

CNEWA

Annual Report 2022-2023

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), born of the compassionate vision of Pope Pius XI in 1926, stands as a beacon of healing and hope. The pope established CNEWA to support and uplift souls scattered across the storied yet turbulent lands of the ancient Eastern churches — territories spanning the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

For nearly a century, CNEWA has walked hand in hand with these resilient communities of faith. This enduring journey has been made possible by the boundless generosity of kind people such as you. In times of war, we have lifted our voices in prayer; in moments of sorrow, we have been a source of comfort. We have nourished the hungry, healed the wounded and offered sanctuary to the displaced. Together, we have built up these communities, fortifying them, all to radiate the love of Christ. They, in turn, have consoled the despondent, nursed the ill, fed the starving, clothed the bare, sheltered the forsaken, educated the young and cultivated the leaders of tomorrow.

CNEWA's mission is serious in its simplicity: Follow in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan to “go and do likewise,” mending the fractures of our world in body and in spirit.





But how? In such a troubled world, in times of such strife and turbulence — from war-ravaged Ukraine and a divided Holy Land to the corrosive effects of protracted conflict in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and more — how can we meet the needs of so many?

CNEWA is a network of generous and compassionate people scattered throughout the Americas, Europe and beyond — individuals just like you — living Jesus' great command to love one's neighbor by reaching out to those in need, whether financially, through prayer or with old-fashioned hard work.

This network includes lay leaders, priests, sisters and bishops of the local churches, men and women who receive our aid and use it to touch countless lives in incalculable ways in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

In the years **2022** and **2023**, CNEWA distributed a total of **\$48,134,226** (\$26,213,303 in 2022 and \$21,920,923 in 2023) toward programs that accompany the church, address human needs, rush emergency relief and educate our friends and benefactors about the peoples and challenges of our world. All this is thanks to your generosity and prayerful support. Together, we are building up the church, affirming human dignity, alleviating poverty, encouraging dialogue and inspiring hope.

While our mission may be simple, the method is more complex. Read on to learn more.

WE BUILD THE CHURCH

Pius XI founded CNEWA to support the Eastern churches in their efforts to serve the world as they witness to and preach the Gospel of Jesus. Central to this commitment is our concern for leadership development — especially for those preparing for lives of service as priests, religious sisters and brothers, and as lay catechists and community leaders.

CNEWA also supports bishops, pastors and religious sisters with their outreach efforts. These pastoral works include university chaplaincies, prison ministries, summer Bible camps for youth, and counseling for refugees, migrants and the displaced. The Eastern churches cannot survive without those who accept the call to serve the Lord and his people as ministers.

Thanks to you, CNEWA committed **\$6,698,526** in **2022** and **\$7,039,807** in **2023** to help form men as priests, and women and men to serve as religious sisters and brothers, as well as to support the pastoral work of the churches, including programs of catechesis and formation in Catholic social teaching, such as:





- Summer Bible camp of the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Renovation of St. Elias Church in Alexandria, Egypt
- Catechetical programs for children and teens in rural India
- Pontifical Mission Community Center's work on behalf of Filipino migrant workers in Jordan.

Your gifts subsidized the formation of seminarians and novices for:

- 16 religious congregations in Eritrea
- 4 seminaries in Ethiopia
- 49 communities of men and women in India
- St. Peter's Seminary, the last functioning seminary in Iraq
- 7 seminaries in Lebanon
- The Greek Catholic Theological Seminary in Romania
- 3 seminaries in Ukraine, where seminarians not only minister to parishioners in churches but on the field of battle, too.

WE RESPOND TO HUMAN NEEDS

CNEWA stands alongside the Eastern churches as they address the profound human needs surrounding them. Although these challenges may seem insurmountable, CNEWA remains unwavering in its support, ensuring the churches' responses are effective, just and sustainable.

Our regional teams engage, listen and dialogue with church leaders, who are at the forefront of their communities' crisis response, health care, social services and educational initiatives. Through careful review and assessment, we work in lockstep to meet these critical needs, evaluating potential programs and projects by considering their sustainability, both short- and long-term impact, commitment to the common good, environmental stewardship and strict policy controls. These controls ensure fiscal transparency, accountability and the protection of children and vulnerable individuals.

Care for children

So much of CNEWA's work for decades has centered on the support of child care initiatives. These programs offer education, health care and safe environments for children whose parents can no longer provide. They offer opportunities where all children can experience





the necessary conditions for genuine growth among peers, thanks to well-trained and dedicated teachers, sisters and support staff. In their faces, we see a world of possibility and hope — and CNEWA is passionately devoted to ensuring the children we serve will know a better tomorrow.

Thanks to you, CNEWA provided **\$3,366,135** in **2022** and **\$3,048,651** in **2023** for child care activities, including funds for:

- Care of H.I.V.-positive children at the Kidane Mehret Children's Home in Ethiopia
- Tuition and support for hearing-impaired children at the Pope Paul VI Ephpheta School in Bethlehem
- School feeding programs for impoverished and malnourished children in Ethiopia
- Helping students build independence at the Daughters of St. Anne's School for the Blind in Azezo, Ethiopia
- Youth and day care centers administrated by Caritas Georgia
- Little Prince centers run by Caritas Armenia
- Food and science laboratory supplies for Catholic schools in Adigrat, Ethiopia.

Care for the vulnerable and marginalized

The care for the least fortunate lies at the core of CNEWA's mission. From sewing workshops for women who have survived abuse to equipping the chronic poor with skills to provide for their families; from supplying winter kits for isolated and impoverished pensioners in Eastern Europe to workshops and psychological counseling for human trafficking survivors, it was your kindness and generosity that enabled us to allocate **\$3,909,705** in **2022** and **\$3,812,213** in **2023** for programs that:

- Empowered women in Egypt with job skills training
- Provided nutritious meals for orphans and the elderly in Eritrea
- Offered prisoners in Ethiopia literacy and educational programs to reduce recidivism rates
- Funded preventative programs against human trafficking run by Talitha Kum's Wells of Hope ministry in Lebanon
- Gave heating supplies and home care for the elderly in Armenia
- Launched skills training workshops for women and girls in India
- Supported addiction rehabilitation centers and shelters for those with special needs in Ukraine.





Provide health care to the dispossessed

For those of us who can easily visit an emergency room or urgent care center whenever we fall ill, the idea of traveling hundreds of miles to the nearest hospital or clinic might seem unimaginable. For countless poor and marginalized people around the world, however, this is simply their reality of life.

Amidst this hardship, CNEWA is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of many people in need of medicine, for the body and the mind. We fund hospitals, medical clinics, dispensaries and other essential health care providers administered by the Eastern churches. And where we work, God is at work, too.

Thanks to you, CNEWA provided **\$2,387,544** in **2022** and **\$1,323,285** in **2023** for health care activities, including funds for:

- Supplies for the Adama St. Francis Catholic Health Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Essential medicines for Pawie St. Raphael Catholic Medium Clinic in Bahirdar-Dessie, Ethiopia
- Medical supplies for St. John Catholic Health Center of Burat, Ethiopia
- Equipping health care centers in Hosanna, Ethiopia
- Providing pre- and post-natal care at the Buccama St. Francis Catholic Health Center in Buccama, Ethiopia

WE RUSH EMERGENCY RELIEF

After the horror of 7 October 2023, the headlines from the Middle East represented something darker and grimmer than many individuals felt able to comprehend, let alone find ways to help. They told stories of families separated; stories of children malnourished and starving, their innumerable bodies dumped in mass graves to be counted and identified some other day; stories of at-risk elderly terrorized by bombings and shelling — the full horrors of war, in high-definition Technicolor — all stories that foretell the darkness that lies ahead for those who call home the place where the Prince of Peace was born.

We wish this were an isolated incident — that the evils of war, terrorism and conflict did not in some way touch the regions where CNEWA's work is centered. But the simple fact is violence and cruelty exist in bountiful amounts around our world. The ongoing warfare in Ukraine has displaced millions and has killed tens of thousands. More than 100,000 ethnic Armenians were displaced, driven from their communities that had been home for centuries. The Eastern churches are on the front lines of these wars, tending to the needs of all those in harm's way. CNEWA works with them to provide warmth, aid and psychosocial support, reaffirming the Christian commitment to support all those devastated by war.





But not only by war. In 2023, in Syria after the earthquake that left tens of thousands dead and millions more homeless and grievously injured, CNEWA assisted our on-the-ground partners, including the Blue Marists and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to provide bedding, food, medicine, milk, baby formula and diapers to families seeking shelter.

All told, the past two years have been soul-battering for so many, whether through open warfare or horrific natural disaster. The people we serve are tired. They are embattled and have suffered enormous losses, physical, financial and emotional. And yet, amidst this devastation, hope persists! Through the outpouring of donations in response to these tragedies, the immense generosity on display did not go unnoticed.

Thanks to you, CNEWA provided **\$7,757,410** in **2022** and **\$4,609,430** in **2023** for emergency relief, including funds for:

- Emergency food packages and potable water for those affected by war in Gaza
- Milk, diapers, temporary housing and other essential aid for earthquake survivors in Syria
- Humanitarian aid and ongoing psychosocial support for those affected by the war in Ukraine, especially children and families
- Emergency aid to displaced ethnic Armenian families from Nagorno-Karabakh.

WE INFORM AND INSPIRE

CNEWA has long been dedicated to educating people in the West about the churches, peoples and cultures of the East, as well as the significant societal challenges affecting our world since our founding nearly a hundred years ago.

For 50 years, CNEWA's magazine, *ONE*, has provided print and online readers with insights into the communities we are honored to serve. Our feature stories, videos and blog transport audiences to places seldom covered elsewhere, introducing them to men and women whose lives have been transformed. The Catholic Media Association has repeatedly recognized and awarded *ONE* and CNEWA's website and digital media for their dynamic journalism, inspirational stories, and stunning photographs and videos that profile these communities working for the greater glory of God.

Thanks to you, CNEWA provided **\$1,569,550** in **2022** and **\$1,735,440** in **2023** for public awareness activities, including the publication of *ONE*, CNEWA's family of websites in English, French and Spanish, and other public awareness programs in the countries we serve as mandated by the Holy See.



Thank you for your generosity and for being a part of CNEWA's mission and journey. You have changed lives in real and meaningful ways. — and the people whose lives you have touched will remember you. Your gifts have brought a measure of compassion and peace to a deeply broken world. And remember, God will not be outdone in generosity.



*In 2022, CNEWA initiated the Faith & Culture Award to honor deserving men and women for their role in promoting faith and culture, recognizing past **Supreme Knight Carl E. Anderson** (above) for his leadership in protecting minorities in Iraq.*

*At CNEWA's second annual gala in 2023, CNEWA awarded **John J. Studzinski** (below with CNEWA Chair Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan) for his advocacy for human trafficking survivors and his promotion of the church's efforts to combat all forms of slavery.*



2023 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2023 TOTAL	2022 TOTAL
Contributions	\$7,722,443	\$9,410,689	\$17,133,132	\$19,535,000
Grants from funding agencies	1,250	6,019,478	6,020,728	7,643,025
Collections	1,380,802	–	1,380,802	1,279,923
Legacies and bequests	1,476,627	485,818	1,962,445	2,687,650
Investment returns	108,772	493,602	602,374	761,715
Contributed services	125,281	–	125,281	125,281
In-kind contributions	17,475	–	17,475	2,900
Net assets released from restrictions	14,120,331	(14,120,331)	–	–
Total Revenue	\$24,952,981	\$2,289,256	\$27,242,237	\$32,035,494

EXPENSES	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2023 TOTAL	2022 TOTAL
<i>Program services</i>				
Accompanying the church	\$7,039,807	–	\$7,039,807	\$6,698,526
Responding to human needs	13,145,676	–	13,145,676	17,945,227
Public awareness	1,735,440	–	1,735,440	1,569,550
Total program services	21,920,923	–	21,920,923	26,213,303
<i>Support services</i>				
Fundraising	2,384,552	–	2,384,552	2,339,858
Management and general	2,488,420	–	2,488,420	2,676,431
Total support services	4,872,972	–	4,482,972	5,016,289
Total Expenses	\$26,793,895	–	\$26,793,895	\$31,229,592

NET ASSETS	2023 TOTAL	2022 TOTAL
Undesignated	\$16,449,400	\$14,737,909
Board designated	10,332,527	9,327,195
Plant	3,537,796	3,569,724
Total without donor restrictions	30,319,723	27,634,828
Total with donor restrictions	42,104,206	37,145,798
Total Net Assets	\$72,423,929	\$64,780,626

To see the 2022 and 2023 audited financial statements, please visit cnewa.org/financials

2022 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Contributions	\$7,425,675	\$12,109,325	\$19,535,000	\$13,404,320
Grants from funding agencies	12,885	7,630,140	7,643,025	8,867,171
Collections	1,279,923	–	1,279,923	1,033,579
Legacies and bequests	2,163,044	524,606	2,687,650	4,452,323
Investment returns	(107,088)	868,803	761,715	1,528,408
Contributed services	125,281	–	125,281	125,281
In-kind contributions	2,900	–	2,900	–
Net assets released from restrictions	18,119,086	(18,119,086)	–	–
Total Revenue	\$29,021,706	\$3,013,788	\$32,035,494	\$29,411,082

EXPENSES	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
<i>Program services</i>				
Accompanying the church	\$6,698,526	–	\$6,698,526	\$7,884,722
Responding to human needs	17,945,227	–	17,945,227	13,156,588
Public awareness	1,569,550	–	1,569,550	1,428,053
Total program services	26,213,303	–	26,213,303	22,469,363
<i>Support services</i>				
Fundraising	2,339,858	–	2,339,858	2,713,947
Management and general	2,676,431	–	2,676,431	2,895,670
Total support services	5,016,289	–	5,016,289	5,609,617
Total Expenses	\$31,229,592	–	\$31,229,592	\$28,078,980

NET ASSETS	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Undesignated	\$14,737,909	\$20,357,678
Board designated	9,327,195	10,586,059
Plant	3,569,724	3,610,436
Total without donor restrictions	27,634,828	34,554,173
Total with donor restrictions	37,145,798	38,053,104
Total Net Assets	\$64,780,626	\$72,607,277

To see the 2021 audited financial statement, please visit cnewa.org/financials

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