Jordan says, “Thank you!”
You provided food in the midst of a family crisis

Crisis Aid International believes in communities helping their own communities. Neighbors helping their own neighbors.

This spring and summer in the St. Louis metro area, unemployment suddenly jumped from 50,000—where it had been stable for a few years—to over 150,000 people. It has now leveled out at 116,000 people.*

How can we help these neighbors? By building the relationships necessary for long-term community transformation.

Prior to the pandemic, the Crisis Aid food program was providing for 165 families per distribution. Since March, Crisis Aid has expanded to work with 20 local organizations in different parts of St. Louis to provide the groceries they need to help their neighbors.

Through these community partners, you and donors like you have provided groceries to 2,000 families every two weeks. Families like Jordan’s.

* https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag_mo_stlouis_msa.htm#eag_mo_stlouis_msa1.1

Jordan is a sweet little 5-year-old girl. Her grandma had a stroke last year. The extra help with groceries really removes some of the pressure and stress of family life in the midst of a difficult time when they’ve needed to focus on healthcare.

- Darlene, partner organization representative

One food box at a time, one connection at a time, each relationship adds another branch within a local web of support. Because building relationships with our neighbors, heals us.
Food for Roblee impacts a family, a church and a community

Neighbors helping neighbors is also key in East Africa. That’s why we’re so delighted to have a local group of volunteers—many of whom are pastors and leaders in their own communities—who are traveling the region to identify where Crisis Aid can have the most impact, and how to reach the most vulnerable.

One of the people our volunteers met was Roblee.

Roblee’s father was a witch doctor, and growing up Roblee was expected to continue the family legacy of witchcraft. Living in such a family context, his early adult years included hard drinking, sexual abuse of women coming for witchcraft counseling, violence and cruelty. But when he first heard a traveling preacher, he decided to change his ways. His family, in turn, rejected him. Roblee had to run away to another village to escape the ongoing persecution and threats to his life.

When Crisis Aid volunteers met him, Roblee had created a new life: he’s married with two children. He’s pastoring a new church he founded. He earned a living by renting a sewing machine on market days. But with the advent of COVID-19, the market days ended and he’s had no income. He is a pillar of his community, a connector and encourager, but he and his family were in dire straits.

Crisis Aid has committed to feed his family for six months until he can find an alternate source of income. We’re teaching him and his family about COVID prevention, so they, in their influence as pillars in their community, can educate others. True to his nature, he has shared all he’s received with others in his community.
You are continuing this work

This summer, you and other donors enabled Crisis Aid to complete the pediatric hospital at the TESIFA Complex ahead of schedule, convert Mercy Chapel to an isolation stabilization clinic, and work in conjunction with local schools and hospitals to help people with COVID-19 in East Africa. **Since May 2020, staff have cared for over 4,500 patients** with symptoms ranging from mild flu to extreme respiratory failure.

Unfortunately, in East Africa it has been extremely difficult to purchase the standard medicines and respiratory equipment necessary for a full, COVID-supporting medical unit. The team is therefore continuing their patient care as best they can, while also working to prioritize prevention.

We are expanding plans so we can reach 12,000 local households (approximately 60,000 people) with extensive health education and masks & hygiene kits.

Prevention also requires a stable immune system, which requires proper nutrition. With the pressure of COVID illnesses and job losses, and the fact that the TESIFA Complex now has a pediatric hospital and COVID isolation ward, droves of people have come for help this summer. On top of the 4,800 people per month that TESIFA typically supports, we’ve provided food for an additional 5,120 people per month. This is over 9,900 people receiving food assistance each month.

**In order to meet this need, we constructed a commercial grain mill ahead of schedule.** With the addition of chickpeas to the more common wheat and corn blend, we have created a more complex protein to provide better nutritional support. It will be cheaper to purchase the grains in pre-processed bulk, and we can provide more jobs at the TESIFA Complex, hiring local people to do the work.

Thank you for your support. By helping a neighbor, you’ve helped a neighborhood.
Thank you for letting me help others!

- Maureen, a distribution volunteer who, in the midst of her own battle with cancer, has found joy in helping neighbors get access to much-needed groceries

Serving as a church body in this way has made evangelism easy. Each time we do distribution, we have hundreds of people coming through our parking lot, and we get to connect and remind them that God loves them. And this work opens up connections with other community leaders who are their own hubs of support. Thank you for helping us do this very practical thing for our community.

- Angela, local pastor of a partnering church

We have a lot of refugee families in our community who don’t have transportation, so we’ve recruited about 130 volunteers to help deliver the Crisis Aid groceries. The box of groceries being delivered is a huge blessing to these families, but it’s also a blessing to our volunteers, connecting with these new neighbors.

- Taylor, partner organization representative