A Place They Can Call Home
Building Log Homes in Mongolia

Father and Son in Mongolia are grateful for their new log home

Those of us who live in Canada could not imagine surviving the long, cold winters without a home. Yet in Mongolia, a great number of families are homeless, and they have to endure these same winters, with temperatures averaging -25°C and dropping as low as -55°C. Most of the homeless adults are herders. In fact, herding was one of the only ways left to generate any income after the Soviet Union collapsed. Within a decade, the number of families dependent on herding multiplied four-fold: whereas only 100,000 families were herding in 1990, over 400,000 families were involved by the year 2000. However, since 1999, the winters were intensely cold and the summers severely dry, resulting in the death of 8 million head of livestock. Some Mongolian provinces have even lost up to 75% of the livestock due to this disaster, known as the dzud. All these crises combined have left 36% of Mongolians living below the poverty line, many of them without homes and adequate food.

In the summer of 2003, ADRA rushed to the aid of these poor families with a project to build six log homes per year. ADRA Canada is assisting in the purchase of the necessary materials and supplies. The project began in the town of Baganuur, where 23 of the poorest families were targeted. Six of those families were involved in the construction of their own homes in 2003 and are now helping in the construction of the other families’ homes. Thirty professors and students from Sahmyook University also volunteered to help. This year another six log homes have been completed.

In addition to constructing the log homes, the families have the opportunity to participate in agricultural and sanitation training. Three large community greenhouses and a much-needed water well were built. Now, many of the families are able to grow vegetables, stay healthy, and generate extra income. Of course, this housing project still has a long way to go. Many families are still waiting for the opportunity to build their home. For information on how you can help, please refer to this issue’s insert.

The Gift of Education

Nick Trent,
National Program Director

‘Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave.’ – Henry Peter Broughan

ADRA Canada always seeks ways of helping others help themselves. This is why ADRA Canada, in partnership with centres, schools, and churches, is helping educate Canadians who would otherwise have no means to obtain an education. The funds collected through the ADRA Annual Appeal are being used to give people tools for success.

In Halifax, the Community Care Network Society (Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank), directed by Mel Boutiller, has been successful in developing a flooring class which has resulted in 10 graduates landing a job upon completion of the 14-week course. These individuals were on social assistance and are now enjoying their own paycheques. Presently, a 3-month course is being conducted to place 12 individuals in the automotive industry. Computer courses are also being offered.

Children are benefiting from this project as well. In British Columbia, the
ADRA Youth

Not Too Young to Make a Difference

Fountainview students worked hard during spring break

Everywhere in Canada, young people are joining hands, working together, and making a difference. It is truly amazing to see how much humanitarian work is being accomplished by our youth. They are central to all levels of humanitarian operation, from fundraising to physically putting the projects in place. They make many sacrifices—giving up comfort, security, free time, even a year of school—all in order to build a better world for someone else. While the majority of youth do not have adequate financial resources to fund humanitarian work, they give something that’s of far greater value: themselves. And for this they deserve to be recognized.

A Fountain of Service

During their 2004 spring break, a group of 23 students and staff from Fountainview Adventist Academy in Lillooet, B.C., went on a mission trip to Villa Juarez, Mexico to help build a rehabilitation centre for physically challenged children. Villa Juarez has the highest percentage of physically challenged children in the Mexican state of Sonora. Prior to this project, there was not a single local facility where people could obtain treatment. Mr. Bob Mason, director of a local Adventist orphanage, along with ADRA Mexico decided to build a rehabilitation centre to improve the conditions; ADRA Canada provided funding for the equipment and supplies. Fountainview students laboured seven hours daily completing the necessary prep work, pouring concrete floors, and laying floor tiles. “By the time we left, there were over 2000 square feet of four inch thick concrete floor. We felt God had used us to make a positive impact on the community, and we were certainly blessed in the process,” says the Fountainview team. Thank you, Fountainview youth, for donating your time, labour, and generous spirit to this important project.

Watering the Growth of a Missionary

Where mission work is concerned, Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta, abounds with students who want to get involved. This summer from May 3 to June 20, 2004, sponsors Carol Jean-Baptiste, Director of Marketing and Enrollment at CUC, and her husband Mike took 10 students to Thailand to help ADRA build a water system for a needy village. Every student came back with a great testimony.

This was the first mission trip for Michaela Holkova, a 4th-year Education major who had always dreamed of going on a mission trip while growing up in the Czech Republic, but never had the chance. After emigrating to Canada, Michaela was thrilled to finally have this opportunity; and 5 years later she found herself on a plane headed for Thailand. Besides helping out with the water system, she taught English at an elementary school. “The children were so appreciative of everything,” she says. The appreciation is felt at both ends, for Michaela will never forget the hospitality she and her fellow missionaries received there and the friends they made. After an amazing experience, Michaela is seriously considering going on an extended mission trip in the future.

Youth involvement in the mission field is so vast that it is impossible to give a report on all activities, but ADRA Canada extends a big Thank You to all the youth who are helping in all the many ways.
ADRA Corporate Compassion

Rebuilding the Lives of Forest Fire Victims

We all know about the destructive forest fires that swept throughout British Columbia and parts of Alberta this past year. The homes of many have been burned to ashes, and victims had no choice but to start life anew. The damage incurred and the possessions lost have put many through a financial crisis that makes starting life over again a very difficult process. But the generosity of Sleep Country Canada of Kelowna has helped many along the way. Sleep Country Canada has donated over $30,000 worth of mattresses to those who have lost their homes to the fires. Upon hearing that many fire victims had nothing to sleep on, the company contacted Richard Erickson, Distribution Supervisor for Sleep Country Canada in B.C. Interior, and Thelma Davis, Director of Adventist Community Services, to correspond in regard to needs beyond the fire disasters. With the help of other organizations as well as Sleep Country locations across the country, mattresses are constantly being donated to the less fortunate. “Whenever there is a strong need for mattresses,” says Davis, “all I have to do is call Richard, and Sleep Country comes through.” ADRA Canada wishes to thank Sleep Country Canada for their compassion and generosity that has made such a positive impact on many lives.

ADRA People

Warm Blankets—A Warm Heart

All over the world children lack the basic needs for life, such as food, clothing, and shelter; and most often it is up to those who live in more prosperous nations to help them. Mary Reitor of Kelowna, B.C., continually uses her talent of quilting to respond to these children’s needs. What began as a hobby of making quilts for friends, family, and nursing homes, is now touching children’s lives all over the world. Reitor spends more time and fabric than ever before, making beautiful quilts to keep needy children warm at night. She donates them to ADRA Canada, after which they are distributed to various countries. Last year, for example, Reitor sewed 124 quilts as well as some clothing for orphaned children in Lithuania. This year, she is well on her way to make more, with 80 completed quilts, folded neatly, waiting to be shipped. Reitor says that as she sews, she always thinks about the little girl or boy who will receive the quilt. The thought that she is helping needy children keep warm at night makes her happy.

The warmth of the blankets is the product of a warm heart. Because of Mary Reitor’s efforts, children all over the world, many of them orphans, can feel the warm comfort of a blanket. ADRA Canada extends special thanks to this loving lady and, certainly, so do the children.

Crisis in Darfur, Sudan

Food, Water, Clothing, Shelter, Medicine. All these basic needs for life, and more, are extremely lacking in the Darfur region of Sudan. Due to severe political upheaval and a destructive climate, approximately 2 million people, (1/3 of the Darfur population) are in danger. About 1 million people have been displaced within Sudan and are in desperate need of humanitarian aid. Death, disease, malnutrition, and poverty are rampant and must be combated. ADRA Sweden, ADRA Germany, and ADRA Canada in conjunction with ADRA Sudan are taking action: clothing, crop seeds, farm tools, blankets, food, medicine, and sanitation training are being provided. ADRA Canada is in continual need of financial contributions that will be allocated to this effort. Please refer to the insert if you are moved to take part.
Global Impact

ADRA Teamwork

Fighting Poverty and Improving Health in Peru

With approximately 49% of its population living below the national income poverty line, the country of Peru faces many health challenges. The people of the Peruvian Amazon especially suffer because they lack access to healthcare, which is normally centered in urban areas. That is about to change. In a team effort, ADRA Canada, ADRA UK, and ADRA Peru are implementing a project to alleviate poverty in the Ucayali region. The focal point will be 64 native Shipibo communities of approximately 21,226 inhabitants total.

These steps will significantly reduce disease and equip the communities with tools for a higher quality of life. The Peru Project is worth almost 1.5 million dollars. The beauty of this project is that the funds donated to ADRA Canada are being matched ten-fold. How? ADRA Canada was responsible for coming up with 10% ($150,000), which has just recently been met; the other 90% has already been committed—75% will come from the European Union, and 15% will come from ADRA UK. Thanks to our very generous donors, this endeavor is already headed for success. We at ADRA Canada extend gratitude to our donors.

In Brief
the Goals of the Peru Project

- To promote community participation and empowerment
- To increase access to safe drinking water
- To implement hygienic practices
- To develop sustainable agro-forestry systems and cultivate bio-orchards

EDUCATION continued from page 1

Aldergrove Elementary Breakfast Feeding Program provides breakfast every school day of the year to children who would otherwise come to school with an empty stomach. This service is essential in improving the children’s ability to learn and concentrate.

ADRA Canada thanks those volunteers across Canada who are working hard to make education available to all. If you would like to know more about how ADRA Canada can support your education initiative, please speak to the National Program staff at 1-888-274-2372.

Other Programs in Operation throughout the Country

Mamawi Atosketan School, AB – Breakfast feeding program in place.
Penticton, BC – Financial education seminar and tutorial for children.
Woodstock, ON – Tutoring services for elementary children.
Fox Point, NS – Parenting seminars in areas of low-income housing.
Edmonton Centre, AB – Courses including cooking, family life, financial, and computer training.
Hamilton East, ON – Computer classes equip people for the present day.
Sherbrooke, QC – Mini-loans are given to students of Sherbrooke University who are waiting for their student loans to arrive, enabling them to register.
Paris and Brantford ON – Seminars on family finances.

Global Impact

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