-SIX TWENTY-SEVEN  
TWENTY-EIGHT TWENTY-NINE  
THIRTY THIRTY-ONE  
THIRTY-TWO THIRTY-THREE  
THIRTY-FOUR



# THAILAND

**You worked in migrant communities and amongst refugee populations to provide greater access to education and health care, while also investing in the training of migrants to gain employment so they can financially support their families.**

## 1,801

**Patients treated.**

Rural communities are benefiting from the increasing standard of healthcare provided by local health workers through Lay Tong Ku Health Center.

## 1,453

**Feminine Hygiene Kits produced.**

Not only do you employ women from migrant communities to sew them, but the Freedom Period kits they're making are helping restore some dignity to those receiving them.



## 875

### **Refugee and migrant students supported.**

For children who have suffered from the effects of war and poverty, the community-based care and education programs you support are helping to set them up for success.



# MYANMAR

As human rights abuses continue in Myanmar, you provided food for those displaced by conflict, while also investing in better health care, education, and farming practices in communities recovering from decades of war.

## 72,221

**Instances of relief delivered.**

That's the number of separate times in 2019 that help was given across Myanmar.

## 461

**Agricultural training attendees.**

That means there are now 461 farmers who are using what they learned to feed their families and training their neighbors to do the same.

# 7,429

## Children in education initiatives.

7,429 kids will grow up educated and able to provide for their families, potentially breaking the cycle of poverty created by conflict and oppression.





# BANGLADESH

As almost a million Rohingya are still living in limbo in some of the largest refugee camps in the world, you're still there providing life-saving relief, medical care, and education support to families who have lost almost everything.

**1,943**

**Infant nutrition packs distributed.**

From red (severely malnourished), right past yellow (slightly malnourished), through to green: healthy baby! That is our goal. These nutrition packs get us there.

**39**

**Sanitation solutions installed.**

Ever wonder where thousands of people in a refugee camp use the bathroom? Privately and with dignity, wherever you've helped install toilets, that's where.



# 1,554

**Family food packs delivered.**

That is enough to feed roughly 7,770 people for weeks. You paid that ginormous grocery bill.





# SYRIA

**Care for children orphaned by war, food for the victims of bombings, schools destroyed by ISIS rebuilt and reopened. These were just some of the ways you brought God's love into one of the world's most devastating conflicts.**

## 40,500

**People given access to healthcare.**

The newly-rebuilt clinic has a queue of patients out the door almost daily and our hospitaier is on the road. With one of the only dental clinics for miles, your love makes people smile. Literally.

## 1,012

**Students back in 2 rebuilt schools.**

What ISIS destroyed with hate, you rebuilt with love that will keep multiplying year after year.

# 4,900,000

**Meals served.**

In cold weather, nothing tastes better, except maybe your mother's chicken soup. And to a hungry child, all food is comfort food.





# IRAQ

**You were there to bring healing and hope to communities who have been left deeply scarred by years of war. You met those displaced with food parcels, trained trauma counselors to begin healing the hearts of children, and reopened a school that will leave a lasting impact.**

## 82

**Family food packs distributed.**

Even on the run or in a refugee camp, when a family can cook a meal and eat it together, they are reminded of home.

## 146

**Students back in one refurbished school.**

What conflict destroyed, you rebuilt with love that will keep multiplying by every single student that can now attend school.



## 150

### **Children provided with trauma care.**

This is Hard with a capital “H”. And Hopeful too. Kids traumatized by the violence done to them by ISIS go through 3 months of trauma care with professionals; they come out on the other side talking, smiling a bit more, and even playing.

fourteen

14

# HQ LOVES

We Love You and  
These Partners

An international shout-out  
to the 60,000 people in the  
global Avaaz community  
who advocated for change  
in our world and mobilized  
love by giving help to  
displaced families in Syria!  
“Three cheers for you!”

[AVAAZ.ORG](http://AVAAZ.ORG)



[sweatcoin](http://sweatcoin)

Sweatcoin: The fastest-growing  
health app in the history of the world,  
Sweatcoin wants people to move more  
and they devised a brilliant method to  
make that happen: walk, earn, spend  
repeat. And in 2019, they featured  
our Freedom Period project that  
people could donate their earned  
Sweatcoins to, which we think is  
pretty fantastic.

[SWEATCO.IN](http://SWEATCO.IN)

## PURLSOHO.COM

Purl Soho: for their endlessly inspiring projects, for their softest wool yarns, for donating wool and patterns for our To Love is to Knit Kit, which put hundreds of hand-knit wool hats on refugee kids during the cold winter of 2020.

## BRAVERYMAG.COM

Our kids love this magazine as much as we do. We ❤️ Bravery Mag for normalizing autism, featuring like-able female role models and doing an entire issue -coming in May - about Yusra Mardini, Syrian refugee and Olympian swimmer. We cannot recommend this magazine more as a source of inspiration, beauty and curiosity. **Subscribe now and get 20% off using the code PARTNERS20.**






Bloom Naturals: "This is my desert-island must-have. Totally serious about that," -Jenn. Made from organic, raw ingredients so natural you could eat them - which we don't recommend - purchased for a fair price from farmers. Dry office air is a drag; Bloom Naturals keeps us supplied in Nourish so our skin stays hydrated. Try Revive, a staff favorite. **20% discount** <https://bloomnaturals.com/discount/PARTNERINGWITHRELIEF>  
**Code:PARTNERINGWITHRELIEF**

**BLOOMNATURALS.COM**





A logo. It's a bit like your name: people see it, and they know it's you. Some logos are elegant, some memorable, some iconic. Ours was none of those things and needed some tweaking.

Mike Gilger, a brilliant Michigan graphic designer took our stack of ideas and worked magic. Stay tuned.

[PARTNERDESIGN.COM](http://PARTNERDESIGN.COM)

[FELLOWPRODUCTS.COM](http://FELLOWPRODUCTS.COM)

Fellow Carter Everywhere Mug: a travel mug we each road-tested for months before deciding that this is the mug we want to brand with our new logo. Yes, the rim is designed like a wine glass. Yes, you can throw it in your bag with full confidence it won't leak. Yes, it keeps hot drinks hot and cold drinks cold for a long time. We carry this mug everywhere and now you can too. **Coming soon to our online shop!**



# 2020

STAFF + VOLUNTEERS



fifteen

**15**

# LESS PAPER

More Love In Action



## **JOURNAL ONLINE**

This edition can now be found on issuu.

It's mobile, it's free, it's shareable, it's the next best thing to paper.

## **RECEIPTS BY EMAIL**

If you aren't yet receiving your receipts by email; go paperless by emailing us at **info@partners.ngo** or **text 909-748-5810** with your preferred email address.

sixteen

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# WAYS TO Love

give.partners.ngo**ONLINE**

text GIVE to 484848**MOBILE**

@partnersrelief**VENMO**

Partners Relief & Development**MAIL**

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Grand Rapids, MI 49501

USA

## STATEMENT ON OUR RESPONSE AND IMPACT OF COVID-19



**Partners Relief & Development is closely monitoring and adapting our project delivery, administration, and fundraising activities to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our team, our supporters, and most importantly, the refugee and displaced communities that we walk alongside.**

To protect our staff and supporters, our offices are closed while staff members work from home as long as COVID-19 continues to require social distance to slow transmission.

While we have taken measures to care for our team, we are most concerned about the potential impact on displaced and refugee communities. In the context of new or ongoing displacement, there is often severely limited health infrastructure, and our expectation is that the ability to test, quarantine, and treat patients will be limited. Like everywhere else in the world, the longer the delay of the virus spreading to these areas the better, as it will give more time to prepare and gather resources.

For our Syria crisis response and wider efforts in the Middle East, this means doing our utmost to coordinate in advance with our team and networks of local partners. As part of our healthcare interventions with displaced families, we have ordered hundreds of infrared thermometers and PPE for the doctors and nurses working in our hopitainer and for the patients they treat.

**Our hopitainer and ambulance are central features of our response and at current capacity can treat up to 1,000 medical events per day, with a staff of 43 Syrian doctors and nurses.**



The Hopitainer - Partners mobile hospital

We are also including soap in aid distributions to displaced families. With confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Syria, soap is an additional non-food item included in family packs so displaced families can wash their hands as a preventative measure against the virus.

For displaced and refugee communities in Thailand, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, we continue our efforts to train and mobilize health workers, stock clinics with consumables and distribute medicine. This isn't actually a change from our usual operations of supporting healthcare in these communities, as our health care workers routinely work on the front lines of viral outbreaks.

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## **PARTNERS RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT**

is a registered charity in the USA, Canada, UK, Norway, New Zealand, and Thailand

## **NONPROFIT STATUS NOTICE**

Partners Relief & Development (Partners) is a nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) federal tax exempt status. Any contributions given to Partners are tax deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

## **DISCLAIMER**

In the event of a particular project being fully funded, Partners Relief & Development will redirect your donation to other needs of the same community project, or to an equally worthwhile project.

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*Free, Full Lives*  
For Children affected  
by **CONFLICT**  
& *Oppression*

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