

UNDER THE SUN



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world

NEWS FROM ALONGSIDE HOPE

NOVEMBER 2025 | COMMITMENT

**Time
+ commitment
= partnership**



A FARMER PLANTS a seed deep into the ground, covers it with warm earth, and waters it regularly. She adds mulch and compost to help it thrive, making a commitment to nurture the plant, keep it alive and healthy until it bears fruit. It might take months or even years.

A partnership – like the farmer's plant – begins with a seed of hope. When Alongside Hope supports a partner, we commit to walking alongside them, nurturing the relationship as it grows.

When you give to Alongside Hope, your faith in us – like the seed – grows every day. Whether it's a one-time donation or a monthly gift or a legacy bequest – you're committing to a life-giving project.

When we all work together to love our neighbours, we are nurturing our baptismal covenant, feeding the commitment we have made to follow Christ.

This issue of *Under the Sun* honours all of these commitments. We ask you to prayerfully consider committing to a monthly gift. Just as steady rain helps seeds grow strong, your monthly gift gives us the stability to plan ahead, respond quickly, and make a lasting impact.

Please use this prayer at home or in your parishes to deepen your relationship with our work:

God, Creator and Giver of all that is good, we thank you for our many blessings. Mindful of your generosity, we acknowledge that all that we have is from you. Daily, we offer you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth, our work, our family and our loved ones. In the dawning of a new day, You are with us. In each dark hour, You are here. Blessed by Your grace, we show gratitude by sharing what we have. By serving our brothers and sisters, we serve You. As You protect and guide us on our journey, we, Your stewards, remain ever grateful for Your constant love. Amen.

(Anglican Fellowship of Prayer)

“I used to rely on food aid due to poverty. But this year, I chose not to submit my name for assistance, as I harvested more than enough.”

Simon Nezandoyi produced one ton of sorghum this year, an increase from past years.

Restoring land, culture and peace

By Simon Nezandoyi

Simon Nezandoyi shares his learning experiences from the Nature+ project – a commitment to TSURO Trust working in Zimbabwe – funded by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Government of Canada, and supported by Alongside Hope.

AS THE TSURO Trust Representative for Ward 7 in Mandima Village, I lead and participate in all TSURO Trust programs, including the Nature+ project. I have been practising agroecology for some time, but Nature+ has strengthened my practices. I have always wanted to protect the environment because I have witnessed the impacts of soil erosion, gully formation across the landscape, and the conflicts arising from these gullies. Fields have been destroyed by erosion and runoff, and when we first started experiencing these issues, we did not realize that our environment was dying.

I joined the Nature+ program because of the severe degradation of the land and the erosion of cultural values in our area. When Nature+ arrived, we realized its programs could help us restore our

environment, rehabilitate our forests, revive our culture, and improve our way of life.

Conservation Agriculture (CA)

The 2024/25 season brought smiles to many faces, including mine. All households that adopted the CA concept harvested enough this year, compared to previous years. Even small plots of land under CA yielded positive results for everyone.

Environmental changes

Another change that brings me joy is the improvement in our environment. Through the Nature+ initiative, we constructed loose gabions [rock walls] in the uplands where gullies were forming. After building these gabions, we began

witnessing water springs resurfacing below them during the rainy season, which has positively impacted our environment. Fields that were previously destroyed by gully runoff were protected this year and remained unaffected by erosion.

Additionally, swales were constructed in these areas. People have returned to traditional farming methods that help protect our resources. Respect for traditional leaders and fellow community members has also increased, signalling a restoration of our culture.

Reflecting on my own relationships within the community, I see major changes. I used to rely on food aid due to poverty. But this year, I chose not to submit my name for assistance, as I harvested more than enough. I produced one ton of sorghum and three tons of traditional maize, and I plan to sell some to earn income. All these successes are the result of following CA practices.

Working the land

Basin diggers have made CA easier, compared to using a hoe to dig holes across an entire field, which is physically demanding. Training manuals on various themes have facilitated knowledge sharing, including those focused on gender and conflict transformation. Through the Nature+ project, I have learned that working as a group is highly beneficial – it allows individuals to share knowledge, ideas, and skills. Group members also help remind one another of best practices.

Our natural way of life is improving, and everyone is now taking responsibility for protecting the environment and its resources. Agroecology, gully reclamation through the use of loose gabions, and soil and water conservation practices are now embraced by all in the landscape – this shows a collective commitment to environmental stewardship and the fulfillment of Nature+ goals.

Understanding gender

Our community used to be one of the areas with high rates of gender-based and domestic violence. Relationships between spouses, children, and other relatives were often filled with conflict and violence. But with Nature+ things are different. Through continuous training, capacity building, and the formation of Peace Circles, gender-based violence has decreased, and communities are now able to identify sources of conflict and resolve them independently.

Honouring tradition

When discussing the environment, farming methods and culture, it is essential to honour our traditional ways of living, passed down by community leaders. Previously, I acted independently and without coordination, but after the introduction of Nature+, we formed groups to share knowledge. This greatly contributed to changes, particularly regarding gender dynamics – men and women now work together as families, free from conflict.



The Resilience Fund meets a broken commitment with compassion

By Janice Biehn
Communications & Marketing Coordinator

IN FEBRUARY of this year, the Trump administration announced a sudden and immediate cut to USAID, a funding body that invested billions of taxpayer dollars a year in caring for the vulnerable around the world since its inception in 1961.

The cuts were devastating to many of our partners with programs funded by USAID. Alongside Hope responded by launching the Resilience Fund in March. Soon after, a very generous and concerned donor offered \$250,000 in matching funds. Incredibly, in three months, you gave more than \$265,000 to the Resilience Fund, exceeding our goal of \$500,000 with the matching gift. Your generosity has helped many partners, including these three:

Tanzania

"I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Alongside Hope for your compassion and support toward refugees in Nyarugushu Camp," says Hemedi Msofe, Project Manager for Church World Service (CWS), Alongside Hope's partner supporting resettlement work. In February, refugees who were about to be resettled to the United States were turned back at the airport.

Life at the Nyarugushu Refugee Camp continues, but there is pain. "The environment here is extremely challenging," says Msofe. "For many refugees, resettlement was seen as the ultimate durable solution. Its suspension has left countless individuals struggling with stress, anxiety, and a deep loss of hope. However, thanks to the Resilience Fund you generously provided through CWS, we are witnessing a remarkable restoration of hope."

After resettlement to the U.S. was cancelled, Ciza Madugu (not her real name) fell into deep despair. She had long hoped to access advanced medical care for chronic pain relating to a spinal injury caused by sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With limited treatment options in the camp, she was left relying on painkillers and struggling emotionally. Through the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support program, Madugu received individual counselling, a medical referral, and ongoing psychosocial care.

"I thought my life was over when resettlement was cancelled, but through treatment and counselling support, I now feel stronger and ready to live again."

Burundi

Village Health Works (VHW) depended on Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), a fortified peanut porridge, to treat malnourished children. But shipment of the life saving food from the United States was halted, and the packets stayed in warehouses.

VHW staff began making their own RUTF and worked with their U.S. supplier directly to get the warehoused product into the hungry mouths of children. In the meantime, they devised a creative and innovative solution to improve sustainability. With funding from Alongside



Zahra (second from right) struggles to provide food for her daughters.

"This assistance saved us last winter from hunger, malnutrition, and even death. For this, we are truly grateful."

Afghanistan

The withdrawal of USAID forced humanitarian organizations to reduce operations in Afghanistan. Many provincial offices have closed, scaling back access to already vulnerable communities. Despite these challenges, core operations remain active in key regions.

A Cash-for-Food project funded by Presbyterian World Service and Development and implemented by a local partner is continuing to deliver culturally sensitive and effective assistance. Alongside Hope has been providing support through its Canadian Foodgrains Bank equity, and now with the Resilience Fund, we have stepped up our contributions.

The project made it possible for families to purchase essentials such as flour, oil, legumes and fuel, ensuring they would make it through the harsh winter months with stability. Alongside Hope's contribution is also helping maintain operations, helping to keep the response strong at a time when needs are greater than ever.

Zahra, 58, is a program participant. Recently widowed, her son left for Iran in search of work and her three daughters are living with untreated disabilities. Zahra struggles to put food on the table. Her youngest daughter, just 12, earned a modest income from tailoring, but it was never enough. "This assistance saved us last winter from hunger, malnutrition, and even death," Zahra said. "For this, we are truly grateful."

Hope and others, VHW will begin producing its own peanut porridge, made from locally grown peanuts, known as ground nuts. Production of Magara Meza will begin in early 2026, with ground nut planting happening at the next rainy season planting.

Renath Ndayisenga is ready to start digging. A farmer and livestock breeder, she has already benefited from past VHW agricultural initiatives. She sells amaranth, cabbage, leek, and peppers through VHW-supported markets, which has strengthened her family's stability and increased her income, enough to cover the tuition required for her children to return to school. She is eager to begin producing groundnuts and to participate in the upcoming training, recognizing the connection between this crop and improved nutrition for her family and the wider community. She sees Magara Meza as a new opportunity to improve both livelihoods and health.



Renath Ndayisenga (middle) supervises cabbage harvesting on her farm in Burundi.

The Mapping Exercise: a 10-year commitment to education for reconciliation

By Suzanne Rumsey
Public Engagement Program Coordinator

WHEN CHIEF JUSTICE Murray Sinclair (Anishnaabe-Cree and Ojibway) presented the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015, he said, "We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing."

Among the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was No. 58, addressed to the churches that had run Canada's Indian Residential Schools, including the Anglican Church of Canada.

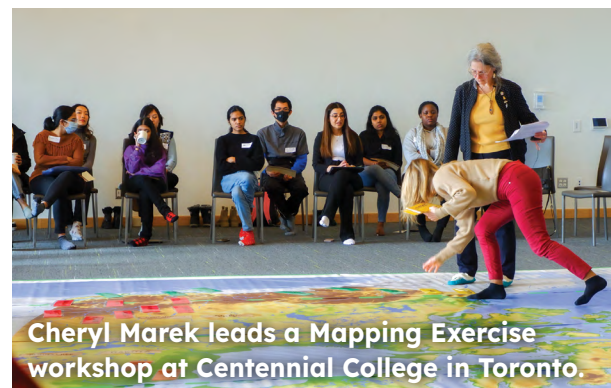
It states: "We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary."

In response to this call, I worked with Adele Finney,

then Alongside Hope Executive Director, and Esther Wesley (Oji-Cree, Sachigo Lake Cree First Nation), then Coordinator of the Anglican Healing Fund, to develop a workshop called "Mapping the Ground We Stand On."

That year, we launched what we now call the "Mapping Exercise" at Alongside Hope's annual meeting of volunteers, using a 15' by 25' hand-drawn paper floor map of Canada. The workshop was further developed for a meeting of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Church leadership in 2017 at Pinawa, Manitoba, this time upgrading to a colourful, vinyl floor map.

In 2019, with interest growing in the Mapping Exercise, we gathered in Winnipeg to train nine volunteer facilitators from across Canada. And when COVID hit, I worked with those facilitators and Alongside Hope colleagues to take the workshop online. As in-person workshops became possible once again, two further training sessions took place, one in Ottawa in 2022 and another in Toronto in 2024. There are currently 15 facilitators across the country equipped with maps and the skills to offer the Mapping Exercise.



Cheryl Marek leads a Mapping Exercise workshop at Centennial College in Toronto.

Between April 2023 and April 2024, these facilitators delivered the Mapping Exercise to 440 people across Canada, primarily from Anglican churches but also other community groups.

Over 10 years, the number would be well over 3,000. We've learned what works and made a few refinements along the way. But what hasn't changed is Alongside Hope's commitment to continue this education for reconciliation work, and the climb up the mountain that the TRC set out for all Canadians.

To learn more or book a workshop visit alongsidehope.org/mapping-exercise or scan the QR code.





Bringing solar power to Mozambique for nine years and beyond Our commitment to health care in Nampula province



(Top) The Solar Suitcase holds lifesaving medical devices powered by the sun.
(Bottom) Midwife Ancha Amido Abdala (middle) shares a moment with four healthy patients.

2016 Alongside Hope (then PWRDF) installs 30 Solar Suitcases in Mozambique, as part of All Mothers and Children Count, a four-year project funded by the Government of Canada to improve maternal and newborn child health in that country, as well as Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Working with local partner EHALE, the Solar Suitcases bring reliable solar power into health clinics, where delivering services in the night-time — especially to labouring women — is dangerous, and postponing services until morning can be deadly.

2022 The impact of the first 30 Solar Suitcases is seen and mortality rates decrease among newborns and women during childbirth. Alongside Hope installs an additional 50 Solar Suitcases in Nampula province.

“The Solar Suitcase helps a lot,” says midwife Ancha Amido Abdala at the Muripotana Health Centre. “When a patient arrives at night, we don’t need phone flashlights or lamps. During rainy times, [the suitcase] charges a little, and that charge helps us too.” Abdala notes how being able to see builds trust between patient and caregiver. “Both the patient and the companion feel free and comfortable because they can follow the procedure and see what I’m doing.”

Thanks to those 80 Solar Suitcases, more than 80,000 babies have been delivered safely in the project area, many in the middle of the night. In some districts, there were 17.5 times more healthy night time births.

2025 An additional 35 Solar Suitcases have been or will be installed in Nampula province, providing clean and reliable power to all Ministry of Health clinics. Another 14 Solar Suitcases are being installed in Madagascar with new partner, Pivot.

Your monthly commitment makes a world of difference

By Janice Biehn

MIKE ROTHERY has been an Alongside Hope donor for the past few years. But during Lent, an email inviting he and his wife Leslie Tutty to attend the monthly Praying with Alongside Hope spurred him and his wife to do more.

“I decided, tentatively, to attend. [At the end of the service] we heard about efforts to ameliorate the suffering of families caused by the withdrawal of international aid.” Moved by the stories, Rothery emailed Carolyn Cummins, Director of Fundraising, for more information.

Cummins provided more details to Mike about the Resilience Fund and its support of refugees in the Nyarugushu Camp in Tanzania. “I read it to Leslie and her immediate response was that we had to support this work. When I shared it with colleagues at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church in Calgary the reaction was, predictably, similarly encouraging and helpful.”

Soon after, Rothery and Tutty became monthly donors. “We are blessed by the opportunity to support it.”

Alongside Hope is grateful for its 1,075 monthly donors, whose gifts are automatically deposited either through their bank account or credit card. These donations provide approximately \$35,000 each month.

“Having a reliable and predictable revenue stream is incredibly important,” says Cummins. “It means we can be confident that the funds are on hand that we have committed to our partners’ vital programs.”

For Susan Little, the decision to become a monthly donor was easy. The retired high school teacher from Hamilton, Ont., says she used to respond to appeal letters with a donation. But then an emergency would happen, like an earthquake or flood or typhoon, and she would respond to that.

“One day, I translated such urgent requests ... to managing a household budget. An unexpected home repair arises and I have to dig into my savings to cover it; I budget carefully to have such savings available so it is easy to manage the unexpected things.”

If Alongside Hope were in a similar situation, she reasoned, with a routine budget to cover routine costs, it would be easy to manage global development and relief. However, when a series of unexpected events happen, the whole structure is put under extreme pressure.

“That is why I became a monthly donor,” she says. “It’s easy for me to know that I am supporting something I care about because I don’t have to remember to donate regularly: it’s done for me with little effort on my part. Most of all, being a monthly donor allows me to donate when sudden and unexpected needs arise, because my budget is already working for me.”



Learn more at alongsidehope.org/become-a-monthly-donor or scan the QR code.

A legacy committed to building community

By Jacqueline Tingle,
Communications & Marketing
Officer

GENEVIEVE ASHWELL grew up in the small, close-knit community of Wolf Creek, Alta. The daughter of a storekeeper, she witnessed the interdependence between her town and the surrounding farming community, which shaped her commitment to giving back.

“We were just a small group of kids trekking to school — some even on horseback,” Ashwell said. “It was the type of place where you learned to appreciate people, hard work, and looking out for each other.”

Though she originally worked as a nurse, Ashwell’s path pivoted and she became an office administrator, eventually earning an Arts degree with a major in English in 1985. This encouraged her to join the office Toastmasters group and later contribute by editing a church newsletter. Her nursing experience was especially useful during the 15 years she worked as a Home Care worker, caring for clients in their homes.

Throughout a winding career, one constant in Ashwell’s life has been the church. Now worshipping in Edmonton, Ashwell says: “The church has been so important to me — not just in how I understand God, but in how I understand the world.” It was through the church that she found a community of women who knit items for people experiencing homelessness, and it’s also where she first learned about the work of Alongside Hope.

Over the years, Ashwell has opened her home to boarders from around the world, including newcomers to Canada



“I may not know exactly where the money will go — but I trust it will be used well, and that it will help people who need it most.”

— some of whom stayed for years. Her openness to others is deeply rooted in her belief in human connection and community-building. “We’re not meant to hoard what we have,” she shared. “We’re meant to share it. It’s how the world works best.”

A memory from her travels illustrates this beautifully. While visiting Jamaica, Ashwell came across a group of children swimming in a hidden pool, far from the busier parts

of the city. “They were happy, curious kids,” she laughed. “But what stuck with me most was their joy. Real joy. We can learn so much from people when we step outside of our own world.”

Now, Ashwell is continuing that spirit of generosity by leaving a legacy gift to Alongside Hope. Her motivation for the gift is simple: “We have a responsibility to help each other, especially those living in poverty. I may not know exactly where the money will go — but I trust it will be used well, and that it will help people who need it most.”

For Ashwell, the injustice of the distribution of wealth weighs heavily on her. She believes deeply that the church and its community must do more to support the vulnerable. “God doesn’t ask us to be rich. He asks us to care for the poor, seek justice, to be generous. And if we really understood that we’d act differently.”

When asked what gives her hope for the future, Ashwell’s answer is both simple and profound: the next generation’s capacity to build communities. “There are still people out there who want to do good,” she said. “People who understand that we need to work together — not against each other. That’s what gives me hope.”

To anyone considering leaving a legacy gift, Ashwell doesn’t hesitate: “Just do it. You can’t take anything with you. Make plans for after you’re gone — and make sure those plans help someone else. It’s one of the most powerful things you can do.”

To learn more about making a legacy gift to Alongside Hope, please contact Manita Swati, Planned Giving and Major Gifts Specialist, at mawati@alongsidehope.org.



Thanks to you

ANGLICAN PARISHES ACROSS CANADA ARE SUPPORTING **ALONGSIDE HOPE** — AND MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!

By Abdi Ali, Supporter Relations Program Officer



Alongside Hope wants to hear from you!

Please share your fundraising success stories to inspire others and to spread the word about the good work you have done! Email info@alongsidehope.org and tell us all about it. Many thanks to all of our donors.



To Ukraine with love

At St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Langley, B.C., creativity and generosity came together to support children affected by the war in Ukraine. Parishioner Alison Minto designed a visual reminder to track the campaign's progress. Each Sunday, Heather Clarke and Heather Peart stood at the back of the church with a donation jar, inviting parishioners to give. For every \$60 donated, another "child" was added to the poster. When it was announced they were just \$75 short of \$2,000, the community quickly surpassed the goal. In the end, St. Andrew's raised more than \$3,200 to support the Ukrainian children's camp featured in Alongside Hope's **World of Gifts**.



Rice and shine

At St. Alban's Anglican Church in Grand Bank, Nfld., Lent is marked with a cherished tradition: the annual rice supper that has grown in both creativity and popularity over the years. After a weekly Lenten service, parishioners shared a meal organized by the ACW's Worship, Education and Mission Committee. What began as "plain rice" years ago has become a diverse and tasty spread of fried rice, baked rice, salads and desserts. This year, the supper raised \$570 for Alongside Hope, supporting partners around the world working to improve **food security, health, and livelihoods**.



Bearing witness and sharing hope

"It was hard to watch — but I felt I had to be here." That was the feeling at St. Clement's Anglican Church in North Vancouver, where 100 people gathered to view *Where Olive Trees Weep*, a documentary on life in Palestine. The evening included a garden reception with Middle Eastern food, a land acknowledgment and prayer by Squamish Nation Elders, and a welcome from the Rev. Helen Dunn. The film's powerful testimonies were followed by a panel with Jewish, Christian and Palestinian voices, underscoring that advocacy for Palestinians is a call to justice. The event also introduced Alongside Hope's **Gaza and West Bank Emergency Response Fund**, which resonated with attendees as a hopeful and accessible name.



From tiny grains, a big result

St. Matthew Parish in Abbotsford, B.C. demonstrated that small congregations can make a big impact. During Lent, parishioners raised \$3,443 for Alongside Hope's **Canadian Foodgrains Bank equity account**. Jet Takaoka, a representative of the Foodgrains Bank, spoke about global food insecurity — affecting more than 700 million people — and shared how relief efforts bring hope to children, families and farmers around the world. In a time of changing economics and international cutbacks, this generous gift will be matched as much as 4:1 through the Government of Canada.



Crafting for a cause!

Now in its fourth year, Alongside Hope's **Wild Ride** invited participants across Canada to celebrate the summer sun while raising funds to install Solar Suitcases in health clinics in Mozambique and Madagascar. The Solar Suitcase is a bright yellow case connected to a rooftop solar panel. It includes LED lights, head lamps, phone charging outlets, a fetal Doppler, and more. With these tools, health care providers can safely deliver babies at night, and mothers are more likely to seek care. At St. Paul's Anglican Church in Thunder Bay, Jasmine Sandham raised money by holding a six-hour "art bee". Motivated by her sister's high-risk birth and her desire to support women, Sandham was one of who turned their passion into purpose!



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Name: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

I have enclosed a one-time gift of

☐ \$40 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$500 ☐ other \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to Alongside Hope or provide credit card information.

Please circle credit card type:



Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

OR

☐ I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ _____ by credit card (info at left)

☐ I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ _____ by pre-authorized chequing to be withdrawn on

☐ 1st of month ☐ 16th of month

Please enclose a personal cheque marked "Void."

Mail your gift to:

Alongside Hope
80 Hayden St., 3rd floor
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

OR

To donate by phone, please call toll-free at 1-866-308-7973. (Do not leave credit card information in a voice message.)

Learn more at www.alongsidehope.org



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world

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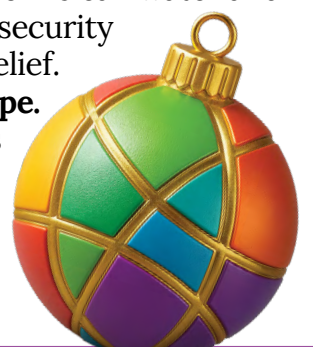
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