## Lasting Solutions

Prior to the 1994 genocide, Umutara Province, in northeast Rwanda, had the lowest population density in the country. Hence, the Murambi District in Umutara has become the focus for the resettlement of returnees. Since 1994, the population has more than doubled, surpassing 404,000 people by the year 2000. In 1998, ADRA responded with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and constructed 700 shelters in the area.

While housing was the most urgent need of the people, it soon became clear that infrastructure and services were not adequate to support the community. For this area to thrive and become self-sufficient, more assistance was needed.

Therefore, ADRA and CIDA identified key components for a second project. The goal of the Murambi Integrated Community Development Project has been to meet the immediate and basic needs of those in the community while facilitating economic development for the future.

ADRA hopes to better the lives of 175,000 people through the Murambi Integrated Project by:
- **Constructing 2 primary schools with 17 classrooms each.** Two newly rebuilt schools are providing education to 1,541 students. In total, 32 classrooms have been constructed and are fully furnished to accommodate the children.
- **Reclaiming 100 hectares of swampland for farming.** Once technical and environmental studies were completed on the swampland, the land was reclaimed. Drainage canals have been excavated allowing three demonstration

**SOLUTIONS continued on page 4**

## Battling the Blaze

ADRA British Columbia is hard at work responding to forest fire victims in Kelowna and other provincial disaster sites. Over 2000 Personal Comfort Care Kits have been distributed to stranded evacuees and scores of enthusiastic, caring volunteers are helping manage donated goods in Kamloops, Barriere, and Kelowna. A local Kelowna cable company has donated a warehouse for the management of donated goods and Home Depot offered staff and materials to assemble shelving in the warehouse. Many companies and individuals have donated food, furniture, beds, and clothing to be distributed. Thelma Davis, the Rutland SDA Church ACS leader, is actively involved in organizing this response, along with the BC Conference. However, there are still many needs to be met. Although goods are not being collected at this time, funds are welcome and needed. If you, or your church, wish to make a special donation, please call ADRA Canada at 1-888-274-2372 or the BC Conference at 1-604-853-5451. Donations will be used for two important initiatives: goods for fire victims and responder expenses.

Thank you to all the volunteers who are working tirelessly to care for their friends and neighbors in need.

"...scores of enthusiastic, caring volunteers are helping manage donated goods in Kamloops, Barriere, and Kelowna."
**ADRA Youth**

**Labour Of Love**

**Gwen Bader, Youth Director**
Man-Sask Conference

Not far from the village of Las Breñas, in Chaco, Argentina, sits a small mission field established by Susi, Rueben, their young daughter Augustina and 17 homeless children. In December 2002, thirty-one enthusiastic volunteers from the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference descended on Aqui Es, prepared to complete their task of building better living conditions for the extended family. Ten days of intense dawn-till-dusk labour resulted in the completion of a new dormitory containing six rooms and two washrooms, complete with doors, windows, and electrical wiring.

For many of the volunteers, the highlight of the trip was the night that the group gathered to present their labour of love to the Aqui Es family. Tears of joy flowed down many faces as the children saw their new home. The group was hopeful that someday soon they would share eternity together.

From Aqui Es, the group headed to Paraguay where they visited and fellowshipped with the residents of three native villages. The volunteers brought funds that would enable each village to build a new multi-purpose building to be used as a meeting place and worship center, as well as for education and medical outreach.

All too soon, the visit to South America came to an end. As a result of experiencing the joy of serving and giving to others, each volunteer was transformed. However, the one change they had in common was their eagerness to maintain that joy through continued service to the people around them.

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**ADRA On-Site**

**Hope for Healing**

**Dan Jackson, President**
Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

In January of this year, I had the privilege of traveling to Kenya and Rwanda to review ADRA’s projects. I was so blessed by the experience that I do not believe that my life can ever be the same. To witness a major project in Rwanda where 1800 Hutus and Tutsis were brought together in converting a 160-acre swamp into rice paddies was an emotional and inspiring experience.

This major accomplishment was completed within the physical context of a nation that had been wounded by ethnic and communal strife.

While the green rice wafting in the breeze inspired hope for their future, what inspired me the most was that ADRA had acted as an agent of compassion, change, healing, and unity. It made me thankful to God for the men and women of Canada who were willing to give, so that these things might take place.
**ADRA Corporate Compassion**

**A Wealth of Compassion**

![Elvine and Arni Skoretz](image)

As successful owners of AEI Wealth Management in Red Deer, Alberta, Elvine and Arni Skoretz have practiced a different sense of the word “wealth.” If you were to ask the couple what it means to be wealthy, you might expect them to equate wealth with financial security. However, they have developed an entirely different awareness of the word's meaning. They have both realized from first hand experience that the wealthiest people are those who love the most, whether or not they have attained financial success.

Both Arni and Elvine are actively involved in the community. Elvine was the first female to be asked to join the Red Deer Rotary Club in 1989, and is a strong supporter of the Paul Harris Foundation of Rotary International. Arni energetically takes part in various community organizations by serving on several organization Boards, one of them being the Diamond Willow Children and Family Services Authority.

Perhaps it is because of the Skoretz' commitment to their community that made them willing to donate their resources to a project halfway around the globe, a physiotherapy clinic benefiting physically disabled children in the Kenyan village of Kendu Bay.

"They have both realized from first hand experience that the wealthiest people are those who love the most..."

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**ADRA People**

**Booth Family Honored Through Gift to ADRA Canada**

On July 3, 2003 the Lord blest Roland and Margaret Booth with 60 years of marriage. Family and friends came from far and wide to celebrate with the Booth’s in Ryley, Alberta.

As a tribute to Roland and Margaret, their son-in-law, Clarence, decided to create a fund to support a humanitarian aide project in Kenya. A donation was made to Clarence, in honour of the anniversary, towards a Kenyan project that he and his wife, Vera, will visit in November. The next Sabbath, Clarence announced in the Riley Church, that a donation was given in honour of the Booth's anniversary and expressed his appreciation for other donations. The contribution soon grew to $600 and with the help of matching donors and partners, increased to $3000.

Roland and Margaret Booth have always been very generous in giving of themselves and their means to help make life better for others. Now that they have been blessed with 60 years of happy marriage and health, they are celebrating by contributing to improving life for others. ADRA Canada expresses appreciation for a thoughtful and creative way to continue helping people.

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**Watch ADRA on TV**


Additional broadcasts will be aired on Tuesdays at 4:00pm ET. Posters are being sent to each church. For more information visit www.villagersmedia.com

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**ADRA Community Partnership**

Mark's Work Wearhouse Donates Boots to Homeless

If you had spent March 11, 2003 with Michael Kapp, a Calgary district manager for Mark’s Work Wearhouse, you would have seen him and five of his sales associates eagerly fitting and handing over 300 winter and steel-toed boots—a salesperson's dream. Indeed, his store should have grown rich were it not for one thing: Michael had just helped give it all away, a charitable donation worth $30,000.

As an active participant in a new project to protect the homeless in Calgary from serious foot ailments, Michael seems to know the meaning of the proverb: it is better to give than receive. He realized this donation would enable people to work during the winter and recalls how "amazing it was to see all those people eager to work with a little help."

It was fourth-year University of Calgary nursing student and community activist, Suzanne Semograd who first noticed how many people in Calgary suffer because of worn footwear. She rallied enough support to initiate a project that would eventually involve the generous assistance of Mark’s Work Wearhouse and three charitable organizations: A Better World of Lacombe, 8th and 8th Health Centre in Calgary, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Michael is grateful for Suzanne's vision. "The project," he says, "has helped me to see the needs in my own backyard." Michael sees the "boot project" not in terms of sales lost, but in love extended. "I just remember how happy they were to receive a pair of boots."

"The project has helped me to see the needs in my own backyard."

Michael Kapp, District Sales Manager, assisting with fitting boots

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**SOLUTIONS continued from page 1**

fields to be planted. Training is now being provided in crop management.

- **Providing water to the schools, health center and residential communities.** ADRA has capped one spring which has an ample water supply, providing plenty of clean water to the schools, residential communities, and the health center. Five water storage tanks have also been constructed.

- **Constructing one large health care complex.** The hospital in Kiziguro was treating over 80,000 patients; 60,000 more than recommended. However, construction of a new health center including a laboratory, dispensary, maternity ward, nutrition center, and diagnostic wing is well under way. The walls in the center's main and staff-housing blocks are complete.

- **Constructing 250 quality shelters and sanitation facilities.** ADRA was asked by CIDA to complete an unfinished housing project. As a result, all 250 shelters, with detached pit latrines, have been constructed.

Because of the dedication of numerous volunteers and the funding provided by ADRA and CIDA, these goals have been met. Once again, ADRA has created lasting solutions not only to meet the needs of the less fortunate, but to facilitate the progress of development for the future.

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**Global Impact**

*Global Impact* is a publication of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Canada. ADRA Canada welcomes comments, suggestions, and contributions for ADRA news publication.

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