Children's early life forms the basis for future learning, good health and well-being. Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs ensure that children under six, particularly children under three, are reaching their cognitive, language, social, emotional and physical developmental milestones. Investing in children and their primary caregivers during this time can result in lifelong benefits. Read the latest report summary here.

ECD volunteers train parents and primary caregivers to focus on the healthy growth and development of children by nurturing their thinking, communication, motor skills, social and emotional development.

Read the MOMENTS THAT MATTER story about Millicent, who is learning critical skills to support nurturing care and stimulation for her young children. Millicent calls the program, “God sent.”

Invite friends to join your LOVE HUNT and share Millicent’s story with them so that they understand the importance of this work by Episcopal Relief & Development.
Inspired by the Rev. Jimmy Bartz’s Easter Day 2020 LOVE HUNT for St. John’s, Jackson Hole. This intergenerational activity will engage families to learn, share and give to ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign.

Instructions
Choose which Gifts that Nurture Children image format to print black and white or full color. Choose black and white to color in yourself. Download and print the Home LOVE HUNT PDF onto cardstock. Laminate if possible, for durability. Cut the nine Gifts that Nurture Children images apart along the dotted lines.

Since music is so good for children’s bodies and minds, you could create a playlist of your favorite songs about love and family to accompany people during their hunt or encourage them to create their own playlist. This YouTube video of What the World Needs Now by Tank and the Bangas is sure to inspire.

There are nine Gifts that Nurture Children images to find on the LOVE HUNT:

1. Nutrition
2. Music
3. Play with Grownups
4. Listening
5. Playing with Peers
6. Bond
7. Prayer
8. Language
9. Patience

Grownups hide the icons around the house and yard so children can find them. Be creative!

Adults: We are going on a LOVE HUNT to find what children up to 3 years old need to feel nurtured, encouraged and loved.

Pray: Lord Jesus, we pray for all children in the world to learn to think, speak, play and sing. We pray their grownups hold, feed and love them with all their hearts. Amen.

Adults: What do you need to feel loved? What do you think children up to 3 years old need to feel nurtured, encouraged and loved?

We also have corresponding, full-size coloring pages. These black and white pages include full-size versions of the LOVE HUNT images as well as FAMA card images from Episcopal Relief & Development’s Color Our World coloring book and our work with families in the field.

When you find a Gifts that Nurture Children image, take a photo and post on these social media platforms. Be sure to post images on yours and your church’s social media platforms as well.

#episcopalrelief @EpiscopalRelief EpiscopalRelief

Decide as a family how you will give financially to the ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign. The Gifts for Life catalog is a fun way for a family to choose gifts together. Gifts range from Care for Mother and Newborns for $35 to a ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE Package for $1000. You can even purchase a bicycle for $95!

Special thanks to our contributors for LOVE HUNT - Jamie Martin-Currie and Lisa Puccio. Illustrations created by The Rev. Jay Sidebotham. The FAMA card illustrations by Mango Tree, based in Kampala, Uganda. Layout and design for LOVE HUNT by Alexis Fortuna Caoili.