Bringing hope to a hungry world

Mary’s Meals provides a daily school meal in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

Our idea is a simple one that works:

• Mary’s Meals began by feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002. Today we are feeding more than one million children every school day across five continents.
• Wherever Mary’s Meals are served, there is a rise in school enrolment, attendance and attainment.
• We provide one daily meal in a place of learning in order to attract children into the classroom so they receive an education that can in the future be their ladder out of poverty.

With millions of children still out of school and many more chronically hungry, our work is only just beginning. We work extremely hard to keep our running costs low and to ensure that at least 93% of donations go directly on our charitable activities.

93%

A fruit of Medjugorje

The work of Mary’s Meals grew out of the Marian shrine, Medjugorje, in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In 1992, the MacFarlane-Barrow family launched an appeal to help the people of war-stricken Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Donations of food, clothing, blankets and medicine flooded in to Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer – a Catholic retreat centre in Argyll, Scotland, that they had been inspired to open after a family pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 1983, and also the family home.

The family was overwhelmed by the public’s generous response, and – after the first batch of aid was delivered to refugee camps near Medjugorje – that one-off act of love developed into a rapidly-growing international charitable organisation.

The lives of those involved in the first Mary’s Meals projects had all been changed by pilgrimages to Medjugorje, so they chose to name the organisation in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary’s Meals consists of, respects and reaches out to people of all faiths and none.

It costs just £15.90 / €18.30 / $21.00 to feed a child for a whole school year.

Little acts of love

The Mary’s Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply...

“I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day.”

That moment was a key part of the inspiration that led to the founding of Mary’s Meals.

Thanks to generous supporters of Mary’s Meals, more than 1.6 million children – who previously had to work in the fields, sell on the streets, beg, or scavenge among garbage to survive – are today sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, able to concentrate on learning how to read and write. They can become the men and women who will lift their communities out of poverty and end their reliance on aid.

Most of our work – both in countries where we raise funds and in communities where we deliver our school meals – is done by volunteers who carry out lots of little acts of love on behalf of Mary’s Meals.

Mary’s Meals now has affiliate organisations registered in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as international fundraising groups in Poland, Portugal, and Slovakia.
Our vision
Our vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education, and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things.

Get involved
Our mission is to enable people to offer their money, goods, skills, time, or prayer, to help those suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world’s poorest communities.

Join us online
Find out how you can help Mary’s Meals by visiting our website or one of our social media channels. Follow our Facebook page: @MarysMealsMedjugorje

Watch our films
Watch our films, Generation Hope, Child 31 and Mary’s Meals – A Fruit of Medjugorje which chart our beautiful journey and tell the stories of some of the young people whose lives have been changed by Mary’s Meals.

Read our book
Telling the extraordinary story of Mary’s Meals, The Shed That Fed A Million Children stirs emotion, inspires hope and sparks the belief that the seemingly impossible can be achieved.

Visit us here in Medjugorje
You will receive a very warm welcome at our information centre in Medjugorje, near to the Church of St James:

Mary’s Meals International Organisation
Pape Ivana Pavla II 29 B, 88266 Medjugorje

Email: medjugorje@marysmeals.org

Tel: 00387 36 655 178

You can meet our team, join us for porridge tasting, fasting days or movie nights, learn more about our work, arrange a testimony for your pilgrimage group or pick up some of our key resources, including our award-winning films – Generation Hope and Child 31 – and our founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow’s bestselling book, The Shed That Fed A Million Children.

Donate online at: marysmeals.org