Global Impact

ADRA Health Focus

Reaching Laos with REACH

Staff at the REACH mobile health clinic is enabling communities to sustainably meet their basic health needs by providing the much-needed health education, training, and tools.

In the Luangnamtha Province of Laos, REACH has worked with 18 villages from July 2003 to March/April 2004. The results are amazing. With the help of village health volunteers, REACH established a revolving drug fund in each village. Now, villagers (1) have access to simple health care and medicine; (2) avoid making expensive and distant visits to the provincial hospital; and (3) maintain an active, interdependent, health-conscious community. Already, every village visited by REACH abounds with exciting testimonies.

For example, in the village of Sop Som, a little boy named Boundee was able to survive malaria thanks to an ADRA health volunteer. Now Boundee’s family, as well as the entire community, is equipped with education, training, and medical means to prevent and treat diseases like malaria. Boundee’s mother, a young mother in the same village, was trained to run the village’s revolving drug fund. She keeps a medicine cabinet in her own home and not only treats patients, but also conducts follow-up visits. In another village, Kilometer 44, the community decided to take action by establishing sanitary rules to maintain health standards in the entire village. All the communities are grateful to ADRA for using REACH to improve their health and thus their lives.

1 UNICEF

Boundee is grateful for ADRA’s help

ADRA Global

Cradle of Love: Caring for Babies in Tanzania

Imagine being a helpless newborn baby, and your mother has either died or abandoned you because she is infected with AIDS. Imagine having no family to take care of you, and the only children’s home that exists does not accommodate HIV positive babies. You would have no possibility of surviving. Such was the situtation for many HIV positive babies in the African country of Tanzania, until a woman by the name of Damona Church founded the Cradle of Love Baby Home in Arusha, Tanzania. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada has since then sought ways to assist this care home.

Since approximately 10% of Tanzanian adults have AIDS, and since pregnancy accelerates HIV in a mother, there are many infants left without the basic needs to have a chance for life. The Cradle of Love Baby Home is a place where needy infants can feel as if they were at home with their own family, a home where they will receive proper nutrition, medical care, as well as all the love and attention they deserve. It is inevitable that there will be times when a baby infected with HIV unfortunately passes away. However, that infant will feel loved and secure until its last breath,” the Home promises. The mission statement at the Cradle of Love is, “Uniting the resources of others with personal nurturing, we will provide interim care, love, and security, for every infant we are blessed with.”

Take baby Matthew, for example. His mother placed him in a hole beneath a coffee plant in order to protect him until somebody would be able to help found him.

ADRA National

Addressing Diabetes for Canada’s First Nations

Fifty years ago, diabetes was unheard of in First Nations communities. Today, the rate of diabetes among the First Nations is three times the national average, according to a Health Canada study.1 Diabetes in First Nations communities is now considered an epidemic, and rates are continuing to increase,” the same study reports.

It is estimated that 27% of Aboriginal People are affected with diabetes. This brings three times the risk of stroke, hypertension, and heart disease (amongst diabetics over 60% of deaths are due to heart disease); three times the risk of end stage renal disease; and a severe risk for amputation (91% of lower limb amputations are Aboriginal People with diabetes 2-4 times that of the non-diabetic population).

According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, about one third of diabetics have diabetic retinopathy, a type of blood vessel damage in the eye. It is now the most common cause of blindness under age 65, and the most common cause of new blindness in North America. Clearly, diabetes is a major health concern.

There is a great need for health awareness within the Aboriginal population. That is why ADRA Canada is in the process of helping develop a strategy that will address lifestyle issues relevant to Aboriginal peoples. The aim is to create an educational package that will enable the First Nations to make positive and effective choices to ensure health and healing. ADRA Canada envisions healthy First Nations peoples who are virtually free from the debilitating effects of diabetes.


London

Contact

ADRA Canada
1148 King St E
Oshawa, ON L1L 1H8
Phone: 905.433.8004
Fax: 905.723.1903
Toll Free: 1.888.274.2372
E-mail: jfa@adra.ca
Website: www.adra.ca

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Executive Editor - Oliver Leaton-Brook
Editors - Eric Rash, James Articford
Writer - Verna Mirkovich
Assistant - Leslie Wedell
Design - Chris Landey

Global Impact

ADRA Envisions a significant drop in diabetes

LONDON
Tomorrow’s Donors Giving Today

Most students know a thing or two about financial struggles. Educational expenses make it difficult for any student to make ends meet, let alone donate any money to humanitarian efforts. Two youth groups from Lacombe, Alberta, however, have found other ways to give.

Acronaizes for Others

Led by Canadian University College (CUC) physical education chair and instructor, Ron Schafer, the group ‘Acronaizes for Others’ is involved in mission service abroad. The team has been to Nicaragua, Jamaica, Costa Rica, and most recently (April 19-20, 2004) Belize. In addition to holding acronaizes to raise funds, Ron Schafer and his students often contribute their physical labour to various overseas projects. Building a playground, renovating a children’s home, working on a sewage system, and building a roof for an Adventist hospital are only a few examples.

The, so what motivates Acronaizes for Others to engage in such service? There is immense joy and fulfillment in doing things for others,” says Schafer, speaking for the team, ‘and people don’t know what that really means until they try it!’ According to the team, nothing can beat the first-hand experience of serving others in places of need. As a result, these youth are ready to take on more mission work in the future.

Music with a Mission

Another group of young people who are making a difference in a creative way, are ‘The Rosedale Valley Strings.’ While they may not themselves have the means to commit money to humanitarian projects, they devote their time and musical talents to raise funds. Directed by Naomi Deladiel, these young musicians hold concerts in order to raise money for ADRA Canada and build a better world. The Rosedale Valley Strings have toured in Central Alberta and Kelowna B.C., raising $22,900 after holding only 3 concerts in May 2004. The group is thankful for the great help and support they receive from various churches as well as other musicians. In Kelowna, the Rosedale Valley Strings were joined by A.N.D. Trio, Andrea Case, Nola Shantz, and Diane Lane hold master’s degrees in music performance from the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia. The Rosedale Valley Strings, together with other young, dedicated musicians, are taking steps towards improving lives in less fortunate countries. ‘It has always been my dream to use music to bring hope and healing to those in need,’ says Naomi Deladiel.

The youth that make up Rosedale Valley Strings and Acronaizes for Others are tomorrow’s donors giving what they can today.

ADRA People

Service Abroad: the Lehmann Family

Closely involved with ADRA Canada’s mission are Paul Lehmann and his family. Paul Lehmann, Chair and Associate Professor of Outreach Pursuits at Canadian University College, and his wife Donna Lee Lehmann, also a CUC Outreach Pursuits instructor, along with their children Jinda Lee, Shad, and Jordie, frequently take part in ADRA Canada’s efforts abroad. In the summer of 2003, for instance, Paul, Donna Lee, and Jinda Lee joined others from CUC at an ADRA project in Lima, Peru, building homes for street children and their families. At the end of the 6-week project, the tears of happiness that flowed down the faces of Peruvian children and their families as they were handed the keys to their new homes touched the Lehmanns deeply.

For the Lehmann family, service abroad is an integral commitment in their river; it is the perfect way to share God’s love with others. They are eager to meet the needs and improve the lives of those in the world who cannot possibly help themselves. Paul Lehmann has directed many ADRA missions overseas in the Philippines in 1994, where ADRA built water lines and a water tower for a town in Nepal, where in 1999 ADRA implemented a project to build houses for lepers and integrated them back into the community; and where earlier in 1998, ADRA committed itself to building toilets and septic tanks for a village. Paul Lehmann and his family have also committed themselves to an upcoming summer project in Ecuador, where they will help build a health clinic.

The Lehmanns treasure their mission experiences. ‘God has a way of using these trips to not only better the people but to give us a closer connection to God,’ says Paul Lehmann. When asked what his family has learned in their mission service, he replied, ‘patience, loving service, and dependence on God, things that are so easily neglected in the first world. According to the Lehmann family, seeing the way ADRA changes people’s lives forever is well worth every sacrifice.

STORM Co. Coming to Canada

STORM is a mission program that encourages youth to embark on an adventure of community-based service. This is an opportunity for young participants to share God’s love and build bridges to people by working for, learning from, and encouraging communities.

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Tomorrow's Donors Giving Today

A concept team in Bolivia. Ron Schafer is pictured in front row, right.

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ADRA Canada’s National Program will be introducing STORM Co. to Canada at the upcoming Youth Summit ‘Hands On Hearts’ in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sept. 16-19, 2004.
Global Impact

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Social Development

Sharing a special moment at Cradle of Love

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1 Diabetes among Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: The Epidemiology, 1999.

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Contact
ADRA Canada
148 King St E
Oshawa, ON L1I 1H8
Phone: 905.433.8004
Fax: 905.723.1903
Toll Free: 1.888.274.2372
E-mail: info@adra.ca
Website: www.adra.ca