



A global pandemic.
An unprecedented
movement
of **love.**

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More than anything our HQ team puts out, the annual journal is a visual chronicle of all that went right and awry in any given year. My team's job is to be in the right place at the right time in order to capture all of it.

We couldn't do this for most of 2020.

Our photographers were stuck for most of the year away from their homes and the people we serve, unable to travel to the field. **Most of the photographs you see here were taken with a smart phone** and sent to us via WhatsApp. In the sending they become grainy; I am including them anyway because **the moments they capture are highest-quality.**

They capture the magic that happens when your love and our team intersect.

When we tell you families are sleeping in the cold, you buy blankets and heaters.

When we tell you how essential our Rohingya Community Health Workers are, you fund all their training and supplies for 2021.

When we report there's been a fire in a refugee camp, you supply enough blankets and food for every family who lost their home.

So while my design team cringes at the low-quality of images from this year, I have a fondness for them, because even in the despair of coups and the injustice of war, they show the magic and the grit of this work, the resilience of people affected by war, and **the clear effect your love has on this world.**

It's beautiful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jenn', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

jenn

That Time 600 Post-It Notes Told Us Everything

The manifesto is the result of this exercise

The last time our whole team was together was in February 2020. We celebrated our 26th birthday and spent a whole lot of time asking ourselves these questions:

***Who are we? Why does Partners exist?
What do we do well?***

What distinguishes us from other humanitarian organizations?

We wrote down our ideas, convictions, and experiences and covered the walls of the meeting room with bright post-it notes.

We grouped them together and looked for recurring themes.

And then we wrote it all down so we wouldn't forget.

We did this exercise because we are an organization that takes your money into complex and difficult situations, and spends it on people you'll never meet.

**What we do, and how we act when we do it, matters.
A whole lot.**



Team works

Collaboration matters

Courage recommended

Empathy is a superpower

Indifference is not an option

Free, full lives for children

Golden rule: still golden

Solidarity over silence

Agile gets there first

Profits into projects

First step: food

Rapid response

Tenacity wins

Walk humbly

To love is to act

Partners



Syrian children celebrate their return to school after ISIS destroyed it. Rebuilt by local laborers, managed and funded by Partners, *February 2021*

What We Think of When We Think of You

Generosity and action and that moment
you realize it's a new day.

**There's hope in you
which grows hope in us.**

We think of your trust, which is gold to us.

Empathy is your superpower;
all we have to do is activate it.

We think of change-makers who
make the world they want to live in.

People for whom indifference is not an option, but risk is.

We think of your emails and the notes you write when you
send in checks.

We can't think of you without thinking about marathons,
pacing ourselves, the occasional burst, and great trainers.

Also, of travel metaphors: fuel, lanes, open roads,
destinations. Without you, we would still be full of passion
and good intentions, but we'd be stalled on the side
of some road somewhere, unable to go where we are
needed most, feeling bored and not very useful.

**You are our Partners/stakeholders/team/fuel injectors/
go-power/warriors/empathizers/burden-sharers/
stimulators/supporters/encouragers/senders/donors/
shareholders/critics/fundraisers/do-ers/friends/ the
reason we can Act.**

And we think **you are fantastic.**





Yemen
September 2020

“Children who are suffering because adults are fighting in war need help, not sentiment.

Children who lack food, shelter, the nurture of family and community, and access to healthcare and education, need those things to be provided. They do not need a person who sighs in pity that ‘the world is a terrible place’ and goes on doing nothing to make it better.

If we say we care,
we must act.
If we say we love,
we must act.”

Steve Gumaer

Partner:

Noun/Verb/Adjective:

A change-maker
whose superpower
is empathy, whose
driver is love, and
whose generosity
is automatic.



Karen State school supported by a sustainable shop run by the local PTA
March 2021

Why?

Crossroads International Church of Basel has been privileged to support Partners Relief & Development financially for more than 8 years. And we will continue to support them, because their motto 'To love is to act' resonates with us. **We appreciate Partners' ability to move swiftly to deliver meaningful emergency relief when needed**, as well as their tireless involvement with local families to enable their children to live free and full lives.

Sharon, Switzerland

At the recommendation of a UK colleague, Steve Gumaer was invited to participate in a panel discussion I convened with the Committee for Responsible Foreign Policy as part of the U.S. State Department July 2018 Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. The topic of the panel that Steve addressed was "The Impact of War on Religious Freedom" which focused on different aspects of the deleterious effects of war on religious freedom. Drawing on his firsthand experiences of working with Partners, Steve shared his profound insights. It was during that conference in Washington D.C. when we first discussed how the Bruderhof and Partners can form a long-term charitable partnership. Thankfully the Bruderhof and Partners have been serving together ever since.

Johann, United Kingdom

There are so many reasons I love and support Partners. First, their motto is "to love us to act." We Christians are called to love. Over and over. They are present in places of great suffering in the world, alleviating that suffering with food, shelter, safety...their work is born out of a presence with the people, resulting in compassion, and love of God. I am always updated on their projects and where my money went. I am extremely grateful **they provide me, in my far away life, a way to help in significant ways and to hear about it.**

Ann, United States

We appreciate the direct care and mental health awareness Partners uses in their approach. I am a mental health therapist focused on work with children and families. (My wife and I) desire to be intentional with our family and our work in impacting the world around us - an aspirational goal. Partners seems to do so intentionally and well.

J.K., United States

We Asked. You Gave.

(2020 in a nutshell)

GivingTuesdayNow

We asked you to donate \$15,000 to fund our rapid COVID-19 response plan, delivering hygiene supplies, personal protective equipment, health training, and food support. **You raised \$77,158.**

GivingTuesday

We told you it was going to cost \$80,000 to fully fund our Rohingya Community Health Worker program in 2021 - a lifeline of health care for thousands of refugees in Bangladesh. **You acted and gave \$106,577.**

Christmas

We gave you a new type of Christmas catalog with gifts for the communities we work in as well as merch you could buy to give to your loved ones. **You shopped and purchased \$20,988 worth of gifts.**

Year End

We said we wanted to end one of the toughest years by starting the next with an act of generous love: \$60,000 to fund our most underfunded projects for 2021. **You said of course and donated an overwhelming \$275,970.**



**“When humankind acts
on the sentiment of love,
the world is changed.”**



Top: Masks distributed to displaced Rohingya in Myanmar, *July 2020*

Left: Boys at a food distribution in Yemen, *January 2021*

Middle: Medicine provided by Community Health Workers in Bangladesh, *November 2020*

Right: Hand washing training at a migrant community in Thailand, *March 2020*



You Funded A Full Year of Healthcare in Myanmar. On the Eve of a Pandemic.

That was brilliant of you.

Health trainings
were conducted
at **36 schools** for
1,666 students.

We funded 7 **clinics** in remote
areas. These services covered
94 villages and a population of
around **26,990 people**.

Primary health care was
given to **12,330 patients**
(2,951 of them children).

47 health workers
were supported
through the Village
Health Workers project,
covering 50 villages
with a target population
of **4,500 people**.

Health care was provided
by **104 health workers**.

The health workers
were overseen by
15 health managers.

Each health worker
referred between 15-20
patients who needed
further treatment or
hospitalization.

Primary **health care training**
was provided to 75 people.



Naw Yoh Hta Clinic
Karen State

An Entire Year Summarized in One Paragraph About One Glorious day

May 2020

Last year we as a global community learned a new vocabulary - social distancing, herd immunity - new skills - Zoom, sourdough bread - and someone, somewhere, created a brand new global event: **GivingTuesdayNow**. Because...if there were ever a year when we needed to give and to receive, it was 2020.

We told you our goal was to raise \$15,000 for our response to COVID-19. **You donated \$38,579. Which a matching donor doubled to \$77,158.**

We told you about a need, **you gave more than we expected, on GivingTuesdayNow and for all of 2020.**

“Outbreaks will continue to happen because displaced communities will get the last attention from governments and other authorities.”

Steve Gumaer



COVID-19 training in
migrant community in
Mae Sot, Thailand
April 2020

Team



Rice distribution
August 2020



The Answer That Drives Every Question

Every question we ask starts with this answer: free, full lives for children affected by conflict.

Every idea our HQ team floats,
each journal we print,
and every email we write,
is us trying to inch closer to that answer.
We sleep with one eye open, staring at that answer.
Every bag of rice our team shoulders,
each school they refurbish,
and every truck they load
brings that answer into sight, even temporarily.

That **answer is** THE reason we revise/plant/email/
purchase/treat/distribute/teach/travel/sew/design/
edit/film/deposit/drive/discuss/sell/train/study/
fly/gather/print/mail/call/leave/return/grow/read/
research/harvest/love/act.

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

Ask our team any question; that will be our answer.



Bia, Partners' first employee, started 1998



We Are Here

Kurdistan, Syria, Yemen

Brad F.
Hisham
Scott
Shihab
Siva
Shervan
Rfaai

Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand

Brad H.
Doug
Tressa
Polly
Katie
Wat
Noom
Htoi Lar
Saw Htee Moo Shee
Thaw Shee Wah
Ken
Alison
Dorothy
Say Boh
Bia
Kritsana

Adrianna
Naw Hsa Gay
Mike
Khu Htoo
Gay Doh Htoo
Saw Lah Hay
Saw Min Tun
Per Ler
Zing
Waan
Daa
Dtree
Pranee
Chaung Klane
Jaa
Nana Htoo
Bom
Dara
Joyce
Claire
James
Brittany
Sara
Ben
Jon
Poung
Dylan
Claudia
Edwin
Troy

United States

Adrienne
Bea
Jenn
Ken
Maureen
Rachel
Steve

Australia

Dave

Canada

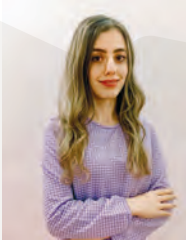
Greg

Norway

Anne Sofie
Hans
Malin

United Kingdom

Chris
Vicki





Not Pictured:

Anne Sofie
Katie
Claudia
Troy
Edwin

Dorothy
Say Boh
Gay Doe Htoo
Lah Hay





ripples.

by Danielle Doby

when you create a difference in someone's
life, you not only impact their life, you
impact everyone influenced by them
throughout their entire lifetime.

no act is ever too small.

one by one,
this is how to make an ocean rise.

*Poem used with
author's permission.*

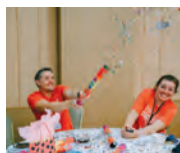
“Love causes us to act.

What would we do to help our own parents or children?

We are often called upon to do for others outside our own sphere of relationships.

If we have love, our sphere of action will be in an ever-expanding state, and our own contentment/happiness will **expand** congruently.”

Steve Gumaer





Responding to Hate With Love Isn't For Everybody. It Is For Us.

Conflict and oppression are awful.
Exhibit A: Myanmar.

The story of what's happened in Myanmar, since the February 2021 coup, is bigger than the protests you see on the news.

We can't make the long-term problem of military rule in Myanmar go away. **We can address the short-term problem of *I'm hungry, is there anything to eat?***

One can effortlessly connect the dots from military coup to corresponding attacks on people in areas we have worked for 27 years:

Warned that the Burmese military is about to attack their village, thousands of people - moms, dads, elderly, kids, babies, everyone - have had minutes to grab what they could and run into the jungle, forced to sleep out in the cold, one eye open and an ear cocked for the sound of shelling or boots approaching.

This dramatic increase in displaced families is a direct result of the coup by a military that fears nothing: not sanctions, not protesters, not the sanctity of life.

We addressed it on the banks of the Naf River in 2017 as hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled this very same military.

We addressed it in Syria in 2019 when hungry families fleeing Turkish shelling showed up at empty schools, needing a place to shelter and food to eat.

Here you go, you said.
Here we go, we said.

The list of displaced families is growing by the day.



Left: Displaced Karen families in the Myanmar jungle - Partners brought them blankets, medicine, and food, *March 2021*

Right: Our emergency relief response near Naf River, *October 2017*

The list of hungry displaced families can shrink if we do this one thing:

Spend \$25 and buy enough rice and vegetables to feed a family for the next month:

www.partners.ngo

Responding to hate with love isn't for everyone. It is for us.



Question: What would you do at the beginning of a pandemic when half your team was stuck in another country, displaced families around you couldn't work, and food was scarce?

Short answer: Start a farm.

Long answer: Let's start at the beginning.

“I hope for the day when it’s safe to take my wife and children home. Until then, I’ll be thankful I am alive, living in a canvas tent and working with a team as caring and dedicated as Partners is. **Partners often says ‘To love is to act,’ and I have seen that. You who support this work are part of this action. Let’s continue loving. Let’s continue acting.”**
Shihab

The 2020 Startup We Didn’t See Coming

Shihab is a Yazidi from Sinjar Mountain in Iraq. He and his wife live in a tent with their two young children. In 2014 his village was attacked by ISIS and his entire family - brothers, sisters, mother, father - all fled for their lives and haven’t been able to return home since.

Three years later, he watched the Partners team risking their lives to help families liberated during the battle for Mosul.

We all did: our most-viewed photo from that year shows a team member running through the streets with an infant in his arms. **If that is how love acts, Shihab wanted in. And in 2020, now a team member, he started a farm.**

Because outdoors is the safest place to be in the pandemic, he worked with displaced families to plant and harvest 12 acres of vegetables, which they sold at market for profit. Shihab applied human-centered design thinking that integrated the current situation and the needs of the families around him.





“Being a minority person, Shihab is often treated poorly and disregarded by other members of his society. The horrific violence he has survived has turned him into a gentle yet unstoppable force.

Instead of becoming overwhelmed by grief, bitterness, and rage, Shihab has tapped into the depths of his soul and found meaning, peace, and resolve.

With kind persistence, he can negotiate critical issues with powerful people and government officers who would otherwise dismiss him. And when he is disrespected, he keeps his nerve and walks to the car with a big smile, eventually laughing at the silly world we live in. Shihab is in his skin. He is a hero.”

Steve Gumaer







Medicine distribution and healthcare visits
A Migrant Community, Thailand



“Performing the Village Health Worker training at two places inside Karen State and **traveling on foot to 20 mountainous villages** made me understand how difficult the traveling and transportation is and what people need. They need continuous support from us in health education and basic medicines, deworming medicine and vitamin supplements.”

Thaw Shee Wah
Village Health Worker



COVID-19 station in
Shan State, Myanmar

Interactions That Changed Us

Nearly every day our team meets people, hears their stories, sees things that change us in small and big ways.

Here are some of them.



Food Distribution in
Loi Tai Leng,
Myanmar
June 2020

Nang Buen Hom is one of the medics in the Shan Healthcare Training Program in Loi Tai Leng, trained by Partners.

Buen Hom is **studying Public Health at Maefahalaung University in Chiangrai**. She wrote to me and explained that she has lost her scholarship that she got from different sources to continue her study since last year. She also said that if she could not get another scholarship she would need to give up the course, so I raised this issue to the Partners team.

Partners also has been thinking to appoint a project staff member for **Shan Health Care** to work alongside Dr. Ken & Dr. Alison. Therefore, it was the right time to fund Buen Hom so that she can continue her studies until she graduates.

Now she is in the third year and fully funded by Partners. After she graduates she will come on board as a Partners team member with the Shan Health Care project and other projects for the Shan focus.



In the past year, there was a family that our Migrant Community Support project supported. There are four family members, father: Ko Kaw Htoo 49, mother: Ma Lei Lei Win 42, elder son: Joshua 15, and the youngest daughter: Htoo K'paw 10. This family migrated to Mae Sot for their survival as they could not find jobs easily in Myanmar. When they first arrived, Partners helped them with dry goods, essential needs, and health care.

Later on, **the parents found jobs.**

They could not send the children to school so our community project paid for it. **The children now attend school and can use Thai language fluently.** Moreover, they obtained 10-year cards that allows them to stay in Thailand. They can finish school and work in Thailand legally. They can help their parents and themselves.

Pranee

Migrant Community Support



During the initial lock-down a few of us **renovated the Seed Center.**

There was extended time without classes, which allowed us to do something to benefit the school and students when classes resumed, that would not have been done at all prior to the pandemic.

Sara

Seed Migrant Center

Classes held in the SEED Center, Thailand, 2020

My name is T’Kaw Paw. I am from a low-income family in Southern Myanmar. I am the only child who finished high school in a refugee camp among five siblings. My other siblings had to quit school to work on the farm to support our family. Even though they work really hard, they don’t earn a lot because of the unstable political situation and the poor economy in Myanmar.

I want to further my study after I finish high school. However, I am not eligible to go to any college in Myanmar or Thailand because they don’t recognize refugee educational systems. Also, my family cannot support me to go to college. As a result, I have to **join a GED program** to get the GED transcripts. I believe earning a degree in Political Science will provide me both essential knowledge and transferable skills. After graduation, I will spend my years working in the Karen State to successfully make changes for my community.

T’Kaw Paw

Last year, I couldn’t travel to provide the training as usual because of COVID-19. I remember the feeling that time when I drove the truck to the city in Chiang Mai to **share vegetables**, a lot of people lined up beside the street, which meant a lot of people were hungry in this situation. This is what we do to **help people who are hungry**; it might not last forever but at least today we help them to not starve.

Sai Zing



A street market in
Chiang Mai, Thailand
February 2020



while roads were still unobstructed.

From that October until January 2020, my team and hundreds of volunteers fed and provided for up to 27,000 people per day. This couldn't have happened if not for the sustained and generous support of people like you who despite new threat and risk, continued to

give generously to help people in less fortunate circumstances. The setting for all the aid we did was in primary schools and public buildings that were closed by the local administration to serve as temporary shelters until displacement camps could be established.

I visited one of those schools and went to a classroom where, I heard, a woman had just given birth to a beautiful girl. I was met at the door by a man with a big smile, earthy demeanor, farmer's hands. "I'm Mahmood," he said softly, employing the Middle Eastern gesture of smiling sincerely while resting his right hand over his heart. He pulled me into the classroom to join his wife and four children, including their newborn daughter, Loreen.

In a big circle on the floor, the family passed around a fragrant curry, rice, chili peppers, and flat bread. The best of every bowl was served onto my plate. Once everyone was served, through giggled whispers to each other, they gestured that I should begin my meal. **With pantomime and the occasional translations of a friend, we heard their story as we shared a simple meal.**

I used to believe the fundamental premise of charity and compassion was material, that those who have more wealth than others share with those who lack. That we who are born into affluence, or inside functioning and privileged social structures, with opportunities to prosper, share with those who don't have the same chances. The rich give to the poor; the powerful give to the powerless.

Refugees and displaced people have obliterated this misconception in ways that can encourage us all as we seek to make the world a more just place.

In December 2019, I was in al-Hasakah, in northeastern Syria, while the Turkish Armed Forces and their proxies continued an invasion of Kurdish Syria that had begun on October 9. Kurdish, Arab, and Armenian villages and cities along the border of Turkey were attacked, and people killed. Survivors fled into the desert or drove away in haste

Mahmood, now grave, looked down at the floor as his kids cleared dishes. “We had just purchased doors and windows to finish our home. It’s all gone.” He strained to tell me that he and his family had saved for 20 years, building a home, piece by piece, as they could afford to from the meager income they earned as farmers.

Mahmood made space at his table for me, a stranger. He shared his family’s food with me, selecting the best parts they had, filling my plate. His welcome – and his family’s – was endearing and genuine, like that at so many meals I’ve shared with people in the Middle East.

I’ve learned from refugees and displaced people like Mahmood that charity isn’t the responsibility or privilege of the wealthy alone, but all people, regardless of social or financial status, and it isn’t practiced among the wealthiest people I know nearly as strikingly as with those I’ve known who are living in a state of material poverty and insecurity. For 26 years I’ve been attempting to outdo victims of war with generosity, and so far, I’ve failed.

Do you want to experience generosity, hospitality, or compassion? Go to any refugee camp or IDP hide site (a temporary sheltering place

where displaced families hide from violent forces in their own country) in the world and be invited into the shack or tent of a family displaced by war, reduced to a few threadbare clothes, and some simple sentimental possessions like a wedding picture. You enter and a rush of activity ensues: water is boiled to make sweet tea. A meal is prepared. The table is wiped; a pillow is placed at the small of your back as they say, “**Recline here. You must be so tired.**”

Material wealth may make generosity abundantly clear. But wealth is not required for generosity. One may be wealthy and generous but one may also be poor and generous. Wealth is a tool, and may as easily be employed falsely as altruistically.

In order to keep a lifeline of loving support working for families displaced by war, my team at Partners Relief & Development has had to be more creative and tenacious this year than ever before. With the challenges of bank failures, border closures, and all the new complexities created by the pandemic, we continue to press on with the imperative of loving action. And that action has been fueled by our greater community of supporters who also haven’t departed from the love in action plan.

Those of us who have done this work for many years will tell you this: **we learned the most important lessons of our labor from the people we set out to help. No matter the level of sacrifice or generosity, we will never outdo displaced families when it comes to intention, loving community, and sacrifice.**

**I’m
learning
to love
by loving.
So are
they.**

Steve Gumaer

Plough Magazine
April, 2021

Free, Full Lives



Mattress and Blanket Distribution
Syria - February 2021



You got us closer to our goal in 2020

7 Countries

30 Projects

494,889 Assisted

855,568 kg of food assistance

2,803 people provided with training

(health, vocational, agricultural)

3,900 sleeping bags handed out

14,000 packs of diapers given to mothers

250,173 masks *(11,116 sewn by our team
during lock-down)* passed out

10,617 children able to attend school

29,310 given access to health care

1,014 Feminine Hygiene Kits produced

5,357 bottle of hand sanitizer

produced and distributed



“Yemen will be slammed by the virus as it takes root because of their weakened immune systems, malnourishment and a prolonged state of poor health.”

Steve Gumaer
Medium - 2020

Food for a month!
January 2021

Yemen

Described as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, the impact of Yemen's civil war is beyond comprehension, with 8 million children going hungry every day. You entered into this crisis with us to provide food to thousands of starving families.

27,092 People
Directly Assisted

100 new **shelters**
built for 820 people

180,000 **hot meals**
prepared for 3,000
children

12,642 people provided
with **food packs**

3,555 **blankets**
distributed to 9,480
people

1,150 school children
given **backpacks and**
uniforms

Students in Yemen
receiving backpacks
September 2020

Building shelters in Yemen
September 2020





Detonated explosives
caused hearing loss,
so we fitted her with
hearing aids
February 2021



Heater distribution
January 2021

Syria

From constructing a re-purposed building into a quarantine center for the disabled, to running a mobile hospital that treated thousands, your support helped keep Syrians displaced by war healthy. But you didn't stop there. You provided food, heating and supplies to families facing ongoing conflict and skyrocketing food prices.

59,063 People
Directly Assisted

1,200 students back
in 1 rebuilt **school**

87 patients treated
at newly-built
quarantine clinic

30,149 people helped
with **food packs**

16,200 people supplied
with **heaters**

8,484 people provided
with **healthcare**

Waste Management
in NE Syria
January 2021

The waste in this
refugee camp was
piling up. We hired 8
families to help pick
up and sort trash.

**Problem solved,
parents employed.**





Thank you to
our dear friends
at **Karmagawa**
who generously
supported efforts
in Beirut after the
explosion.

Lebanon

When a fire in a chemical storage facility triggered a catastrophic explosion, there was no question about doing all you could with the resources available to help clean, repair, and rebuild devastated communities in Beirut.

17,625 People
Directly Assisted

100 people helped
with **shelter**

3,000 people helped with
rubble removal

11,750 people provided
with **hot meals**

1,500 people delivered
food packs

1,375 people given
COVID-19 prevention
supplies



Beirut, Lebanon, *September 2020*

Cleanup efforts (right)

Food packages for locals
impacted by the explosion (left)



Iraq School Rebuild - In Progress
March 2021

“We’re small and agile and much less risk-averse than those large agencies, and we are able on the basis of relationships to negotiate access to people that are otherwise outside the reach of foreign aid. Once they access everyone, in the event that that happens, then we’ll go find another situation where people, because of politics and violence, are outside the access of that reach.”

Steve Gumaer

Children outside a
school rebuild in Iraq
March 2021

Iraq

While the global pandemic put some of our work in Iraq on hold, your support enabled an innovative new project aimed at providing jobs for the newly-unemployed and vegetables for hungry families. Despite the challenges, even more young girls were able to participate in women's empowerment activities aimed at restoring some of the freedom and dignity they had before the war.

773 People

Directly Assisted

23 people helped with
Agriculture income

462 people provided
with **food packs**

236 women provided
feminine hygiene kits
and **health training**

52 women provided
with **English training**





“Find one person who needs your shoulder, strength, time, or mere presence, and give it.

Note the increased sense of contentedness in yourself.

Do it again. Love will grow if it is nurtured by action.”

Steve Gumaer



Food Parcels provided to families displaced by violence in Karen State
February 2021

Thailand

You worked in migrant communities and amongst refugee populations to provide greater access to education, health care and food support, during the pandemic. In a stroke of ingenuity, you also helped train and employ migrant sewers to make thousands of the very masks our team distributed to protect vulnerable communities from the virus.

13,489 People
Directly Assisted

1,023 refugees and migrants benefited from **education initiatives**

1,092 people provided with **health care**

2,440 migrants received **food, health and financial assistance**

3,867 people received some form of **COVID-19 assistance**

727 bottles of **soap produced at our Development Centre**

179 students educated at 4 **Bible Schools**



Marv Kahn Farm

Agriculture Farm and Training Projects

Turns out, a farm is a fairly safe place to work during a global pandemic. So last year, our training farm buzzed with activity as our team used organic and sustainable techniques to make liquid and bar soap, because germs can't live on clean hands.



12 people directly helped
by a **soap-making** course

17 students from Hom Kwan
school were directly helped
by training at **Marv Kahn
Sustainable Agriculture and
Development Center**



7 people learned to
grow mushrooms in
Suk Pra Sert Farm,
Chiangmai, Thailand





Careful preparations. Soap making for COVID-19 efforts
February 2021



Myanmar

With ongoing persecution of the Rohingya, increasing human rights violations in Shan and Karen State, and the pandemic generating economic hardship in Kachin State, the food, access to health care, education, and training you helped provide were a lifeline for thousands of people.

302,200 People

Directly Assisted

12,067 people benefited from **education initiatives**

31,512 people were provided access to **health care**

77 people received **agricultural training**

407,974kg of rice for **emergency relief**, were supplied

175,845 people received some form of **COVID-19 assistance**

Students continue their studies while hiding in the jungles

Partners is providing tarps, flashlights, food, and essentials to children and families fleeing

Girls hiding with their families in the jungles of Myanmar

March 2021



Fire

In the early hours of January 14, 2021, a fire swept through Nayapara Refugee Camp near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, consuming shelters that housed 3,500 people.

No one died.

That is literally the only good thing to say about the fire.

I sent out an email blast that morning: we want to send \$13,800 to our team by the end of the day so they could buy blankets and food and pots and pans and all the most basic items you would need if you'd lost everything. It wasn't GivingTuesday. Or Christmas. Or GivingTuesdayNow. Or any major giving day at all. It was an ordinary Thursday in January. I remember it was snowing.

And by the end of the day you had given - and we had wired - \$18,143.51.

\$18,143.51

I can't even type that without getting choked up because on January 14 **you taught me this valuable lesson:**

When we yell **FIRE** you come running and throw everything you've got at it.

And what you have is more than enough.

Within 12 hours, our team - including some of our Rohingya Community Health Workers who were themselves now homeless - distributed the goods you had purchased.

This is how love works, and it's beautiful.

Thank you.

jenn



Nayapara Refugee Camp
Near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
January 2021





Deep water well provided by Partners for Rohingya community in Bangladesh, *February 2021*

Blanket distribution, *January 2021*

Bangladesh

With almost half a million Rohingya still living in limbo in one of the largest, most crowded refugee camps in the world, COVID-19 became a major additional threat. So you provided life-saving relief, hygiene training, medical care, and education support to families who have lost almost everything.

74,647 People
Directly Assisted

23 sanitation solutions installed

2,482 people provided
health care

1,551 **infant nutrition packs** given

33,041 **masks** supplied

4,250 warm **blankets**
handed out

240 students attending
6 supported **schools**



Rice on its way to a distribution
August 2020



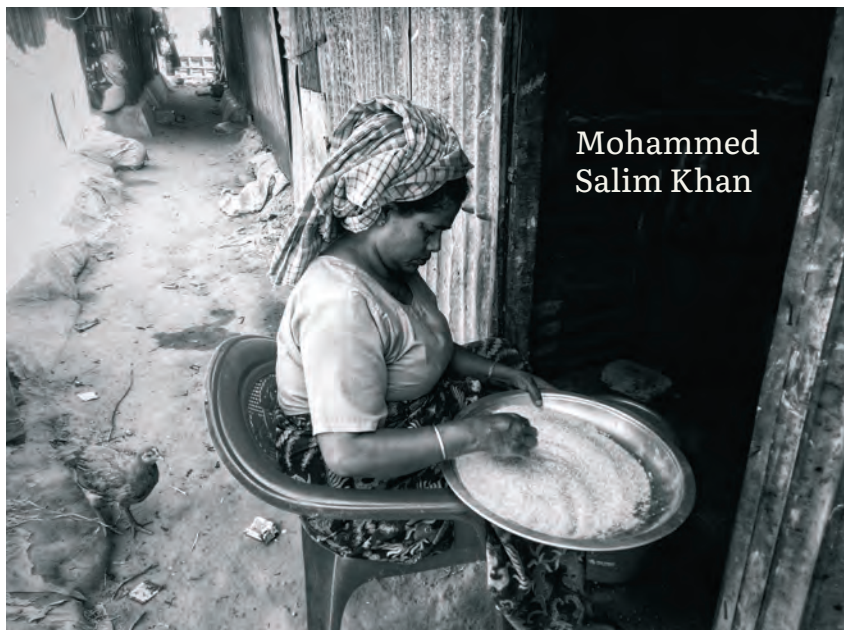
Haider Ali



What They See

The following images are taken by Rohingya and give us a raw glimpse into the world they see from inside refugee camps on the outskirts of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.





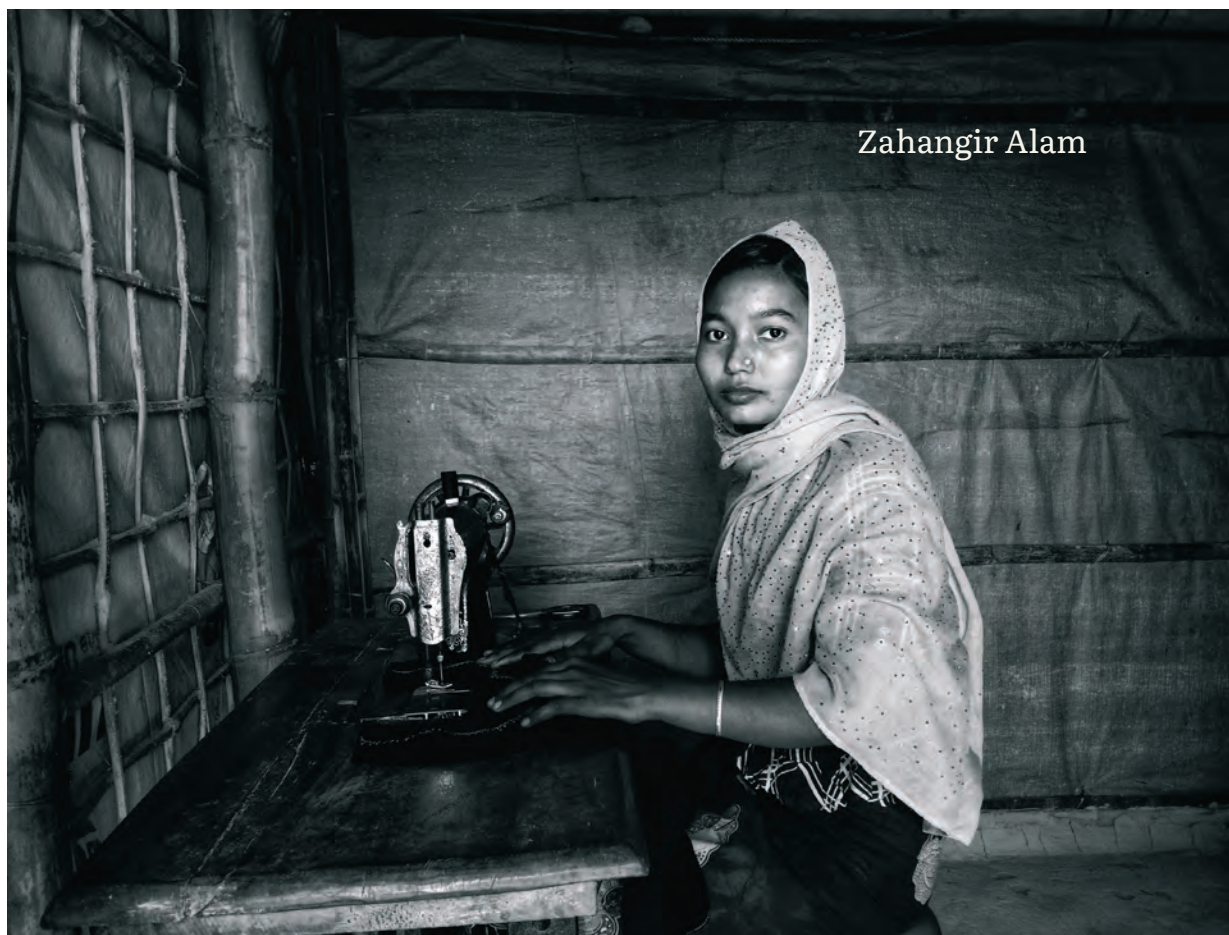
Mohammed
Salim Khan



Haider Ali



Zahangir Alam



Zahangir Alam

Mainul Islam







Mainul Islam



Mainul Islam



Salim Ullah Armany



Zahangir Alam



Haider Ali



Mainul Islam

“I should dread writing this section because no one likes to admit mistakes. But for me, transparency builds trust. And without your trust, we have nothing.”

jenn

The Failure Report:

What We Got Wrong

1 Let's start with a real rookie mistake: because we hadn't ever sold actual merchandise in a Christmas catalogue and we didn't know how/if it would sell, we under priced everything (you're welcome) and couldn't send as much money to our projects as we should have.

Lesson learned: underselling ourselves - and you - doesn't pay

2 We had a brilliant idea to partner with online retailers for Cyber Monday to give their customers the option to donate their Cyber Monday discount to Partners. We printed gorgeous proposals and sent them far and wide to retailers who had never heard of us. No one bit and we missed an opportunity to raise lots of money.

Lesson learned: relationships are gold

3 Steve slept through a meeting at 4am (his time) with the International Board of Directors. Gulp.

Lesson learned: 4am is early

4 We posted photos of our largest school rebuild to date, with the caption, “This is what happens when you let men pick the paint color.” Which turned out to be true, but not in the snarky way we thought. The Syrian fathers who rebuilt the school researched the effect that colors have on children affected by trauma. They discovered that pink and sky blue have a positive effect on students ages 7-15. So they petitioned the local council for permission to paint the school pink and give students a feeling of optimism and hope when they came to school.

Lesson learned: context matters

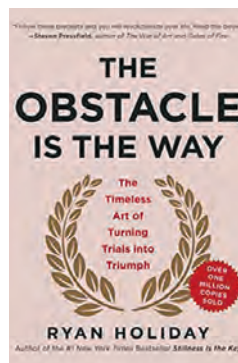
5 In March 2020, two of our team members crossed the border into Syria so they could accompany our hospitaier to its destination outside of Idlib Governorate. We had no idea the border would close behind them. It took six days to evacuate them. Then they spent six more days zigzagging across the world in order to return to their respective countries as airport after airport shut down.

Lesson learned: assume nothing

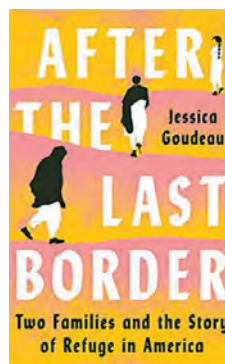
The Book Report

Places We Went When
We Couldn't Travel

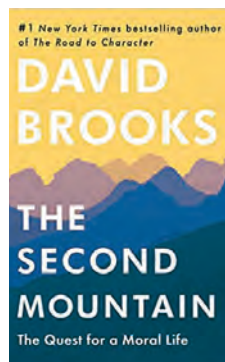
The Obstacle Is the Way: The
Timeless Art of Turning
Trials into Triumph
*Because in our line of work, we
often run into obstacles. What
we do with them makes all the
difference.*

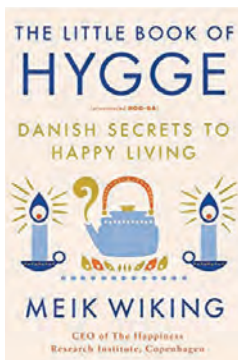


After the Last Border: Two Families
and the Story of Refuge in America
*Because two families from Syria and
Myanmar end up in Texas.*

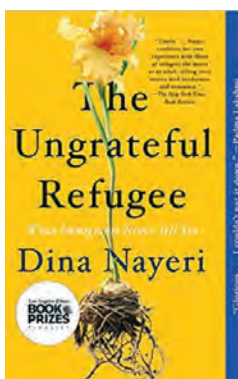


The Second Mountain:
The Quest for a Moral Life
*Because life isn't only about
conquering, but climbing well.*

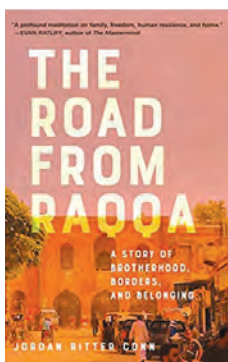




The Little Book of Hygge:
The Danish Way to Live Well
Because if we have to shelter at home, we might as make it as cozy as can be.

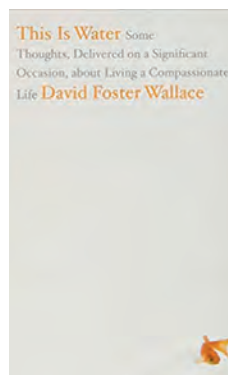


The Ungrateful Refugee:
What Immigrants Never Tell You
Because a book written by a former refugee is a welcome POV.



The Road from Raqqa:
A Story of Brotherhood, Borders, and Belonging
Because this family went from long, lavish family dinners to refugees.
What Are People For?
Because we need reminding sometimes.

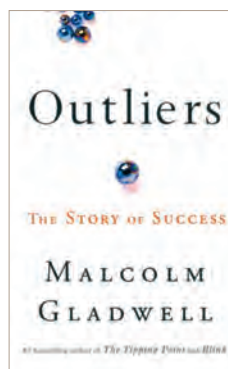
This Is Water: Some Thoughts,
Delivered on a Significant
Occasion, about Living a
Compassionate Life
*Because some books
are meant to be reread
and dog-eared.*



Tartine Bread:
*Because sourdough
was the Official Sponsor
of Lock-down 2020.*



Outliers: The Story of Success
*Because success is not at all
the story you think it will be.
Fascinating read.*

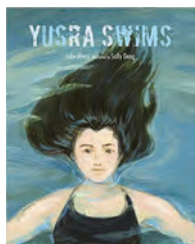


Imagining the refugee experience is hard for adults. For kids, it's incomprehensible.

These books gently share the stories of children - resilient, scared, brave - who have been refugees. These are the books we've read to and with our own children to help build empathy for the experiences of refugee and displaced kids.



Four Feet, Two Sandals
by Karen Lynn Williams
and Khadra Mohammed



Yusra Swims
by Julie Avery



Nowhere Boy
by Katherine Marsh



My name is not Refugee
by Kate Milner



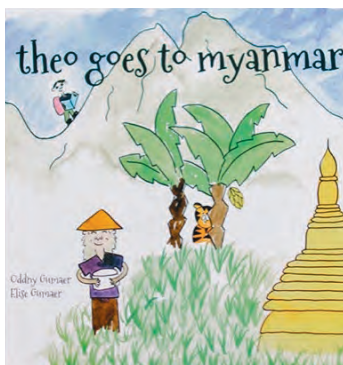
From Far Away
by Robert Munsch
and Saoussan Askar



Stepping Stones
by Margriet Ruurs



The Journey
by Francesca Sanna



Theo Goes to Myanmar
by Oddny Gumaer



Bravery Magazine



Made with love, by jenn, for HQ - March 23, 2021 - on an unseasonably warm, 70 degree F day in Michigan!

I first had this at an open-air restaurant on the banks of a muddy river in Chiang Mai. I have had it every time I've returned to Thailand.

And when I made this at home during lock-down, it transported me, magically, back to a country I've come to love.

Make this on a hot summer day. It's best washed down with something ice cold.

jenn

Yum Med Mamuang with Chili

by Phasinee Doddeo

Ingredients

8oz Cashew Nuts Unsalted
 1 Stem Spring Onion Sub
 with Chives
 1 Stem Mint for Garnish
 1/2 tsp Table Salt
 1 Red Spur Chili
 4 Kaffir Lime Leaves
 3/4 Cup Tiny Fried Fish
(Optional)
 2 Cups Cooking Oil

Instructions

1. Add cashew nuts into a cold pan. Place on the stove top, add medium to high heat frying oil such as sustainable palm oil and heat. Stir the cashew nuts as the oil heats up to stop them burning.
2. When the cashews are sizzling and a golden brown color, drain them out onto a kitchen paper towel to let them cool down. Pat the top surface to reduce any surface oil.
3. Chop the spring (green) onion tops and spur chili into small pieces.
4. Wash surfaces of the kaffir lime leaves, tear the spine out. Roll the leaves up and finely julienne.
5. Add back to the pan the mostly cooled down cashews, chopped chili, kaffir lime leaf and green onion tops.
6. Sprinkle over a half teaspoon of table salt and mix together.

Serve out on a nice plate and garnish with mint leaves.

<https://www.tastythais.com/spicy-cashews-recipe-with-chili/>



Partners in the Media

Each time our work is written up in a publication, discussed on a podcast, or televised to the world, more kids affected by conflict get more help they desperately need and deserve.

Here are some of the places that happened in 2020.



A family prepares to flee a bombardment in Maaret al-Numan in Syria's southern Idlib governorate on December 20, 2019
OMAR HAJ KADOUR/AFP

Newsweek

January 13, 2020



The Globe Post
January 29, 2020



Metro UK
March 31, 2020



New York Post
August 3, 2020



Independent
March 13, 2020



Fox News
April 20, 2020



Insider Monkey
August 3, 2020



World Magazine
March 13, 2020



World Magazine
May 6, 2020



The Arab Weekly
August 29, 2020



The Telegraph
March 15, 2020



Bravery Magazine
May 15, 2020



The Gisborne Herald
September 6, 2020



The Christian Post
March 18, 2020



Innherred
July 8, 2020



Dagen
March 20, 2020



Medium/Authority
Magazine
July 16, 2020

Relax



Sina Village, Iraq
2019

Relax:



After Today,
The Couch is
Your Friend

A Spotify Playlist
by President and Founder
Steve Gumaer

The To Love Is To Act Shop

Merchants buy wholesale.
Mark up the price.
Pocket the profit.
This is how retail works.
Completely normal.

Except that normal is over.

**Every purchase from our little shop
will make two people happier:
you and a child you've never met.**

All profits go directly to Partners projects.

We only sell what we love
and
what we think you'll use.

So that next birthday, graduation
or just-because gift you need?

It is here, waiting for you:
beautifully designed
small-run
just right.

Online and always open.



**Buy the merch,
fund our projects**



The To Love is To Act Shop:

We want you to buy and use our merchandise.

partners.ngo/store

We ship worldwide.

But.

Tariffs and customs can be pricey depending on where you live.

Email us at info@partners.ngo and we'll work with you.

Call us at HQ: An actual person will answer, and she is actually helpful, promise. **909 748-5810**

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 in a similar community project, or to an equally worthwhile project.

Partners Relief & Development is a registered charity in the USA, Canada, UK, Norway, New Zealand, and Thailand.

Canada

Partners Relief & Development
33130 Springbank Road
Calgary, Alberta T3Z 2L9
Canada

Phone: +1 403 538 2870

info@ca.partners.ngo

www.partners.ngo/ca

Norway

Partners Norge
Postboks 58
7634 FROSTA
Norway


Phone: +47 91 793 095

info@partnersnorge.no

www.partnersnorge.no

 [@partnersnorge](https://www.instagram.com/partnersnorge)

 [@PartnersNorge](https://twitter.com/PartnersNorge)

 [@PartnersNorge](https://www.facebook.com/PartnersNorge)

New Zealand

Partners Relief & Development NZ
35 Murray Street, Bell Block,
New Plymouth 4312

+64 6 281 1399

info@nz.partners.ngo

www.partners.ngo/nz

United Kingdom

Partners Relief & Development UK
Box 161

2 London Bridge Walk

London SE1 2SX

info@uk.partners.ngo

www.partners.ngo/uk

 [@partnersreliefUK](https://www.instagram.com/partnersreliefUK)

 [@PartnersUK](https://www.facebook.com/PartnersUK)

United States

Headquarters

Partners Relief & Development
PO Box 1992

Grand Rapids, MI 49501, USA

Phone: +1 909 748 5810

info@partners.ngo

www.partners.ngo

 [@partnersrelief](https://www.instagram.com/partnersrelief)

 [@partnersrelief](https://twitter.com/partnersrelief)

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2020 Karen Village Healthcare
made possible by generosity
GivingTuesday 2019



Heart Work

by *Danielle Doby*

“your purpose
your art
will land in the hearts
it’s meant to
you won’t be for everyone
but you are for someone
and to that someone
what you have to give matters
and that’s the beginning
of everything.”

*Poem used with
author’s permission*

Editors

Jenn Tenderso
Claire Gibbons
Brad Hazlett
Joyce Hazlett
Adrianna Manaugh

Design

Rachel Bruursema
Dave Ellem



Partners
Relief & Development

PO Box 1992
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

“We don’t just measure success on how much money we spent and what was distributed, we measure it on the long-term impact for the people that we have helped, and how we have empowered them to make their future something sustainable and all the social, economic and cultural rivers around it that our work happens in.

Success is when a child in a family is surrounded by his or her loved ones, has food on the table and knows there will be food tomorrow, and that child has access to education and health care.”

Steve Gumaer