



Diagnosed with malnutrition at the age of two, Kalid is now healthy and happy after receiving treatment through an IOCC initiative.

Expanding Support to Address Urgent Needs in Ethiopia

Supplying Critical Nutrition for Children

IOCC has been serving in Ethiopia for decades and is now expanding with a new program to address the urgent food insecurity issues that have resulted from a series of complex crises, including conflict, the pandemic, drought, and a once-in-a-decade locust infestation. These intersecting crises have reduced crop yield and driven up food prices – all of which have increased food insecurity for families and households that were already struggling.

Jennet, a 28-year-old mother of two, lives in the northern region of Amhara. Concerned for the welfare of her two-year-old son, Kalid, she took him in for screening by IOCC's emergency health and nutrition program. Using a measurement of his mid-upper-arm circumference and other assessment tools, staff found that Kalid was malnourished and needed treatment.

Kalid was immediately placed into a nutritional support program where he received regular checkups, plus dense, highly nutritious foods to help him get back to a healthy weight. Jennet got emergency food support for her family, plus cooking and nutrition education. As she described it, "When I came to this food distribution center, I also received lessons about how to prepare nutritious meals ... to keep my kids healthy."

After starting the IOCC program, Kalid made great strides. His weight and arm measurements improved, and, before long, he had fully recovered

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FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on all that has happened so far this year, I keep returning to one point—how grateful I am for your continuing support of IOCC.

From disaster relief in sudden crisis to ongoing programs that supply food, education, clean water, and medical care, you have been there offering your gifts and your prayers.

This edition of *News & Needs* will show how your generosity is helping to meet the critical needs of people in Ethiopia, Greece, and Romania.

In this issue, you will also see mention of IOCC's Monthly Giving Partners. I humbly invite you to learn more about this special way of supporting IOCC's ongoing and emergency response initiatives at iocc.org/monthly.

I wish you a blessed summer, and I look forward to sharing more stories of hope with you.

In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou
Executive Director & CEO



More than 2,600 young children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers have received support through an IOCC emergency health initiative.

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and was discharged from treatment. Today, he is healthy, happy, and active.

Kalid and Jennet are just two of the 2,600 people in Amhara who received help through this IOCC project, which serves children under five, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. As Ethiopia strives to overcome numerous crises, IOCC is expanding its work to serve thousands more.



How would it
feel to change a
life every month?

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MONTHLY
GIVING
PARTNERS

*IOCC's mentoring program is helping entrepreneurs in Greece, including this toymaker, to grow and expand.
(Photo: Wandering Workshop)*

Growing Businesses and Promoting Economic Stability in Greece

Mentoring Program Leads to Success

For more than a decade, families in Greece have faced intense economic pressure — still they remain committed to finding a path forward. Since 2015, working with Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Archdiocese of Athens, IOCC has helped small agricultural and manufacturing enterprises grow and expand their markets through a special mentoring program.

The program connects business owners with experienced executive mentors who volunteer through IOCC partner KEMEL. Mentors help their protégés create a business plan by providing guidance on factors like marketing, pricing, and production efficiencies. Entrepreneurs know that they must focus on the quality of their products, but mentoring can help them realize that sometimes they must make bold decisions too.

For example, one microenterprise that sells wooden toys was turning down orders because they didn't have the equipment they needed to

scale up and hesitated to try something new. After consulting with their mentor and receiving new equipment from IOCC, the owners decided to move to a bigger facility. With more efficient production, they are now forecasting increased sales.

Mentoring was also liberating for Vasilis, whose company processes lemon juice for cooking, baking, and salads. "For the first time," he said, "I don't feel alone in this, and I feel confident [I can] disengage myself from the production process and commit mainly to implementing my business plan and promoting my company."

While the program also donates equipment to growing businesses, mentoring, as one new business owner stated, "was just as valuable as the donated equipment." So far IOCC has helped more than 150 microenterprises, 50 of which have received mentoring to grow their businesses and thrive, even in a challenging economy.



International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC), is the official humanitarian relief and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

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.

iocc.org



Ukrainian refugees in Romania receive grocery vouchers from IOCC, ensuring they can get exactly what their families need.

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Nourishing and Protecting Ukrainian Refugees

Evolving Response to Meet Changing Needs

As conflict continues in Ukraine, IOCC's response has expanded to serve more people both inside Ukraine and across Poland, Moldova, and Romania.

To help meet some of the most pressing needs, food and basic necessities, IOCC is providing vouchers that can be used at Romania's largest grocery chain—enabling Ukrainian families to get what they need.

Beyond essentials, refugees are also particularly vulnerable to human traffickers. In Romania, IOCC is working closely with longtime Church partner Federation Filantropia to implement an

antitrafficking training program for clergy, social workers, and volunteers. The Romanian National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons is providing training on child safeguarding and preventing and identifying human trafficking. Workshop participants have shared that the training has already helped them keep others from danger.

One priest who took the course said, "I interact every day with countless people, including Ukrainian refugees in the pastoral community." Thanks to his training, he recognized a potentially dangerous situation for one young woman he had met, then worked with her mother to help the young woman extricate herself. This is just one example among many that trainees have reported to staff.

Another refugee, Victoria, fled Ukraine and gave birth to her son in Romania. After receiving grocery vouchers, she wrote to the IOCC team that assisted her, saying, "I am very grateful for the help, the feeling of trust and protection that you have given us."

While the situation evolves and strife is ongoing, IOCC remains committed to serving the people of Ukraine at home and in the nations where they have sought refuge.

COMING SOON

PRAYER JOURNAL

**Planning a new Sunday
School curriculum?
Watch for the upcoming
Prayer Journal and lessons.**



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