

# Visionaries News

AUTUMN 2023

Roslynn Shearman,  
your Gifts in  
Wills manager



Dear Visionary,

**Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of the Visionaries News. I'm delighted to warmly welcome all of you.**

I'm continually inspired by your kindness, your compassion and your faithful commitment to others. After all, it takes radical love to transform lives. Love that is always on the lookout for opportunities to flow over and into others' lives. A love that is ready, willing and able to meet others where they are, no matter the need, no matter how small or large the act of kindness to bring hope and help.

I'm reminded of an article I read about a tramper who shared some of his group's precious food supplies with a lone tramper staying at the same hut who was short of a day's food. It was one meal... but of huge significance.

The lone tramper disappeared on the lengthy 80km New Zealand track and was lost for 30 days. When found on the brink of death and emaciated, he was a vestige of his former healthy self. But he was alive and later fully recovered.

The tramper who had shared a meal with him was to later ponder the value of that meal. How long could one meal sustain someone? Did the meal he shared provide extra sustenance to contribute to the lost tramper living a few more hours, minutes and seconds, allowing him to be found alive?

After speaking with others about this, he realised his seemingly insignificant act of sharing a meal could well have made the difference between life and death for the lost tramper.

Your radical love continues to make a tremendous difference in the lives of others, as you will read in this edition. It's been said, "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do." Thank you for changing the world for someone today, and for someone tomorrow.

Thank you for your willingness to step up, lean in and lift others into a place of hope and a better future.

**Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40.**

# I've never seen levels of hunger like now...

**After almost 20 years in this field, I've seen some tough things. But I've never seen levels of hunger and displacement like now.**

Wars and conflict have forced more people to flee their homes than at any time since World War II. Alongside persistent droughts, this has pushed hunger to crisis levels.

Like you, I believe no child should ever face starvation. But as you read this, many are. Akal, a mum in Somalia, is checking on her malnourished children during the night to make sure they're still alive. And 16-year-old Hannah in Kenya, whose cattle are dying, is now living in fear that hunger will force her parents to marry her off. I know you agree that's a desperate decision no parent should ever have to make.

Including a gift in your Will is a powerful way to tell children and families in the toughest circumstances that they are seen, loved and cared for. Your love will keep reaching them, through the pain, when they need it the most.

Right now, our two-year Global Hunger Response is bringing help, thanks to generous people like you. Your compassion is reaching children and families with life-saving food, health care, clean water and more. Because of you, Akal, Hannah and so many others will have new hope. Thank you for showing such lasting love to children in desperate places.

Kia tau te rangimārie  
Peace be with you,



Grant Bayldon  
National Director



## "People with a purpose, deliver on that purpose"



Lorna Clauson, a  
fellow Visionary

Lorna was born during the Great Depression. Being descended from missionaries who witnessed the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, and from Australian convicts, has provided a rich ancestry for her to delve into.

Lorna has never shied away from helping others. Her father instilled a strong family ethic: to always do the right thing. She witnessed this sense of Christian duty many times as local farmers gathered and helped someone in need. "We just grew up in that atmosphere where you had to help and live and work and be in your community," Lorna says.

Guided by her deep sense of purpose, Lorna has invested over 40 years in partnership with World Vision. She's travelled to Bangladesh and Mongolia to visit her sponsored child and witness projects improving their communities. "Everything I have seen and been associated with and supported in World Vision has always achieved results. And it's just so effective," she says.

In recent years, Lorna decided to increase her impact by including a gift to World Vision in her Will, to enable the work she's seen around the globe to continue.

"I trust World Vision completely to get on with the job. My father's favourite comment was 'If you've got a job to do, just get on with it!' And that's always been our family's outlook."



With your help, mums like Asunta (left) and Awan (right) can feed their families and face tough times.



## Stopping hunger in its tracks in South Sudan

**Generous Visionaries like you are helping farming families learn how to grow sweet potatoes – a highly nutritious, resilient crop – and stopping hunger, for good.**

Asunta, a mother of three in South Sudan, struggled to meet her family's basic needs. The income she earned from growing sorghum, maize and groundnuts was barely enough to feed her children in normal times. She dreaded the wet season. Crops would fail to survive and families went hungry for months.

But things are different now! With your help, 100 farmers, half of them women like Asunta, learned how to successfully farm high-quality sweet potatoes.

After a year of using these new techniques, Asunta is singing their praises. She has even doubled her crop to two acres of land.

*"The sweet potatoes are my children's favourite!" she says. "I will harvest, process*

*and preserve them for my family to eat, as well as sell some to earn an income. Our children are healthier. They no longer get sick often because of the nutritious sweet potatoes. And I am less stressed."*

Awan is another local farmer your kindness reached. *"The biggest thing I've got from the project is knowledge, which I plan to share with other widowed farmers like myself to enable them to feed and provide for their children,"* says the mother of five.


*"Now, I can buy clothes for my children and more nutritious food so my family can eat a balanced diet. I can also buy soap and even sugar. Most importantly, I'm able to pay my children's school fees."*

*"The cooking workshops were vital. It all became easy in the end. Even my 10-year-old child can cook sweet potato now. We have enough to feed our whole family,"* says Awan.

***"The biggest thing I've got from the project is knowledge..."***



# You are extraordinary! Hunger is a huge threat to children. But your kindness is saving lives. Here's just some of what you helped accomplish over the past year...



99.6% of pregnant women or caregivers with children under age 2, from six Area Programmes across India and Bangladesh, received **nutrition, infectious disease and injury prevention counselling**, helping their little ones to grow healthy and strong.



86% of severely acute malnourished children referred to Community Health Centres in Mali made a **full recovery**.



3,344 pregnant and new mums in Afghanistan received **training on safe feeding for young children in emergencies**, helping mothers to safeguard their children's survival.



4.5 million+ people received **life-saving food**, including 2.7 million kids, in 15 countries through our partnership with the World Food Programme.



“In 2022, there was an unprecedented surge in global hunger driven by conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the war in Ukraine. Through World Vision’s partnership with the World Food Programme, you have given life-saving food and nutrition services to communities affected by the hunger crisis, provided school meals, and helped affected communities build resilience and longer-term self-sufficiency through livelihoods activities and climate change adaptation. Thank you so much.”

← Len Unkovich, World Food Programme Manager

I'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch any time.

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