

# LEADER'S GUIDE

## Blankets • Tools



## ***A word about leadership***

You're reading this guide because where there is need, you see opportunities for compassionate response. You envision a world in which people love and care for each other, and no one walks away from those in need thinking, "someone else can help them." So you step in, step up and find a way to help.

And we are so very grateful for your efforts.

That's why, in this guide, you'll find information, tools and resources to help you do what leaders do. Share your vision. Inspire others. And motivate those in your congregation and your sphere of influence to aid and empower people struggling through times of crisis or adversity.

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### **Imagine the possibilities**

- \$250** can provide warm blankets for five families left homeless by a tornado.
  - \$450** can provide refugees resettling far from their homelands the gardening tools and materials to build six small raised beds for vegetables.
  - \$750** can provide sewing machines and training for three women, empowering them to earn an income and feed their families.
  - \$1,100** can provide 10 displaced families with emergency food packages that will feed a family of five for one month.
  - \$2,500** can provide 250 blankets to an agency serving homeless individuals and families in the U.S.
  - \$6,250** can provide a sand dam that gives an entire community a source of clean water year round.
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## How does your congregation's support change lives?

Contributions to CWS Blankets and CWS Tools mean Church World Service will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement. What's more, we'll be there to help people gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to build – or rebuild – sustainable lives and communities.

### *Some ways your support plays out in real life:*

- Through homeless shelters and warming stations that offered warm CWS Blankets and relief for individuals during dangerously cold weather like the arctic blast that hit the Midwest in January 2014.
- Through CWS relief and recovery assistance to communities in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio and Kentucky following a November 2013 outbreak of tornadoes, hail and high winds.
- Through tools, seeds and microcredit loans for members of CWS-supported agricultural co-ops in rural, poverty-prone communities in Haiti.

*Food cooperatives in Haiti's Northwest and Artibonite regions face challenges every season. But they're also meeting the challenge of providing food for their members and their families. "It means life to us," said Elvius St. Fulis, a member of one of the co-ops.*



Haiti, Chris Herlinger/CWS



U.S., Matt Hackworth/CWS

- Through the 11,400 CWS Blankets sent to relief agencies and churches in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia and Pennsylvania for people impacted by Hurricane Sandy. And through CWS disaster-recovery workshops attended by more than 1,200 people in affected communities.

*At a Franklin Township, N.J., food bank, Lavilla Thompson received a CWS Blanket. Her family's electrical service was intermittent in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. "This will help keep my kids warm," Thompson said. See Lavilla's story, told through a sign language interpreter, on the new CWS Blankets/Tools DVD.*

- Through fishing boats that are helping fishermen like Ahmad Syarif build sustainable livelihoods and provide for their families.

*Using boats provided with the help of CWS, Ahmad Syarif and fellow members of the Tolong Menolong Fishers Group have strengthened both their earning potential and their resilience.*



Indonesia, Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance



# Simple steps

## for organizing a CWS Blankets and/or CWS Tools offering

- 1. Set a date.** You may want to plan your event around Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas or other holiday, and focus on blankets and emergency assistance or on tools and sustainable development. Or think ahead of the need, and hold an offering *before* heavy storm seasons.
- 2. Set a goal** and challenge your congregation or group to meet it. Some groups aim for \$10 multiplied by the number of members. You can also set a goal using the "possibilities" list on page 1.
- 3. Order materials from CWS.** Use the yellow order card listing our new free bulletin inserts, posters, offering envelopes and other items. Order online at **[cwsglobal.org/blanketorder](http://cwsglobal.org/blanketorder)**, or call **800-297-1516**. Please order at least three weeks before your event.
- 4. Get children, youths and young adults involved.** Ask your youth group to raise funds by holding a car wash, a bake sale, or other event. Invite the kids in your children's ministry to make cookies or crafts to sell to raise money.

*In Rochester, N. Y., the Country Kids Bake Sale raised money to help send CWS Blankets, water and emergency supplies to communities around the world hit by disaster. These kids have been raising money for four years, working toward a greater good.*



U.S., Kim Kennedy

## 5. Promote your offering/event.

- Put up posters in entryways and gathering spaces.
- Prior to the event, use bulletin inserts and/or offering envelopes in your bulletins, newsletters and/or pews.
- Include an article or announcement in your newsletter, emails and website.
- Create a display to show progress toward your goal or to highlight blankets, seeds, tools, water and other assistance for people in need.
- Present a minute for mission and include related themes in sermons, music and children's activities.
- Show a video from the CWS Blankets and Tools DVD – during fellowship time, meetings, youth group and other events.

## New resources available!

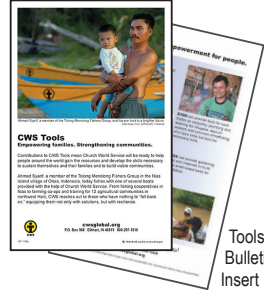
With beautiful imagery and stories of lives changed through your support, these new resources will help inspire and inform your congregation or group.

**DVD**, featuring:

- *A Blanket Helped Lavilla*
- *Tools Change Lives*
- *Women and Water in Rural Kenya*
- *State of Grace*
- *We Help Through CWS*
- *CWS: Blankets, Tools and So Much More*



DVD



Tools Bulletin Insert

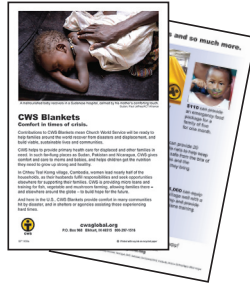
Now you can choose from two versions of the following materials to help tailor your offering to CWS Blankets or CWS Tools:

**Bulletin Inserts** (2-sided)

**Posters**

**Gift Cards** (not shown)

**Offering Envelopes** (not shown)



Blankets Bulletin Insert



Posters

CWS also provides:

**Sample CWS Blankets**

**Online resources:**

- Children's sermons
- Minutes for Mission
- Skits and activities
- Prayers



**For more CWS resources or to place an order, send in the enclosed order card or visit [cwsglobal.org/blanketorder](http://cwsglobal.org/blanketorder).**

## After your offering

- Send your check, made payable to Church World Service, in the remittance envelope provided or in an envelope addressed to: Church World Service, Blankets/Tools, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. *Please note CWS Blankets or CWS Tools on the check's memo line.*
- Share photos and ideas from your CWS Blankets or Tools celebration with us!
- Keep CWS in mind whenever disasters occur, and help us stay prepared to respond immediately.

## Worship Resources

# Minutes for Mission

### ***Reaching out to flood survivors***

When heavy rains brought deadly flooding to Colorado in fall 2013, thousands of families were evacuated, their homes damaged or destroyed, their roads and bridges torn up. CWS sent blankets and other emergency supplies to several Colorado communities, to help survivors deal with the disaster and begin the task of recovery. Among them are Lourdes and Carmen Romero, who received blankets from CWS partner Adventist Community Services' disaster relief center in Loveland.



U.S., Adventist Community Services

### ***A garden for every family***

For the Weenhayek people in the Bolivian Chaco, fishing is the traditional livelihood. But after an environmental issue dramatically decreased the fish population of the Pilcomayo River, Emeterio Torres and his family had to find other means to survive.

“The fish in the river used to give us life,” says Emeterio. “When we fished, we could send our children to school, we had enough to eat. All that has changed now. We were completely lost, but this project has helped us find a new path.” With support from CWS, Emeterio and others are developing kitchen gardens to help feed their families.

This CWS agricultural project also benefits two other communities in the region and involves approximately 25 families and 200 people. “I had no idea how to prepare the soil and seedbeds or develop organic pesticide,” says Emeterio, who now grows lettuces, spring onions, swiss chard, carrots, zucchini and radishes. “We want to ensure that every Weenhayek family has its own garden.”



Bolivia, CWS

## Prayers

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous,  
teach me to serve you as I should,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and ask not for reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your most holy will.

St. Ignatius Loyola - 16th century

### ***Prayer of the Farm Workers' Struggle***

Show me the suffering of the most miserable;  
So I will know my people's plight.

Free me to pray for others;  
For you are present in every person.

Help me take responsibility for my own life;  
So that I can be free at last.

Grant me courage to serve others;  
For in service there is true life.

Give me honesty and patience;  
So that the Spirit will be alive among us.

Let the Spirit flourish and grow;  
So that we will never tire of the struggle.

Let us remember those who have died for justice;  
For they have given us life.

Help us love even those who hate us;  
So we can change the world.

*Amen.*

César E. Chávez © César E. Chávez Foundation

# Worship Resources

## Skit

### ***What a blanket can do***

Narrator/spokesperson and three other individuals, representing a homeless person, a refugee mother and an earthquake survivor. Narrator has his/her own blanket from childhood; others pass a CWS Blanket to each other throughout their portions of the skit. [Refugee mom has some items at her feet that might include a sweater, some socks, a book, a photo, etc.]

**Narrator:** This is my blanket from when I was very young. I don't remember when I got it, but it's been around for a long time. My mom tells me it was my constant companion during those early years. I know it comforted me when I was scared of the dark. It kept me warm on cold nights. (*Chuckling*) It was a *very* important part of the forts I built in the living room. And it helped me carry all my favorite toys around the house ... A blanket does a lot of things. And not just for me.

**Homeless person:** Imagine you are homeless, and winter is coming. You wonder how you'll stay warm and dry.

**Narrator:** (*handing homeless person a CWS blanket*) A blanket will help. (*Homeless person wraps it around him/herself.*)

**Refugee mom:** Imagine you are a mother with two kids, and the civil conflict in the region where you live is getting more frequent, more intense – and closer to home. You decide that to protect yourself and your family, you need to flee ... quickly.

**Homeless person:** (*handing refugee mom the blanket*) A blanket will help. (*Refugee wraps items at her feet in the blanket. Unwraps them during next story.*)

**Earthquake survivor:** Imagine your home and almost everything in it is destroyed by an earthquake. You now sleep in a makeshift community with hundreds of other people who've also become homeless. There is little privacy.

**Refugee mom:** (*holds up the blanket between herself and earthquake survivor*) A blanket will help. (*Earthquake survivor pulls off a sweater, revealing a t-shirt – representing changing clothes.*)

**Narrator:** See, a blanket does a lot of things. (*Refugee mom wraps blanket around homeless person's shoulders.*)

**Homeless person:** It provides warmth. (*Hands blanket back to refugee mom*)

**Refugee mom:** It can be a suitcase when you have to leave unexpectedly. (*Gives blanket to earthquake survivor*)

**Earthquake survivor:** (*folding blanket into a pillow*) It can be your bed or your pillow and can even give you some privacy.



**Narrator:** Whatever else a blanket can be, it is most certainly a sign of generosity, a sign of loving care, a very real sign of compassion. You probably won't meet the people who receive the blankets you give. But you can be sure your compassion will be remembered for a long time.

Even when they've become worn out or too small or they're simply put away after winter has passed, those blankets will remain a tangible reminder to our most vulnerable neighbors that someone was thinking of them ...

**Homeless person:** ... someone cared enough to keep me warm ...

**Refugee mom:** ... someone understood how hard it was to leave my home ...

**Earthquake survivor:** ... someone offered me comfort and shelter.

**All together:** Thank you ... for supporting CWS Blankets.

## Activity

### ***'Cover the Court' – with blankets!***

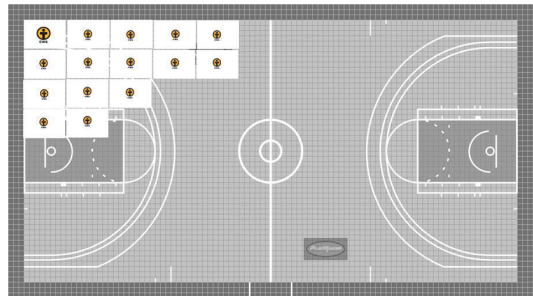
Here's a great fundraising concept created by a group of students from Defiance College in Ohio to raise money in response to Hurricane Sandy. They used the dimensions of the school's basketball court and figured out how many CWS Blankets it would take to cover it – multiplying that number by the blanket cost (\$10 each) to set their goal.

Don't have a gym? Ask your local YMCA or schools. Or think outside the box! You

could also use the dimensions of a tennis court, a football field, an airplane hangar or some other large space. And even though "cover the court" was developed by students, any group could do a fundraiser using this concept.

You can raise funds through direct donations or the 'sale' of a blanket to help cover your designated area. Or create a fundraising event around the concept – for example, a dance at the gym with a ticket price equal to a CWS Blanket.

***Find out more about this creative fundraising idea and others at [cwsglobal.org/blankets](http://cwsglobal.org/blankets).***



*Illustration not to scale. A heavyweight CWS Blanket measures 5.5' by 8'.*

## Worship Resources

# Children's Sermon

### ***Blanket Transformations***

Props: a CWS Blanket and items to fold into the blanket

Have you ever been really cold? What was that like? Did your teeth chatter? (demonstrate) When you're cold, would this be helpful to have? (hold up blanket)

What is this? That's right, it's a blanket.

What do you do with a blanket? You wrap it around you to keep warm. But this is no ordinary blanket – it's a Transformer Blanket! Just like those Transformers in the movies, it can change into other things – to be used in other ways.

Can you think of any other ways you might use this blanket? (pause for ideas) Well, for example ... (demonstrate)

Folded up, it can be a pillow.

Open it up and put things into it, and it can be a suitcase.

Put it over your head, and it can be a tent (gather some children under the blanket to help hold up the edges).

For people who have gone through a disaster, like a flood or a tornado, a blanket might be used in all of these ways. That's why blankets are such an important way to help people in need – and part of the reason we are taking an offering for CWS Blankets.

The warmth of a blanket serves a very valuable purpose – sometimes many purposes – but it also tells people who are hurting that someone cares about them. It's like a hug made out of cloth!

Blankets are just one of the many ways Church World Service helps people in need. So when we give blankets, we're helping families around the world who are going through hard times.

And when we help them, our hearts get bigger, we feel better, and we feel more connected to the rest of the world.

So we get transformed in the process, too!

## ***Finally, water close to home***

Yafeti Hia, a father of five, no longer worries about finding time to collect water. CWS has helped his family and their neighbors build a well in their village of Gunung Tua, Indonesia.

“Prior to the well, my wife and I had to walk 500 meters to carry water,” says Yafeti. Working at a rubber plantation and caring for their kids left little time, and they sometimes went without water. Now there is not only plenty of water for daily needs, but also time for work and family. “We are so glad for this well and CWS support.”



Indonesia, CWS

## ***We want to hear from you!***

**Please share your ideas and photos from your offering or event supporting CWS Blankets and Tools. If you’ve had great fun and great success with a creative approach or a long-standing tradition, we’d love to be able to share that with others who may want to adapt it for their event.**

**Remember to include with any photos as much information as possible about the subject matter and where and when the photo was taken. Don’t forget to include the name of the photographer as well.**

***Send your stories and photos to:***

**Church World Service  
Blankets and Tools  
P.O. Box 968  
Elkhart, IN 46515**





Dominican Republic, Matt Hackworth/CWS  
Cover photo: Sudan, Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance



**CWS**

**Church World Service**

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**800-297-1516**