

MINUTE FOR MISSION

CWS Blankets - Mother's Day

When I became a mother, I received at least five baby blankets as gifts. The first few days after my newborn came home from the hospital and I was learning ways to comfort my crying child, I grabbed one of the gifted blankets and wrapped him in it and he settled down. As he snuggled on me under the warmth of a blanket, I sent out a word of thanks for gift of the blankets that helped me be a better mom.

I thought of those gifts friends and family bestowed to me while I toured a respite center along the U.S. southern border. Asylum seekers that are legally allowed to travel in the United States after long, harrowing journeys arrive at respite centers along the border to receive short, but much needed respite. Families weary from travel are offered a warm shower, clean clothes, hygiene products, nourishing soup and CWS blankets. Children are coloring, playing with toys and resting on CWS blankets. When congregations like yours take compassionate action through the gift of a blanket, it helps parents comfort their children.

"And don't forget to do good and share with those in need." (Hebrews 13:16) As I was flying home from the U.S. southern border, excited to see my own children, a mom and her child - asylum seekers - were on my flight. They were carrying a CWS blanket and used the blanket to provide warmth and comfort on their flight. CWS Blankets is more than a donation and more than a blanket; it is an expression of God's love. It is helping a mom provide comfort to her child, it is welcoming a weary stranger, it is an acknowledgement that we are part of God's beloved community, and it is an opportunity to "do good and share with those in need."

By Erin Luchenbill, CWS staff member and mom of two.



For more resources to use with your congregation, please visit: cwsblankets.org/downloads