

Thank you for your monthly contribution to Mercy Corps.

August 2013

Dear Holly,

When I take a business trip or a family vacation, I know where I'm going, how long I'll be gone and when I expect to come home. Most of the time I choose my destination. But even when someone else picks the place, I can easily get information about what I will need, pack appropriately and make sure my home, pets and garden are cared for while I am away. I imagine that you can usually organize your travel, too.



Just for a moment, imagine that you live in Syria. You're awakened in the middle of the night by booming explosions just outside your home. You are terrified. They are way too close and way too dangerous. So you rouse your family, grab a handful of belongings — and run. You don't know where you are headed or how you will get there. You have no idea when — or if — you will ever return.

That's what life has been like for more than 1.5 million Syrian people in recent months. With so many families fleeing the violence in their homeland, the refugee crisis is looking to be the worst in history.

To these frightened mothers and fathers and children, your friendship has been a lifeline. They arrived in refugee camps and host communities with next to nothing — and they found support and supplies that came from you. **Thanks to your monthly support of \$5.00, you are helping them meet their daily needs.**

You are providing shelter and supplies: families who lost everything are receiving essentials like clothing, blankets, mattresses and baby care supplies — and we are renovating buildings to provide safer shelter.

You are supplying water: we are digging wells to distribute water in a refugee camp and renovating city water systems so that host communities have the water they need in the future.

You are creating safe places for children: we are building playgrounds, organizing sports activities and making sure that kids in refugee camps have safe spaces to play — we also are supporting children who have suffered through traumatic experiences so they can heal and recover.

In addition to making life more bearable for people on the run who were forced to leave their security and comfort behind, we also are working to ease tensions and promote cooperation between refugees and their host communities.

This is the story of your values in action. You have shown your compassion and caring for normal mothers and fathers and children who woke up in terror — and your commitment to protecting them during a period of chaotic uncertainty. Thank you.

When I think about the trips I have taken, I always remember the times when my plans fell apart and I had to depend on the kindness of a stranger. Offering hospitality to guests is an ancient custom that's honored in every country and culture. When you're on the road and in trouble, you are vulnerable. And there is **nothing more comforting** than an open door, an open hand, an open heart.

Thank you for being that open door. You are no longer a stranger, but their friend.

Your Partner In Mercy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan O'Neill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan O'Neill
Founder

If you'd like to change your donation amount or update your credit card, you can reach a donor services representative by email at monthlygiving@mercy Corps.org, or by phone at 1-888-842-0842. (Please do not send credit card numbers by email.)

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