

NEWS & NEEDS

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

SUMMER II, 2017

BOUNTY IN HER OWN BACKYARD: NAWAL'S STORY

Multigenerational homes are common around the world, allowing grandparents to help raise their grandchildren and stay close to their adult children. In the West Bank, they also play an important role in helping low-income families enjoy a better quality of life.

Nawal, 52, and her husband share their home in the rural village of Beita with their 27-year-old son, his wife, and their three young children. The family pools their modest incomes to pay one rent check instead of two.

Nawal's husband and son are day laborers, working jobs whenever they are available (which is not often.) And while Nawal is physically able to work, in her words, "local customs and traditions do not allow women to go out to work."

Recognizing this, IOCC's *Women's Empowerment in West Bank and Gaza* was designed to bring economic opportunity directly to women, in their own backyards. IOCC builds greenhouses next to women's homes so that they can grow vegetables for family consumption and for sale, all while respecting cultural norms.

With a simple "seed" gift of actual seeds, as well as other farming equipment and the greenhouse structure, Nawal and women like her are able to provide for their families, and in the case of this grandmother, help her grandchildren to have a better future.

"I am not concerned anymore about the children's health, since they enjoy eating natural, healthy, and organic food," Nawal told IOCC.

"I am thankful and grateful for all who helped in giving the chance to implement such a project."



Azzam Shabeer/IOCC

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From the
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

One of IOCC's cornerstone programs is the mission and ministry to help those in need in the United States.

Our US Program began in 2001 in response to the tragic events of September 11 and has continued to grow since.

So far in 2017, our committed and exceptional volunteers, or Action Teams, have helped people to rebuild after natural disasters in West Virginia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Minnesota, and the Bahamas. Our Action Teams work side by side with Frontliners—clergy and laity trained in disaster management and spiritual counseling—in struggling communities to bring hope, comfort, and a fresh start. By its very nature, this work is never-ending, and also represents the essence of IOCC: mobilizing Orthodox Christians in the United States to give to the needy, no matter how close or far they may be.

My heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers and donors who give us the humbling privilege to serve those in the US and around the world. We could not do what we do without your support.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy remainder of your summer and a fruitful back-to-school season for your children.

In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou
Executive Director & CEO



SUPPORTING A CHURCH-RUN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IN TBILISI



IOCC is supplying the Sts. Joachim and Anna Medical Centre, run by the Patriarchate of Georgia in Tbilisi, with needed medical supplies to help the hospital meet community demand. Since its foundation, the Centre has been serving temporarily displaced and vulnerable people.

To support the Centre and its maternity, cardiology, and emergency-care patients, IOCC donated 40 hospital beds in June and also sent a shipping container filled with general medical supplies.

In addition, IOCC, through the generosity of the McGraw-Hill Companies and Brother's Brother Foundation, sent school kits, English-language literature, and other books to the Patriarchate for distribution to children.



THE DESERT BECOMES A FRUITFUL FIELD: TRAINING FARMING COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA

Uganda's "Dry Corridor" is home to 40,000 farmers. Given the arid environment, they only meet an average of 15% of their farming capacity – of high consequence to a place where the people rely on subsistence farming.

At the invitation of IOCC, agronomy and biology experts from the University of Maryland (UMD) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources soil- and water-testing systems, pest-management techniques, and water- and food-safety tools with 38 local farmers this June at the Lwemiyaga School. Their goal: to train these farmers to make the best use of their environment, applying global best practices in farming to the unique landscape of the Dry Corridor in order to increase their harvests.

With their newfound knowledge, these 38 participants – hailing from six villages, including four within jurisdictions of the Uganda Orthodox Church – will visit with other farmers to help them apply lessons learned to their own farming practices.

The Uganda Orthodox Church will manage the farmers' training sessions with the assistance of volunteers from the Peace Corps and students from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Studies of the local Makerere University, and occasional visitors from UMD.

WATCH HISTORY FROM YOUR DEVICE OR DESKTOP!

IOCC's 25th video series lends a voice to inspiring people who helped IOCC reach this anniversary milestone. In their own words, learn about how they have lived out their faith through IOCC.

Visit iocc.org/history to watch the videos.



International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC), is the official humanitarian relief agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America and a member of the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy.

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.



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IN HONOR OF OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY,
we invite you to learn more about how your generosity and support has helped us to respond to refugee crises over the years around the world:



IOCC opens its Belgrade office in 1992 at the invitation of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

1992

Learn more at iocc.org/25years



IOCC supports refugees in the Balkans following NATO bombings.

1994

IOCC expands its relief efforts to refugees in the Russian Caucasus and Georgia.



1999

IOCC responds to Sudanese refugees who fled to Ethiopia, where IOCC opened a country office in 2003.



2004



IOCC provides hot meals and water daily to refugees on the Greek islands of Chios and Samos.

2015

IOCC continues its response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Serbia, and Romania.



Today

Donate online at iocc.org

You're the Missing Ingredient!

Don't want more dinnerware as part of your wedding registry? Or maybe you are celebrating a birthday and want a different kind of gift this year?

Ask your loved ones to celebrate your occasion by using IOCC's new DIY fundraising platform. This easy tool lets you set a goal, design your profile, and share with friends and family.

Instead of more clutter in your kitchen, you could provide books to children in Africa, help a single mother in Gaza grow a garden, or provide shelter to people who are displaced from their homes in Syria.

Visit support.iocc.org/DIY for more information.

