

From the field: how you're giving hope

Thank you for making an incredible impact ▶



Dear Pam,

I want to thank you for being an important member of the global Mercy Corps community. Just last week, many of you joined us on #GivingTuesday as we raised funds to help children and families who are suffering around the world. You made that special day a huge success!

Thanks to caring individuals like you, we surpassed our matching gift goal and raised over \$255,000 to help families in need. Thank you! **The compassion and positivity that you showed throughout the day was truly inspiring.**

I was recently able to see the work you make possible firsthand, and I know how important every contribution is — and how much good it can do during someone's time of crisis. When I traveled to Jordan to meet some of the Syrian refugees we're working with in the camps, I wasn't sure how I would feel. I'd read about the war and

the challenges refugees face for so long — but I knew seeing the reality up close would be different.

During my trip, I visited two refugee camps. One was a colorful and bustling makeshift city that seemed filled with hope and life. The other was a sea of white tents and dusty desert that felt overwhelmingly bleak and isolated.

Despite the differences between the camps, the situation the refugees face is much the same. Families living in limbo, adolescents who don't know what their futures hold, children who've never known a real home. Tears came to my eyes as I thought about the obstacles they face every day.

But while I knew how much these families were suffering, there was a bright spot at both camps that gave me hope: Mercy Corps' safe spaces and education programs.

I couldn't help but smile when I walked through Mercy Corps' youth spaces and saw children with disabilities eagerly working with their mentors and playing with their peers, young girls in a private tent, ponytails swinging as they did an aerobics routine to music, and children happily doing art projects and putting on puppet shows in our brightly colored caravan.

These efforts are different than our critical work providing emergency food, water and other supplies to families in crisis. But seeing the situation of these families in person, I realized that in their own way, these spaces also are lifesaving.

People like you are the reason that these children and young refugees have spaces where they can safely learn, dream, make friends and be themselves, temporarily free of stress and worry. **This community's support is giving them a lifeline to a brighter future.** I saw a glimpse of what is possible when we all work together, and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of the Mercy Corps community with you.

Thank you for being there for refugees and vulnerable families when they need you most. **You are a bright spot during their time of crisis.**

Sincerely,

Lynn Hector
Mercy Corps Senior Communications Officer

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