

Why We Support World Central Kitchen

We are a Hunger Action Congregation. We care about feeding hungry people.

That's one reason. But there's another reason. The Mission and Service Committee decided a few years ago to go with supporting World Central Kitchen because of how it gets food to people. WCK doesn't just dump food from somewhere else into an area. That disrupts and breaks down local food systems. Not a good thing. Instead, World Central Kitchen goes into an area and works with the local people and the food sources that are available right there. They work with local farmers and merchants and make a plan. Of course, if there isn't food available, they do what they did for Gaza. Find a way to build a pier.

World Central Kitchen follows the model of "of quick action, leveraging local resources, and adapting in real time".

A few years ago, the Mission and Service Committee at our church took the advice of Karla Koll, one of the mission co-workers we support. Karla originally served in Guatemala and now is in Costa Rica. She knows from her work just how dumping food from somewhere else doesn't help. It can hurt. People begin to rely on the outside source of food instead of supporting the food system in their own community. The local vendors get less and less income. Then the farmers in that area can't make ends meet. The system breaks down. Loss of livelihoods happens. Despair -- and more people without food. It's kind of like what happens when a butterfly that's emerging from its chrysalis is interrupted and just pulled out by someone wanting to help. The wing muscles don't have a chance to become strong. The butterfly is too weak. It can't fly.

José Andrés, the founder of World Central Kitchen, has a newsletter titled, "Longer Tables". He believes NOT in building "higher walls", but rather --- in building "longer tables". His work all over the world has had that focus. We've seen those scenes on the news. People getting warm bowls of food freshly cooked in Ukraine from the work of World Central Kitchen. Other places, too – Uvalde, Haiti, Houston.... The list is large. In January of this year, WCK hit the milestone of having provided 350 million meals to hungry people since its founding.

World Central Kitchen knows "that a nourishing meal in a time of crisis is so much more than a plate of food—it's hope, it's dignity, and it's a sign that someone cares".

Our church cares. We are a "welcoming" church. We also want to build longer tables.

Pray for World Central Kitchen as they take this pause from working in Gaza. Pray for the safety of all aid workers in Gaza --- and everywhere around the world. Pray for those who are hungry.