

Mary's Meals : A Simple Solution to World Hunger



About Mary's Meals

Now in its 22nd year, [Mary's Meals](#) is a global movement that sets up school feeding programs in some of the world's most vulnerable communities, where conflict, poverty and hunger often prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals works with local volunteers to provide one daily nutritious meal in a place of learning to attract children into the classroom to receive an education. This simple solution to help end world hunger also enables children to lift themselves from the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Mary's Meals began by feeding 200 children in Malawi in 2002. Today, the organization feeds more than 2.4 million children every school day in 5000+ schools across in the following countries: Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Mary's Meals is part of the School Meals Coalition, an emerging initiative of governments and partners to drive actions that can urgently reestablish, improve, and scale up food and education systems. For more information about Mary's Meals, visit marysmealsusa.org.

Supporters can follow Mary's Meals USA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [X](#).

Tagline: Mary's Meals: A Simple Solution to World Hunger.

Vision: That every child should be able to receive at least one nutritious meal every day in their place of education.

Mission: Our mission is to enable people to offer their money, goods, skills, time, or prayer, and through this involvement, provide the most effective help to those suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world's poorest communities.

Our Story

Since 1992, [Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow](#) had been collecting and delivering relief supplies from Scotland to Bosnia for a decade when a trip to Malawi became the spark for his life's work that ignited a global movement.

In Malawi in 2002, Magnus met Edward, one of six children, quietly surrounding their dying mother on an earthen floor. As Magnus spoke with Edward, his words became the catalyst for Mary's Meals.

"I asked him, 'What are your hopes, what is your ambition?' recounts Magnus. He said, 'I want to have enough food to eat, and I want to be able to go to school one day.' And that was it. That was all of his ambition at 14 years of age."

Adds Magnus, "And it was really his words that prompted the birth of Mary's Meals." By feeding children where they learn, they can gain an education that can help break the cycle of poverty.

Current Global Hunger Crisis Facts

- World Food Program [says](#) 783 million people are facing chronic hunger.
- UNESCO estimates that [250 million children](#) are out of school.
- Almost [700 million](#) people live in extreme poverty-less than \$2.15 per day.
- Mary's Meals has school-feeding programs in 11 of 22 current [hunger hot spots](#).
- Mary's Meals serves in [East African](#) countries.
- Mary's Meals [operates](#) 10 of its 16 programs in sub-Sahara Africa serving more than 2.1 million children every school day.

Milestones

- Mary's Meals feeds more than 2.4 million children in their place of education in 16 countries.
- In fall 2024, Mary's Meals doubled its program to feed [110,000 children](#) in Tigray, Ethiopia.
- In 2023, Mary's Meals received Spain's prestigious [Princess of Asturias Award for Concord](#).
- This simple school feeding model is locally-managed, scalable and cost-effective.
- Where possible, locally-sourced food, suppliers, and fuel is used to help the local economy.
- Girls make up 50% of our school feeding programs globally.
- Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow was honored as one of [CNN's Top Ten Heroes in 2010](#) and in June 2022 was saluted a second time during a [CNN Salute to Heroes](#) broadcast.
- In 2015, Time Magazine recognized Magnus as one of the [Top 100 Most Influential People](#).
- [Pope Francis](#) blessed the work of Mary's Meals and urges school feeding to continue.
- The charity is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, and is a fruit of [Medjugorje](#).
- Magnus is the best-selling author of [The Shed That Fed 2 Million Children](#).
- In 2020, Magnus published his second book, [Give: Charity and the Art of Living Generously](#).
- 2022 was the [20th anniversary](#) of Mary's Meals.
- The 2023 Mary's Meals Impact [Report](#) shows the positive outcomes on children's health & education in our program countries.
- Mary's Meals USA is one of 18 national affiliate countries supporting school feeding programs in 17 countries.
- It costs just [\\$25.20](#) - .13 cents per meal - to feed a child for an entire school year.

Quick Links

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- [Our Impact](#)
- [Make a Difference](#)
- Mary's Meals USA [media center](#)

[To arrange interviews, or request photos, or videos, please contact:](#)

Paul McMahan
Director of Marketing and Communications, Mary's Meals USA
781-910-0904
paul.mcmahan@marysmeals.org

Helena Finnegan
Communications Manager, Mary's Meals USA
239-290-7788
helena.finnegan@marysmeals.org