

Christmas Mass at Warehouse Wednesday, December 22, 2016 at 11 a.m.



Canadian Food for Children

La Nourriture du Canada pour les Enfants

1258 Lakeshore Rd E. Mississauga, On. Canada L5E 1E9

Tel: 905.274.9239, 905.990.9019. Fax: 905.271.6490

Email: cffc.aasimone@yahoo.ca

Your prayers, efforts and contributions to Canadian Food for Children make a difference for so many. While in Africa this past May my wife Daniela and I got to witness this truth yet again. We are all blessed to be able to do our part for CFFC. Having been immersed in the CFFC lifestyle from inception I have seen how contagious the work has been for all involved. We have all been inspired by this charity because of the people within and how it has had a ripple effect of kindness. I want to thank my Mom and Dad, for being catalysts, enabling all of us to make a difference. Today so many have been blessed and we need to keep the great effort going.

When CFFC representatives visit other countries, we try to understand the people's needs and how we can contribute. We take pictures to share reality and the results of our combined poverty alleviating focus. There is always room to learn, this is why it is important that we brave these trips with an open mind and try to be as positive as possible even under the toughest of circumstances.

Daniela and I were fortunate to visit several hospitals, schools, orphanages, small villages and farms in two African countries. We met amazing women and men working hard to better their communities and their standard of living. Beautiful people who have both received and have yet to receive our shipments. In the same manner as my parents, the nuns in these different places are dedicated to their vocations of charity, driven in a way I found incredible. We are all blessed to have each other and to be able to love others the way we do.



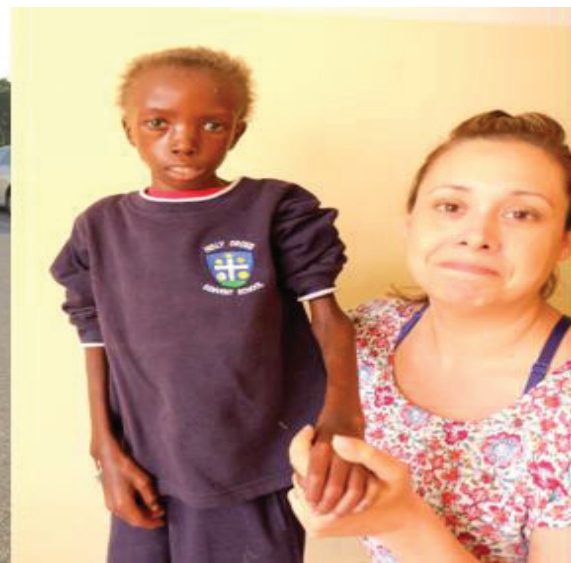
The Sisters brought Daniela and I to a group of "vulnerables", people who don't have to wait in line to receive the CFFC sent items. They can sit on the grass and have the food brought to them. My wife and I personally gave the nuns support as they handed out the usual amount of food for this bi-monthly distribution.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, our strength and our glory
Jésus, Marie et Joseph, notre force et notre gloire



This was Daniela and a young boy who just had a candy and was so happy he was laughing hysterically and it was so contagious. Any extra Halloween candy donations are very much appreciated. The picture shows soup mix that they use as relish with their staple "sima", a dish made of maize flour. They feel wealthy or more fortunate to be eating these varieties of vegetable items bringing a balance of nourishment and dignity. Young children and women make better life decisions when they have dignity, confidence and self-respect because we all care about them.

PS. Please note we want all candy ie, Chocolate, Potato chips, etc.



On the right is a picture of Isaac and Daniela. Daniela is trying to contain herself from crying. Isaac is 9 years old, obviously malnourished. His grandmother was caring for him after his mother died of HIV. When his grandmother passed away he was left to fend for himself. Someone who cared enough, brought him to the convent where the nuns took him into their orphanage. On the left are our two beautiful children. Seamus is one year younger and Olivia is 2 years older than Isaac. This is their first day of school this year and they are also in their new school uniform. Isaac's hair is soft, almost blonde and patchy, traits of severe malnutrition. Clearly Isaac would have had little chance at survival without the help of the Sisters. He is doing better now, adjusting to a new life in a loving orphanage and school.

Some say the poor are just lazy, I don't see that at all. I saw many exhausted from having to do so much just to sustain themselves on so little. Even preparing a simple meal is such hard work. Our shipments alleviate their hard life. Our shipments remind them of the truth, that someone loves them even though we don't know them personally. We are all part of God's family. With trust in God and keeping to our simple focus we will continue to support all of these children no matter what age, race, religion or nationality.
Sincerely,

Matthew Simone

Director, Canadian Food For Children

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Levi



This is Levi, I had a “before” picture my father had taken several years back. On this day Levi was in great spirits when I gave him a new shirt for taking this photo with the food donated from Leclerc. A CFFC shipment was due to land the following day, however we had to move on in our trip to see others on our schedule. We later heard word from the sisters that the container had come as expected and they were overjoyed at all the food, clothing and household items they were able to distribute. It was also heartwarming at how the sisters shared between both their own order as well as others.

Likisina



This is Likisina, we have been tracking her for years. Likisina is doing much better than the photo within the photo taken years back. Likisina is now in her teenage years and is very grateful for all that CFFC has done for her and her family. We did a surprise drop in on them at their home a day before they would have had to take a rather long journey to receive our food. Likisina’s mother was impressive as she had her hands full caring for other children as well as her disabled son. He unfortunately was not doing that great. Daniela and I were impressed at how they put together his wheelchair by using a lawn chair and a broken wheelchair components.

As we follow in the footsteps of St. Teresa of Calcutta and in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi we prepare to go forward in another new year of service to God and to the poor of this earth. We are happy that even in their retirement, Andrew and Joan Simone faithfully remain as spiritual advisors, volunteers and benefactors of this charity they founded over thirty years ago. Thank you to each and every one of you for your prayers, many wonderful gifts and your generous donations. You have helped to ease unimaginable suffering and given hope, love and life to countless little ones. Together we will continue to help feed the hungry children of the world. We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and hope you will join us in the joyful celebration of the Christmas Mass to be held in the warehouse.

Helen McGuire, Executive Director

Canadian Food for Children - hcmcguire@rogers.com

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From the Warehouse

The warehouse is usually open by 7:15 am. Everyone who works in the warehouse is a volunteer. One group loads the container, the other receives and sorts donations from individuals and small groups. There are usually about 10 regulars on any given day, plus a class of students with their teachers.

The students are given an overview of the charity in a classroom and then a tour of the warehouse. After that they help out in whatever jobs need to be done, such as loading the container, receiving goods and packing boxes.

CFFC fills a 40' container every day, sending to about 15 different countries. Priests, brothers and nuns receive the containers on the other end. They usually have a home for kids, run a school, or a seniors home, a hospital, a feeding program, or all of the above.

Every container contains certain staple food items, namely dried peas or beans, flour and powdered eggs. After that the container is filled with whatever is in the warehouse. Typically these items are granola bars, pasta, cookies, jam, soup mix, small furniture, books, wheelchairs, bicycles, clothing, shoes, household goods, and so on.

Most of the food we ship comes from companies, for which we are very grateful. Community, church and school groups also collect for us, and many individuals drop off goods at the warehouse. It's wonderful to see how generous people are. We are grateful to God that we have gifts to share.

Sal Badali

Assistant Executive Director

Please contact:

Loretta Antonacci books appointments for students and other groups to come to the warehouse at **cffc_studentgroups@htomail.com**. Talks in Chatham, Windsor and London - call John and Sandra Van Raay @ **519.352.6659**/ talks in Ontario or across Canada - Call Mary Reid @ **519.307.9019**.

Warehouse hours of operation Monday to Friday a.m. until 12 noon.