

**BREAD FOR THE WORLD** is a Christian advocacy organization urging decision makers to support policies and programs to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

*2022 Successes Are Making a Difference*

# Thanks to You, They Are Fed

Last year, you and other Bread for the World members were generous in giving and active in communicating with Congress. Your efforts helped persuade Congress to pass several pieces of landmark legislation.

The passage in October 2022 of the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act will perhaps have the biggest long-term impact on hunger. With better coordination and accountability, our nation's global nutrition programs will become more effective in ending the malnutrition that contributes to 1 in 5 childhood deaths.

Bread for the World also played a role in the decision by the administration in late July of last year to get more emergency food to children suffering severe wasting in hunger-torn Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

For hungry children in our own country, the Keep Kids Fed Act temporarily increased federal reimbursement for school meals. The bill provides additional flexibility to schools so they can get meals to as many children as possible.

In 2022, Congress passed measures that support climate-smart agricultural practices here in the United States. Reducing greenhouse emissions is critical to sustaining agriculture when climate change threatens the livelihood of more and more people.

"These measures are important, but much more needs to be done," says Heather Valentine, Bread for the World's director of government relations. "People in the Horn of Africa are facing the worst drought in 40 years. And around the world, nearly half of all deaths among young children are due to malnutrition."

To address the global hunger crisis,

Bread for the World's 2023 Offering of Letters is urging Congress to re-authorize the Farm Bill. Dozens of regional meetings are taking place to build political will for Congress to act. Bread staff have been meeting with key leaders and committees to move this legislation forward.

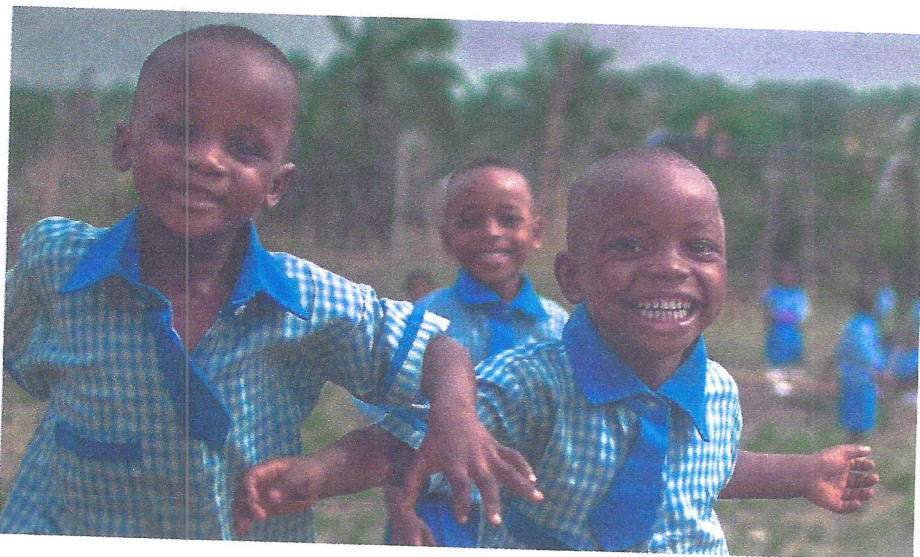
Nearly three-fourths of the bill's funding supports nutrition programs in our own country and abroad. Increasing access to these programs, improving the nutritional value of the foods provided, and greater flexibility for programs like Food for Peace—all will go a long way to turning back the rise of hunger in our own country and overseas.

You—and your congregation or other group—can take part in Bread for the World's 2023 Offering of Letters. Extensive resources are available at [Bread.org/OL](http://Bread.org/OL).

▶ You and other Bread for the World members helped persuade Congress to pass legislation that is providing the nutrition children around the world need to grow and thrive.

## ACT NOW!

Call 800-826-3688 or write to your members of Congress. Ask them to support and pass a Farm Bill that does more to reduce hunger in the U.S. and around the world.



# Bread Member Uses Networks to Help End Hunger

**D**ennis Demmel knows the value of networks. Whether it's serving as board president of the Center for Rural Affairs, chairing the Nebraska Community Foundation's Perkins County Fund, or calling his representatives in Congress, the semi-retired farmer believes in networks creating positive change.

As long ago as 1971, Dennis took part in the Walk for Development. It was the largest nationally coordinated walkathon up to that time, with over 150,000 walkers throughout the nation trekking over 2 million miles, raising over \$1.2 million to fight hunger.

A lifelong Nebraskan, Dennis grew up on a farm. At the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, he met his future wife, Ruth Ann. She and Dennis settled and raised their children in southwest Nebraska, where Ruth grew up.

Not long after Bread for the World was formed, Bread founder Art Simon visited First Lutheran Church in Omaha, where Dennis and Ruth were members. "He spoke on how Bread would gather people who would meet with their elected officials to change policy," Dennis remembers. "Serving our fellow members in Christ. I had been writing letters to Congress on peace and justice issues since the late '60s. It was a natural choice to join Bread."

When Ruth's parents neared retirement, Dennis began managing their grain and livestock farm, emphasizing sustainable farming. He evolved the business to organic certification.

Seven years ago, the Demmels transferred the business to a younger couple, part of a network of younger people looking for older farmers considering retirement.

In Nebraska where the Demmels live, drought has posed a threat for many years. In response to hotter, drier

days, forward-thinkers like Dennis are focused on the way we will farm and live in the future.

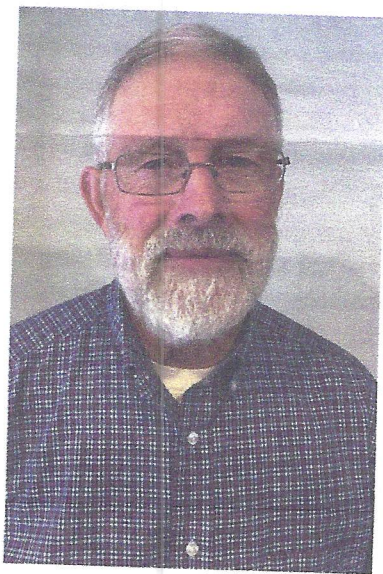
"After several years of drought, I am interested in innovations like biochar," he says. The charcoal-like substance is made from burning organic materials in a low or zero-oxygen environment. Biochar can potentially increase the amount of water the soil stores, retain nutrients, and enhance microbial life for better soil health and productivity.

**D**ennis says he admires the way Bread for the World leverages impact through its many networks. And he appreciates Bread's focus on legislation to meet the challenge of world hunger.

"They make it easy to use sample talking points and tailor them," Dennis adds. He favors telephoning his senator's office about the issues he cares about. "Recently, there was legislation that passed extending funding for summer meals for kids," he remembers. "Another was local and regional food development in other countries. Bread made the case for funding local growers rather than shipping food."

The Demmels' three children are grown, with families of their own. Dennis and Ruth have eight grandchildren. The two are active members of Trinity Lutheran Church of rural Ogallala. Ruth serves in the women's Bible study group, while Dennis supports the congregation's missionary ministry. Ruth has worked as a physician for 40 years and continues to help countless community members. Dennis serves on local and regional boards and networks. In his free time, he enjoys reading, landscaping, and visiting restaurants with Ruth.

Recently, Dennis and Ruth decided to include Bread for the World in their estate plans, along with other charitable organizations that reflect their values. "Bread points out that our government has the potential to provide much more than churches can ever do," Dennis says. "As far as the big picture, it's just a much larger project."



**Dennis Demmel**

PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS DEMMEL

*Convocation of Leaders from Africa, Europe, and North America*

# Christian Leaders Unite on Climate Change and Hunger

In October 2022, a historic two-day event brought together nearly 70 faith leaders from the United States, Europe, and Africa to discuss how our changing global climate exacerbates global hunger—and the role the global faith community can play in advocating for solutions.

Bread for the World organized this Convocation on Climate and Hunger, and the event was hosted by the All Africa Conference of Churches.

During the convocation, attendees issued “A Faithful Voice on Hunger and Climate Justice,” a powerful statement of resolve to work together. The statement reads, “As Christians from Africa, Europe, and North America, we share a fierce resolve to stand and work together to end the hunger crisis made worse by climate instability, to renew God’s creation, and to bring our planet into balance, forming a beloved community in which all of creation can thrive.”

Abiola Afolayan, co-director of Bread for the World’s policy and research institute, set up site visits in advance of the convocation. When the delegation from the United States and Europe arrived, they had the opportunity to witness firsthand the struggles and innovations taking place in Kenya.

“The impact of research and data on food security has not been prominent,” said Afolayan. “Our job is to pay attention to what the poultry farmer is telling us about an indigenous breed of chicken known for their tropical adaptability and disease resistance.”

There was also a visit to Food 4 Education, which operates four kitchens and serves over one million meals every single month. Convocation attendees learned how this work is informed by data around climate safe practices. Another farmer is maximizing her yields of cassava, sweet potatoes, kale, and avocado by using simple irrigation methods, rather than relying on rainfall. Simple practices are enabling people to thrive and feed their families.

The African continent is at high risk to the impacts of climate change. Seven of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change are in Africa. Prolonged drought, extreme heat, flooding, new pests that destroy crops, and powerful storms are some of these risks.

The statement issued by the convocation has received broad publicity in social and traditional media and has



PHOTO © SARAH ROBINSON

**In a convocation organized by Bread for the World, participants visit a research lab at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in Nairobi, Kenya.**

been called “bold and prophetic.” It was sent to the 27th annual Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.

“This document reflects a commitment of the religious leaders to subscribe to data and research when addressing food insecurity, poverty, and hunger. It is already being used as an organizing tool in signatory countries,” said Afolayan.

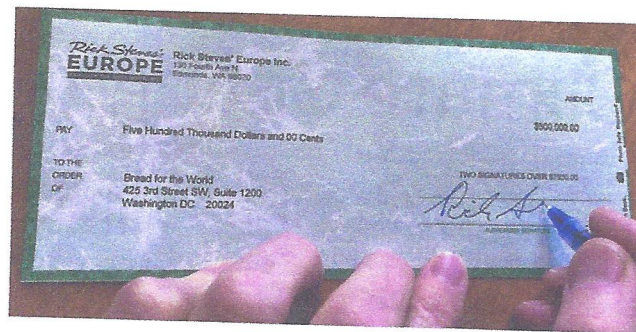
Jordan Teague, the other co-director of Bread’s policy and research institute, helped organize the convocation. “We from the United States and Europe came to Kenya in a posture of humility and solidarity with our brothers and sisters on the African continent who are working on climate change and hunger,” said Teague. “We are honored to partner with so many on this joint advocacy.”

Larisa Friesen Hall, Bread’s vice president for development, sees the convocation as a key component of the organization’s work to end hunger. “Bread for the World realizes that the activist and policy communities working on hunger and climate change are often separate—and that Bread is uniquely situated to help bridge these two,” she says. “We can help catalyze, connect, and amplify the voices and work of farmers at risk as a result of climate change.”

To read the full statement, please go online to: [Bread.org/Convo-Statement](https://bread.org/Convo-Statement).

# Rick Steves' Match Met — More Than \$1.34 Million Raised!

Nearly 5,000 Bread for the World members gave more than \$580,000 in response to Rick Steves' 2022 matching gift challenge. With Rick's \$500,000 match and \$260,000 in matching funds from other Bread members, that's more than \$1.34 million to sustain our work together to end hunger. Thanks to all involved!



## Join the Baker's Dozen—and Help End Hunger All Year Long

You can join the nearly 4,000 Bread for the World members who make monthly gifts as part of the Baker's Dozen giving program. When you make monthly gifts, you help provide a predictable stream of income that sustains our efforts all year long. This year, we have an ambitious goal to add more than 1,000 new monthly donors.

Joining the Baker's Dozen is quick and easy. You choose the amount you wish to give each month—and you can change or cancel your pledge at any time.

Sign up today at [Bread.org/SpringBD](https://Bread.org/SpringBD) or complete and return the enclosed response form in the envelope provided. Thank you for taking this small step that will make a big difference in our work together to end hunger.

## Renew Your Membership Today

This time each year, you and all Bread for the World members are asked to renew your annual membership. Membership gifts are the single largest source of funding to support our work to win legislation that helps end hunger.

Your 2023 membership renewal gift will support our advocacy efforts with a new Congress to build the political will to end hunger and pass vital legislation like the Farm Bill. This bill provides funding for senior food assistance, programs to ensure that children have access to the nutrition they need, and so much more.

Our collective voice urging Congress to take action for an end to hunger is strongest when as many members as possible renew early in the year. If you haven't already, please renew your membership at [Bread.org/Renew](https://Bread.org/Renew).

## GET INVOLVED

Learn more about what you can do to help end hunger at [Bread.org/Act](https://Bread.org/Act). There you will find the latest information, tools, and resources. You will also learn how other Bread for the World members and churches are taking action.

**Stay up-to-date** with breaking news and the latest information on hunger and poverty by following Bread's social media. Share and like Bread posts and help grow the movement to end hunger!



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