

## Mary's Meals Founder Will Address World Leaders at Vatican Summit on Children's Rights

**Bloomfield, N.J. – January 28, 2025** – Mary's Meals announces that its founder and CEO, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow has been invited to the Vatican to participate in the World Leaders Summit on Children's Rights on Monday, February 3, hosted by Pope Francis. He will spend the day discussing a child's right to education, healthcare, food, nutrition and play, alongside a select group of world and humanitarian leaders, including, Queen of Jordan, Rania al-Abdullah; President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa; Nobel Peace Prize winner, Muhammad Yunus; Rabbi David Rosen; former President of Indonesia, Megawati Sukarnoputri; Chairperson of Qatar Foundations for Education, Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser; former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska. Also joining the summit are President of INTERPOL, Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi; President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach and President of FIFA, Gianni Infantino.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow has been honored for his humanitarian work, earning recognition as a CNN Hero and being named one of TIME magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. In 2023, Mary's Meals was awarded Spain's prestigious Princess of Asturias Award for Concord for its work in defending and advancing human rights

This summit is part of a broader effort by the Vatican to prioritize children's rights and welfare and will bring together experts and guests from around the world to discuss ways of collaborating to help protect children who live in precarious conditions, are exploited, abused, or suffer the dramatic consequences of war. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow will deliver a speech titled, "The Child's Right to Food, Nutrition, and Healthcare."

"I am humbled and delighted to be asked to share the experience of Mary's Meals at this important meeting hosted by the Holy Father. The success of Mary's Meals is rooted in the extraordinary kindness of people around the world, including the United States, who ignited this global movement, which has become of interest to world leaders. I will try my best to share our vision and to be the voice of the children we serve - like those I met in Malawi just last week," said MacFarlane-Barrow.

### END ###

### About Mary's Meals

Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 in-country volunteers and trusted partners to provide one daily nutritious meal in a place of learning to bring 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 more than 5,000 schools 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 global 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](http://marysmealsusa.org).

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