Spencer Page celebrated his eighth birthday with food, friends, and a mission. For his party on October 30, 2005, he requested that his friends bring a donation for ADRA Canada instead of a birthday gift. The idea came from reading the brochure that ADRA Canada sent out last Autumn showing the programs being funded by donations. When Spencer saw that as little as five dollars could help a child in need, he realized that he could make a difference. Thanks to the generosity of the party-goers, Spencer was able to give $120.00 to ADRA Canada and on that day he received a very special gift indeed – the joy that comes from giving to someone else!

Every year thousands of Canadians like Spencer find creative ways of raising money to support ADRA Canada’s projects. Some raise hundreds and others raise tens of thousands, but all are working toward the same goal: a world without poverty.

2005 was no exception. In total, ADRA Canada received just over $2.3 million in public donations. In addition CIDA funding totaled over $1.4 million and other partners gave over $1.5 million. Many of these donations were in response to disasters such as the tsunami in Asia, the hurricanes in the south-eastern United States, and the earthquake in India and Pakistan. Others were made in memory of a loved one or in commemoration of an anniversary or birthday, but all helped to bring hope to lives around the world.

Like Spencer, you may have looked through a copy of Canada’s Really Useful Gift Catalogue - gifts that last a lifetime. We hope that it not only gave you an opportunity to invest in ADRA’s projects, but that it also provided you with an insight into how your donations are put to work. And like Spencer, you may have noticed that even a small amount can change a life. Five dollars can give a Canadian child a much needed nutritious breakfast, enabling him or her to concentrate on studying; thirty dollars will allow a young woman to receive vocational training in Nepal and sixty dollars can provide shelter and food for one street child living in Morelos, Mexico.

We at ADRA Canada would like to thank each one of you for supporting these and other projects around the world. It is your donations that make our work possible.

“Listen dear friends. Isn’t it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world’s down-and-out as the kingdom’s first citizens, with full rights and privileges.”

The Message - James 2
São Tomé and Principe is one of the smallest countries in Africa, but even though it is very poor, when the tsunami struck on December 26, 2004, ADRA São Tomé felt compelled to help. ADRA was the first to launch a National Appeal to help the victims; this appeal was made through the National Television and Radio.

A bank account was set up and within one week over US $3000 had been collected. These funds were sent to the ADRA Regional Office in the District of Tamil Nadu, India and used to rebuild public bathrooms.

After the initial campaign, the Minister of Work and Solidarity contacted ADRA São Tomé and asked if they would help to coordinate the government response to the tsunami. The government also promised to match all funds raised by ADRA.

During this second three-month campaign, the Government Coordination Team raised some US $10,000 which was matched by the government and allocated for use through the United Nations.

It was amazing to see even small children in São Tomé schools giving their coins to help. In their island country, São Toméans are accustomed to living with the sea and could easily imagine the devastation that a similar tsunami would cause if it struck their home. “Being able to put ourselves in the place of those equal to us, but born in a different place [on] our common planet,” writes a local São Toméan, “is the first step to [making a difference].”

In the small hamlet of Tyrone, Ontario a group of children decided to take advantage of the increased traffic coming through on Labour Day Monday by raising funds for Hurricane Katrina. At the main intersection, where the old blacksmith’s shop, an 1850’s general store and two homes grace the corners, there is a four-way stop. In front of the store, which is no longer operational, the children set up a juice stand. They made up signs that said, “Help the Victims of Hurricane Katrina.” As cars came by, some would just make a donation while others donated and accepted cups of juice. After collecting money from cars for about three hours the children went home. That evening they canvassed the homes in Tyrone. By the end of the day the children, ranging in age from six to twelve, had raised $700.00. After school the following week the children came to our office with their donation.

Shingling for ADRA

Members of the Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church found a unique way of fundraising for ADRA. When a local home required new shingles, the owner approached the church with the project; if the church would volunteer to re-shingle the home, the owners would donate the labour costs to ADRA Canada.

On Sunday November 13, fourteen church members tackled the project. In one day they stripped off the old shingles and re-shingled the entire roof. Everyone had a part to play—prying off the old shingles, cutting and nailing down new shingles, cleaning up and serving lunch. At the end of the day, the project had raised almost $650.00 for ADRA Canada.
During our first trip into the field, I knew why I had wanted to come to Malawi. One whole village came out to meet us at their entrance. They were eager to show us how the village had changed. The people proudly showed their water pump which is still in use after three years. Imagine having to haul water on your head from a stream a great distance from home!

A group of children were playing football happily in the field when we arrived. Their ball was a hard accumulation of plastic bags. The simplest thing that they could use brought them pleasure.

The closeness between the ADRA staff and villagers was heartening. The ADRA staff encouraged the people to tell us what ADRA projects meant to them. Their responses brought tears to my eyes.

1. We no longer worry about starving to death. We have learned to grow and store our own food. Even with the drought this year, we had enough so far for two meals a day. When there was not enough rain to mature their “score” on the card they sat in a queue waiting to see the optometrist who fitted them with an instrument allowing various lenses to be tried till the correct strength was found. Next they headed to the queue for frame fitting. In four days the team had run out of glasses with minus readings. Fortunately, we had received some boxes of used eye glasses from ADRA Canada and these were brought to the rescue since more children needed glasses than anticipated.

My camera captured the smiles on a few faces as they lit up when suddenly they were able to see clearly for the first time. Very self-conscious, they walked passed their friends in the school hall wearing their new glasses, going out more focused to face a much brighter world.

Since our new ADRA Canada funded water borehole has been commissioned, life has changed for us all here at East African Mission Orphanage. Not only are we able to splash as much water around as we wish when we are bathing, but we are finally able to grow our own fresh vegetables. Thanks to our new borehole we will not have to spend so much money on food for the children.

The picture below is just the beginning of our new Horticulture Project. We have raised beds with a dripper system to each bed. This dripper system is the most economical way of growing vegetables, so we are not only “cost cutting” on our kitchen purchases, but we are also keeping down our expensive electricity costs for running our borehole pump. Eventually we hope to be growing 100% of our own vegetables from this garden.

**Eye Camp**

Eye Camp is a joint venture between ADRA and Rotary Club that was held in Nepal for many years, but since security is no longer a given there, they have come to Mongolia. We dropped in at a school yesterday to see the process.

Excited school children jostled each other in the passage as each awaited their turn to receive a card and stand to face the eye chart on the wall. Some women helped each child to hold one eye closed while he or she indicated the direction each letter was facing. With their “score” on the card they sat in a queue waiting to see the optometrist who fitted them with an instrument allowing various lenses to be tried till the correct strength was found. Next they headed to the queue for frame fitting. In four days the team had run out of glasses with minus readings. Fortunately, we had received some boxes of used eye glasses from ADRA Canada and these were brought to the rescue since more children needed glasses than anticipated.

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**News from Malawi**

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**Vegetables**

by Ralph Spinks

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Malawi continued from page 4

the corn, we grew cassava and supplemented our meals with vegetables.

2. We have learned how to store rain water. Our village is now clean and the whole village has benefited. Each house has a stone lined latrine. A wood rack for draining clean dishes and a storage area for the corn that has been harvested is also part of each household. Those who have not been fortunate to be part of our project have watched and followed our example.

3. ADRA has given us a better standard of living. The staff, who have worked with us, have been so kind. They have given us hope.

Global Impact

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

Tell us about:
- the ways in which your church or community supports ADRA Canada
- experiences people have had with ADRA Canada projects
- how ADRA Canada has impacted your life

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have a story to share.

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