

ids of Kathmandu

What's inside.

Our 2022 review 2-3 Our impact 4-5 B Corp status 6 Sustainability efforts 7 Impact stories intro 8-9 Ukraine relief efforts 10-17 Opportunity calls 18-19 More than just a game 20-21 Climate change 22 Jamie's mission 23 An American dream 24-25 26-27 Short stories 28 Hike to help Our future 29



Our 2022 in review.

In 2022, MPOWERD celebrated its 10th year of existence, and with any such milestone, we reflected deeply on our purpose and vision. At its inception, MPOWERD was founded as a B Corp and Benefit Corporation. This year, we were re-certified and saw our results soar to an impressive 140.5 rating. Ironically, with the growth of interest in corporate sustainability and SDGs, there has been a recognition that "greenwashing" has also become a trend. For MPOWERD, sustainability and impact have always been deeply ingrained in the company's culture, mission, and business model. With our focus on innovative solar products that empower individuals to live, play, and work on or off the grid, our model has always been one of genuine inclusivity and empowerment.

For our 2022 report, in addition to sharing our updated metrics on the lives we have impacted and the CO2 we have averted, we wanted to bring you the real stories of impact that motivate and inspire us every day. Thus, in this report, you will find images, texts, and emails directly from our partners or those whose lives have been positively impacted by our solar products. These firsthand accounts

truly demonstrate the power of individuals to affect positive change. Whether in situations of natural disasters such as the hurricanes and earthquakes that beset us in 2022 or under the unfathomable conditions whereby individuals, families, and communities in Ukraine saw their lives overturned by war, our lanterns and mobile chargers have been a beacon in the night.

- Seungah Jeong, CEO

2022 was a year where our solar portable lighting and power solutions helped so many. Our non-profit deployment partners continue to astound with their versatility, speed of response, and effectiveness - regardless of the crisis. Traditionally, our solar pico technologies are used in development situations and in response to the increase in natural disasters and their severity. This year, however, many of our units were utilized to combat geopolitical conflict and aid to those caught in harm's way. We are pleased that our corporate and consumer-driven business continues facilitating this impact capability. It takes a village to do what we do and we are grateful to all stakeholders - including our customers.

- John Salzinger, Founder & CBDO

Thank you for all of your support throughout the years!





Sustainability is ingrained at the heart of our business and mission. Aside from the inherent sustainable nature of our products, we are continuously looking for innovative ways to be more responsible and reduce our impact on the environment, while providing the best possible product for consumers.

Over the past few years we've seen some substantial changes that have had a positive impact not only on the environment, but also on the integrity and quality of our products. With our high efficiency solar panels and frequent materials assessments to stay on top of technology capabilities, our 10+ year product lifespan alleviates the use of single-use or products that are built to become obsolete. Our products are designed for the consumer and built to last. On the packaging side we further standardized packaging and removed non-essential features to create a more environmentally friendly structure.

Always with one eye on the future, we continued our work in educating the youth on renewable energy. As the effects of climate change become more evident, we feel a strong responsibility to teach our future leaders the

benefits of adopting sustainable practices and championing environmental change.

We are committed to working towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our products have both a direct and indirect impact towards nine of the goals.























An ongoing conflict.

24 February, 2022 | Ukraine | On the February 24, 2022 Russia invaded and occupied parts of Ukraine. From the offset, it was clear that destruction, displacement, and the loss of life would be huge. One year later, the amount of destruction is staggering. Around 8 million people have fled Ukraine, 8 million displaced within the country, and deaths are into the tens of thousands. Early on, attacks on Ukraine's energy grid and other vital supplies left millions of people without power and other essential supplies.

With so much tragedy, it's easy to overlook the inspiring dedication of people and organizations who help humanity. The support among our partners and customers throughout the year has been incredible. Within days of the attack, our partners mobilized, and we began working on deploying our solar power banks and lanterns to refugees affected by the conflict.

Over 80,000 Luci solar lanterns and mobile chargers have been delivered to Ukraine and the surrounding countries since the conflict began. Through partnerships with amazing organizations and individuals hand-delivering these lanterns, MPOWERD has been able to provide aid directly to individuals and families. Our solar power banks and lanterns have allowed people to remain connected to loved ones and provided light during long journeys or blackouts.

From our initiative with the Numi Foundation raising over \$1 million for supplies, to World Central Kitchen and Chef José Andrés providing over 200 million meals and 50,000 Luci's, to a hometown hero making multiple trips to deliver supplies to Ukrainian families, we are truly grateful for the work of every single partner throughout 2022.

Over the next few pages, you can learn more about the work of organizations, hear inspiring individual efforts, and get some first-hand accounts of the situation from people in the region.







Lena's story. Bringing it home.

February, 2022 | Pocatello, Idaho | From large NGOs and nonprofits to individuals compelled to make an impact, no matter how small, our global community has rallied in inspiring ways.

Lena Contor, an unsung Ukrainian hero from Idaho, has been hand-delivering Luci Lights and supplies, one suitcase at a time over the last year, and has no plans to stop there. Becoming a hometown hero, Pocatello native Judy McClanahan, shared the story of Lena Contor.

"Before the war began, Lena was living happily in Pocatello, and making yearly visits to her mother in Ukraine. When the war began, Lena made two trips to Ukraine and was fortunate to be able to bring her mother back to the United States. While Lena was there, she realized first-hand the devastation and critical personal needs of the millions of families who were fleeing from Ukraine to Poland. When she came home, she immediately went to work planning, organizing, and facilitating fundraisers to collect clothing for the families who were fleeing the war-torn country.

She raised money to collect critically needed medical supplies that were quickly being depleted in Ukraine; raised money to help purchase suitcases for the refugees to replace the small trash bags carrying their worldly possessions; and helped with food and temporary housing. She was able to raise thousands of dollars mostly by cooking borscht and pierogies in her home kitchen - foods that she grew up on in Ukraine - so the people in Pocatello could sample and subsequently support her in raising funds to return to Poland for a third time.

During her fourth trip, she noticed that the Luci lights she had collected to take with her meant so much to the people still without electricity in Ukraine. Her heart broke for the families who were sheltering in the cold and dark, and literally afraid for their lives. They told her that being afraid in the dark was a lot harder than being afraid in the light. She knew a simple Luci

light would provide them with so much comfort. Returning home, Lena made it her mission to fundraise for more Luci lights. Working with MPOWERD, she was able to secure more lights through discounts and in-kind gifts.

It's no small feat for Lena to take extra luggage as she travels. She has to get permission from the airlines with each trip to transport many extra boxes of those Luci lights, and needless to say, she takes the largest boxes that she can and fills them tightly within the size and weight limit allowed. She does everything she can to get whatever supplies she needs to Ukraine quickly and safely. This will be her fifth trip when she goes next week, and she's already planning another trip.

Knowing how Lena cares, she will have many fundraisers to come. Lena Contor has become a household name in the area with what she is doing for the people of Ukraine; for the people from the country where she was born and raised. I'm just one person who has purchased a Luci light, but I wanted MPOWERD to know the impact you're having on many families in Ukraine ... thank you ... thank you ... thank you!"

No, THANK YOU, Judy, Lena, and everyone who contributed to Lena's efforts! □



The following is a series of text messages received from Jake Knotts of Restore UA. Delivering over 1,000 Luci lanterns donated by our partner Waves For Water, Jake was in Ukraine distributing essential supplies.

We were able to distribute a few dozen lanterns to people living in basements for the last four months. Some of them have a small generator they run for a few hours a day for light but most don't. I think the lanterns were more helpful than any of the food boxes we brought. Some in their 80' and 90's.

This is in a city called Dvorichna. 3 km from Russian positions. They get shelled daily and live underground. Venturing out for maybe 20-30 minutes a day only. It's typically elderly left behind.



One family lived in a basement and all they had was one tiny LED light. You can see the wood fired stoves we delivered on a previous trip in some of the photos. Many just have a single candle.

Most difficult basement we visited had a 12 year old girl living there for over three months with her mom and grandma. The large boxes are food boxes we delivered to all of the basements. You can even see their Christmas tree. Yeah. Tough. But your lanterns will help. Honestly. They were so excited to get them.

We are working on a project to get the 150 or so kids in this city and neighboring villages all school books. That is the one thing this girl asked for. The Russians burned all the Ukrianian textbooks and then left right when the school year started.

September 10th is when they were pushed out. And since then everyone has had to live underground due to shelling. This poor lady didn't have any lights on at all when we visited her. She was in the dark. We used flashlights to take the pics. We handed her a food box and she started crying.



18 July, 2022 | Ukraine | In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, MPOWERD participated in a significant impact initiative through the Numi Foundation titled Together for H2OPE: Ukraine. In partnership with Numi Organic Tea, Waves for Water, and Good360, the goal was to raise \$1M to provide clean, safe drinking water, solar lights, and mobile chargers for over half a million displaced Ukrainians. The project fundraised and enlisted veterans familiar with war-torn regions as the boots on the ground to ensure an agile, responsive approach to getting clean water filters and solar-powered Luci lights and phone chargers to those who needed them most, especially Ukrainians left behind by the efforts from larger international aid agencies.

With municipal water infrastructure in shambles, many Ukrainian Internally Displaced People ("IDPs") have been forced to collect water from dirty puddles and streams, boiling it when able to minimize contamination. In addition, they live underground for safety, struggling in darkness with intermittent access to the electricity needed to charge phones and life-saving devices. With the help of this collaborative project, individuals and families

gained easy access to safe drinking water, a cornerstone of the personal health and well-being needed to sustain their efforts, plus the light and power they needed to restore and rebuild.

"Much needed funding has been provided towards crucial aid," states John Salzinger, MPOWERD's Founder. "What we are all collectively trying to do, in parallel, is provide necessary and timely humanitarian aid to those internally displaced people inside Ukraine."

The project was made possible by local individuals like Emad "Gianni" Ballack, the founder of ZiBox e-commerce and a restaurant owner and entrepreneur in Kyiv, as well as the collaboration with the national governments in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Moldova, as well as a network of other Ukrainian partners and mayors across major cities. The organizations involved in this project helped impact hundreds of thousands of lives with clean water and light in times of greatest need.



Lighting up the holidays.

December, 2022 | Lviv, Ukraine | Sometimes, in the midst of a difficult period, celebrating traditions can bring a sense of comfort and normalcy to a reality that is far from ordinary. In December 2022, three friends set out to do just that. Founding Sunlight Ukraine, the friends sought to support Ukrainian families during the holiday season.

Sunlight Ukraine is a project comprised of three old friends from Yale who were all involved in Russian choir, including Alex Kuzma, a Ukrainian American who is very tied into the Ukrainian political scene. They started Sunlight Ukraine in December 2022 with the main goal of getting solar lights to the Ukrainian Catholic University students by the holiday season. Because of the time crunch, Paul Andrews picked up the first order of 874 lights from our warehouse

and drove them directly to New Jersey, so they could make their shipment over to Ukraine.

In total, over 2,500 Luci Pro series were delivered to a Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine. The goal was to provide them to the Jewish community during Chanukkah.

"Any donation will help bring families the life-changing gifts of light and human connection," said Paul Andrews, co-chair of SunLight Ukraine. "With this light, children can read and do homework, families can see each other around a dinner table, parents can read to their children at bedtime, and even provide them a night light as they sleep." Based in Alameda, California, SunLight Ukraine is a volunteer-staffed project of the Charter for Compassion, a nonprofit organization.

"We're determined to provide all the help we can," said John Andrews, co-chair of the project.

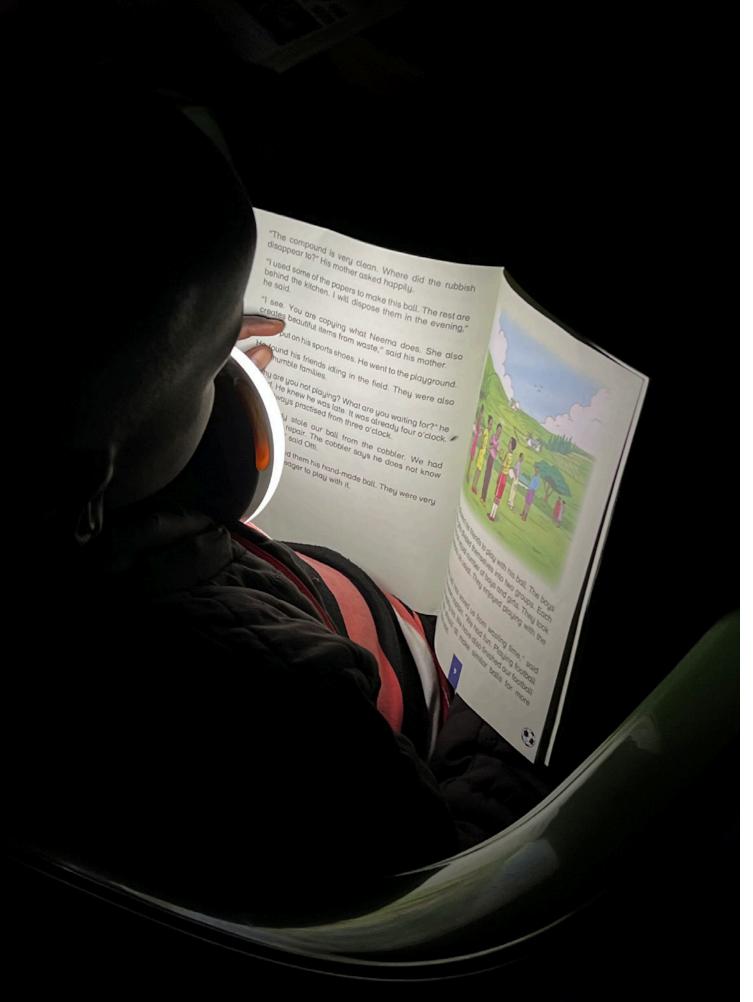
"And what better time than right now, when our holidays are reminding us once again about the power of light to overcome the dark?"

Some final notes on Ukraine. While this brings to a close our section dedicated to the crisis in Ukraine, the end is certainly not over for the people affected by the ongoing war in the region. MPOWERD will continue to work with our partners to provide relief where we can and support any efforts to bring assistance to those affected.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported our relief efforts throughout the year. From financial partners like eCapital, to 9dollarclub, to individuals supporting our Give Program, we thank you all!

A few special mentions go out to the following partners: World Central Kitchen, Waves4Water, MercyWorks, Good360 + GEM, DAAR, Mosaic International, SunLight Ukraine, Orphan Grain Train, 100%Life, and Footprint Project.





Opportunity calls.

Guest author: John Hockenberry.

24 May, 2022 | Kenya & Morocco | In the spring of 2022, seeds planted by the Oliveseed Foundation have started to sprout. This is the story of how a small NGO can make significant changes on the ground to rapidly bring literacy to communities in Morocco and Kenya. Founded in 2014 by Barbara Mackraz, Oliveseed has made a mission of education, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship. MPOWERD products have been a part of their mission for years.

Perhaps the most dramatic story of Oliveseed's recent success was a nighttime in May to get some pictures of the inside of the brand new Manyatta library dedicated earlier that week. Barbara's eyes are emotional as she tells this story, but her face and arms are browned with the tawny evidence of hard work in the daylight building the first library this village had ever seen. A Manyatta is a small Maasai settlement of earthen homes without power or light. Barb says that as she and her Maasai colleague, Amos Kipeen, approached the new library, the air screeched with peepers and insects. Then they saw something astounding and dream-like. The library building was invisible in the dark, but its windows covered with bright red and yellow fabrics were all glowing from lights shining from within the building. They could hear the quiet hum of murmuring voices. They climbed the steps and opened the door to a library full of children reading. Every chair was taken with more seated on the floor, and a community volunteer supervising. Everyone had a book and a Luci Core light that illuminated their excited eyes, as they read stories aloud.

"They looked like they were wearing jewelry," Barb says, describing the flexible yellow handles and how the children clutched them as though they would never let go. "It was like watching a forest bloom in the springtime sun," Barb says with emotion. "We didn't expect to see the library full of kids reading late at night, especially just a couple of days after opening." Amos says, "We are already working on expanding the library for more students with more books, chairs, tables, and of course more solar lights. "Sunlight," Amos says jokingly, "We have plenty of that."

There also is the story of 8th-grade Fatima Zahra Taghlaoui, who joined an Oliveseedbuilt English literacy project called "The Purple Library" in Morocco. As part of the program, she and Barb distributed MPOWERD Luci lights to nomad families in remote areas of Morocco without electricity or running water. The Luci lights brought light into the darkness of desert tents and structures that shield the fierce desert sun. Fatima was so inspired by the work of helping people she shared history with, the pre-Islamic Amazigh people of North Africa, that it changed her life. Refusing to accept the limited options for women in Morocco she became fluent in English, along with four other languages she speaks and went to California determined to be a voice for her people. After proposing a documentary film project on the Amazigh, she was accepted as a student to the UCLA Film School in 2022. "Preservation of culture is important, and I want to ensure that our cultures and ways of life are not forgotten," Fatima says fiercely. Apparently, the Filmmakers at UCLA agreed.

Barbara Mackraz is a whirlwind in person with a kind, warm voice that inspires trust and bright red hair that parts crowds everywhere she goes. The Oliveseed Foundation focuses on bringing equal access to quality education, sustainable livelihoods, and empowerment to young girls and women in Morocco and the Maasai Mara of Kenya. It is equally dedicated to promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility and especially learning the lessons of a sustainable approach to the world that so many indigenous cultures can teach the rest of us. Their newest venture is bringing clean water, solar lights, power, and opportunity to the Maasai Mara in the form of a sustainability center pilot project, the first of its kind, along with a women's center for making local textiles, beadwork, jewelry, and other handcrafts for sale to the growing eco-tourist trade. □





More than just a game.

6 August, 2022 | San Felipe, Mexico | The first time we met Olf Mouyaka was in 2016 when he reached out about a trip he was making back to his hometown in Mbaya, Republic of Congo. Ever since he arrived in the United States as a Refugee in 2009, he was determined to take supplies back to his small village where his relatives still lived. Needless to say, Olf delivered. After many hours, numerous flights, and a suitcase full of Luci lights, Olf lit up his hometown!

Since then, Olf has been working hard on a different mission; to empower the youth and communities through football. His organization, FLO (Football Leadership Opportunity), leads clinics that teach meaningful leadership skills and provide resources to support education, health and safety for the under-resourced communities, while promoting opportunity on and off the pitch.

In August, 2022, Olf and three friends returned to San Felipe, Mexico where they had previously distributed Luci lanterns to the remote community of the Mazahua people. Olf was so welcomed by the community he knew that he would return with more. After waiting 3 years due to the pandemic, Olf was able to make the

trip back to San Felipe with more Luci lanterns, school supplies, soccer supplies, and 4 football clinics planned. Working with 250+ boys and girls aged between 4-19 years, the FLO team sought to build a safe space where participants could freely express themselves, learn from one another, be part of a team, be empowered to lead their own lives, and discover that around a football we could all be happy and together.

Speaking with the families in the community, Olf was told that "where we live the power goes out often. Since receiving these lanterns we have depended on them to help our children with school work at night when we lose power. It also helps us prepare meals for the kids, some of us have young babies and these lanterns

allow us to play with our babies." One person said, "I sew, make clothing and bracelets etc. for my children, and I have been able to use the lanterns to do that when it gets darker."

Speaking of his trip, Olf says, "I am an African boy who grew up in a place that had the same issues as my friends do in Mexico. These solar lanterns, more than just lighting up a classroom or a home, they are giving people hope. For me, it is to see the smile on a face, for a parent to see their child safely go to bed, for them to now be able to stay up late at night to cook, or read a book with their children, sew together or make bracelets. Lighting up every classroom in San Felipe and hopefully every home is my goal, but I know that I can only do this one lantern at the time."



A changing climate.

2022 | Everywhere | From California to Uganda, unprecedented droughts and severe flooding are growing in intensity. As global temperatures have increased due to climate change, so too has the severity of water-related disasters around the world.

Extreme water events in 2022, including the deadly flooding that submerged a third of Pakistan as well as the droughts across Europe, highlighted the effects of our changing climate.

Droughts that previously occurred once every 10 years now happen 70% more frequently, and heavy rainfall is 30% more frequent.

Droughts, floods and wildfires are all linked to our rapidly changing water cycle. Known as "weather whiplash", dramatic swings between periods of drought and high rainfall is another phenomenon that scientists warn will occur more often.

The impacts of climate change are not equally felt throughout the world and will only amplify the social inequality that already exists. We must all act together with an increased urgency to slow, and hopefully reverse, the damaging affects we're seeing all around the world.





Jamie Harper Humanitarian & Celebrity Makeup Artist

29 September, 2022 | Puerto Rico | When Hurricane Fiona began ravaging Puerto Rico in September, MPOWERD Ambassador, humanitarian, and celebrity makeup artist Jamie Harper booked a flight from NYC to ground zero.

In what would be her 19th humanitarian mission, she felt especially committed to providing aid to her home country. However, coordinating supplies to be delivered directly to Puerto Rico during a hurricane, including 150 Luci Pro Series, is nothing short of challenging. At the same time, weather conditions and scarce resources can make shipping and receiving nearly impossible. However, with the help

of MPOWERD's rockstar logistics team, Luci lights landed just in time to meet Jamie there. She then got to work hand-delivering them to families without power and some without a recognizable home.

Unfortunately, roads had been washed away from the severe flooding, making it especially difficult to reach certain areas, but not even that can stop Jamie Harper. She made it through all kinds of obstacles to deliver food, lights, dog and cat food, clean drinking water from Waves4Water, and countless comforting hugs to people who had lost everything. Seeing the devastation and hearing people's stories of loss and extreme hardship keeps a person like Jamie determined to do anything she can, including reaching out to get assistance from companies and organizations like MPOWERD, Jeep, Waves4Water, and others, even using her own resources to make it happen.

"Thank you, MPOWERD, for providing Luci lights! They were extremely helpful to the many people still without electricity," she stated. "You made a lot of people smile." □

23



An American dream.

1 May, 2022 | South Korea to Texas | The month of May celebrates the heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and aims to uplift their identities, experiences, histories, and cultures. Many individuals and groups recognized as such have endured significant challenges and have been subject to many hardships assimilating into American culture. We reflect on Asian American and Pacific Islander culture and stories to learn from, understand, and acknowledge these experiences.

One of the many stories worth sharing and honoring is that of MPOWERD President & CEO Seungah Jeong.

Born in Pusan, South Korea, she and her family immigrated to the United States for a more prosperous life filled with opportunity - the American Dream, if you will since, unfortunately, life in South Korea in the 1970s and earlier was difficult and often poverty-ridden.

"I remember that cars were extremely rare and toilets were even more so," she recalled. She and her family lived in a 3-story concrete building with a deep, dark latrine and no running water or electricity. Seungah reflects on specific things that frightened her as a child, like kerosene lamps, which her family emphasized as dangerous for the risk of burns and inhalation of unhealthy fumes. "I thought the beast with fire in its mouth was terrifying."

After Seungah was born, her father, mother, and sister left for America to begin building a new life. During that time, she was raised by her grandparents, aunts, and uncles for the first three years of her life until her family sent word that they were ready for her to join them in the States. So, Seungah flew to America by herself.

Seungah cherishes many memories and aspects of Korean culture. "My uncles loved having a little girl around, and one of them stopped drinking with his buddies, so he could rush home to play with me. They all taught me to sing, and apparently, I loved singing and eating. Both are aspects of the culture that resonate

today; Koreans love to gather, tell jokes, sing, and eat!" She even indicated that her family was extremely fortunate because her grandfather was a bone doctor. So, even with oranges, milk, and bread being true luxuries, her family was better off than most in a poor community.

Once settled in Texas, the promised oil and gold of the American Dream did not greet Seungah's family. "They came to the US during the first big wave of Korean immigration to America and were disappointed to quickly learn how difficult life could be for immigrants who did not speak English and were "different" from those around them. Seungah's father had to assume three construction jobs to make ends meet, while her mother, sister, and she all worked with garments on a piece-good basis.

Seungah and her parents found a sense of community in their local church. Eventually, her father started his own business and then went back to school to become a Christian minister, while her mother never learned English. "We lived a dual life - we were fully Korean at home (even speaking Korean), and then we ventured out into a very different world for school and work."

It's both ironic and incredibly meaningful that today, Seungah is now the President and CEO of a company that designs solar-powered lanterns that are used to replace harmful, dangerous kerosene lamps used in low-income areas of the world.



Short stories. Big impact.

Sometimes it's the short notes we receive that inspire us the most!





"Thought you might like these Luci Light pictures from Liberia. They simply cannot get enough of these. Thanks for helping us help these folks with no electricity in rural Liberia.

- Elfie Eberle, Orphan Grain Train.

Hello, After I received an promotional email, I tried to order 120 Luci Outdoor 2.0 lanterns, a pop-up told me to contact you. This would be my 3rd or 4th relatively large order from you. I (with help from my friend Pedro Aguilar) give the lights to people without electricity in Baja California Sur, Mexico. We need another batch. I've been in Baja since October and will be going home to Manhattan Beach in a couple of weeks, returning with the lights in October.

- Bob Wyler.



In connection with my social engagement with the Himba in the Kaokoveld, one of the driest and most hostile areas in north-western Namibia, I support this ethnic group with school supplies, material, and food. The Himba have little access to electricity in the Kaokoveld and LUCI inflatable solar lights are very valuable. That's why I distributed 16 LUCI inflatable solar lights to the school children in various communities in 2016. When I travel to the Himba again on March 28, 2022, my plan is to distribute LUCI inflatable solar lights to them again. I have the opportunity to travel to visit all the communities and schools I have visited last time. Together with my local friend and guide Erwin, we start the eco-village project and we bring goods to the Himba!

- Stephan Stamm





Greetings! I was finally able to complete a delayed (due to COVID) humanitarian aid trip to Uganda. I distributed 96 Luci solar lanterns in Kitivu, Uganda where one of our outreaches was held. This village of 800 residents did not have electricity and the gift of the solar lanterns made a huge impact. Mothers were able to prepare dinner at night with "light" after a long day working in the fields and students were able to complete their studies. THANK YOU!

- Dona Putnam.

We drove 4 hours from Zacapa, Guatemala to the jungle of Transversal, Guatemala. There is little electricity in these small villages. They speak a Mayan language called Kiche. Incredible group as we had to translate from English to Spanish to Kiche. We gave out over 25 solar powered lights to them and their families. The lights all worked and the smiles on their faces were filled with joy in receiving the lights. Thank you. We will be in Honduras in July and will be taking more lights with us.

- Craig Peters, Equip Ministries International

My name is Colibri Sanfiorenzo-Barnhard, I am the executive director of HASER. We are a Puerto Rican 501c3 organization that works directly with community groups. We have a long standing relationship with more than 7 groups around the island. We need to purchase 2,000 lights for our communities but we do not have all the funds. For hurricane Maria I personally bought the Luci outdoor 2.0 and to this day they work:):):)

I know you will really like this story.... During Hurricane Maria we came across Sra. Nereida and her husband Israel who had a leg amputated due to health conditions. He was bed bounded. They almost lost their home in the rural area of Arecibo. Due to the failed infrastructure, they collected rain water for their needs. No potable water or electricity. Although we were limited in what we could do to relieve their suffering, we were able to provide water buckets with filters and the beautiful Luci Lights by MPOWERD. This brought such great relief to their condition. Later on, Lotus of Compassion, Inc volunteers built a cinder block cement bedroom room as shelter to hold them in safety in future situations. The volunteer is extremely important, but without the support of our collaborators such as MPOWERD we would have not done as well. This is one of the countless profound and inspirational stories. Thank you.



April, 2022 | Himalayas, Nepal | Since the COVID pandemic hit three years ago, few were spared of its impact, and for the people of Nepal this is especially true. The trekking industry was huge for Nepal and the surrounding areas, and once COVID hit, this industry came grinding to a halt. Last year, Backpacker decided to support Nepal's recovery by bringing two groups to the Himalayas to hike beautiful terrain, while giving back to the local communities along the way.

As part of an on-going project, Backpacker is partnering with a Nepal-based nonprofit building health clinics, and with Wildland Trekking that allows volunteers to embark on a journey of a lifetime. Combining volunteer work at a rural clinic and making a once-in-a-lifetime trek across the Himalayas, the groups get to experience the natural beauty of the Nepalese landscape, and also experience famously hospitable Nepalese communities.

In April, Backpacker set out on their first Hike & Help excursion. After the volunteers worked in the clinic, the group embarked on a nine-day trek in a remote region of the Himalayas. With limited resources, Nepal often lacks critical

infrastructure that we take for granted. In rural Nepal, that means hundreds of families have to travel to Kathmandu for medical services, and have little or no access to electricity. This is where MPOWERD came in. As part of the project, Luci lights were not only used by the trekkers, but also distributed to the local communities, allowing them to safely and reliably keep the light on after dark!

We're honored to be part of this project and we love the idea that our lights are helping to illuminate people's dreams, while at the same time illuminating local communities.





