

CANADIAN FOOD FOR CHILDREN (Chatham-Kent)

Registered Charity # 80865 8280 RR 0001

Newsletter #33~ Winter 2024

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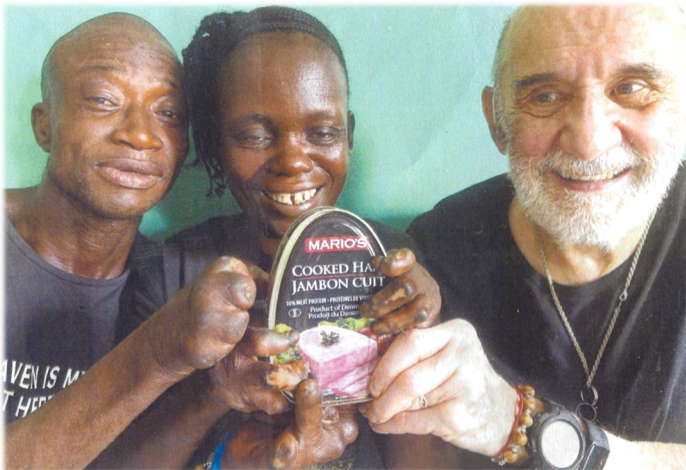
Wishing You Blessings during this Christmas Season

As this season of change is upon us, we experience colder temperatures, bare trees, a flurry or two, and shorter days. We are getting ready to hibernate and get out the sweaters and coats.

Although these changes are taking place, **the needs of many in our world are ongoing and increasing.** Your generosity through financial donations, food, clothing, personal items, shoes, tools, school supplies, sewing goods and toys is making a difference in so many lives.

We thank you for your continued support and ensure you that our volunteers are working hard to sort, pack and ship the items you donate.

To date we have sent 15 transport trucks to the Mississauga warehouse this year. The Mississauga warehouse has sent 195 container shipments to Angola, Cameroon, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Peru, Sierra Leone, Tanzania for a total of 2,928,770 kgs. (6,457,938 lbs) as of the end of the October of 2024.



Dr. Simone with Margaret and Saa, who both have leprosy. They are receiving canned meat from CFFC.



Dr. Andrew Simone with Saa spending time together and comparing hands.

WORDS FROM OUR CO-FOUNDRESS - ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA (MOTHER TERESA)

The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted.

There is more hunger in the world for love and appreciation than for bread.



In Memory of Frank Van Oirschot

By John and Sandra VanRaay

Frank was the owner of our original warehouse and beginning on Jan 1, 2007 he not only provided the keys to CFFC-CK, but decided that if no volunteer in this charity receives compensation, he would not charge any rent. As a result, Frank not only assumed responsibility for our rent, but also for all our utility bills, repairs needed to the building, etc., and arranged to include a badly needed loading dock at no charge.

Over the past 17 years Frank has personally assisted CFFC-CK both financially and in many other ways. Frank agreed to become a member of our Board of Directors and provided the Board with much of his wisdom and acumen as a business man.

Frank not only provided us free of charge with parking spaces in our old warehouse, but continued for our new warehouse. Without his, and his family's generosity it would not be possible to function in our new location.

The Board and Volunteers of CFFC-CK express our condolences to Frank's family on his recent passing and we are so grateful for the many years of service and counsel Frank provided to all of us. Well done, good and faithful servant.



We HONOUR Marvin Merritt

(newly-retired) after 16 years of faithful service to CFFC-CK.

By John and Sandra VanRaay

As a result of a chance telephone conversation between us and Marvin, CFFC-CK was able to acquire possession of our original warehouse from Frank VanOirschot in December, 2006. Soon, Marvin joined CFFC-CK and assumed responsibility for our accounting, banking, income tax filing, etc. Early in 2007 it became necessary to obtain non-profit corporation status and Marvin, again, took responsibility for all the paperwork, dealing with our lawyer.

When Marvin retired from his job with Frank a few years later, he became a full-time volunteer with CFFC-CK. He used his truck to collect donated items and he, along with others, travelled to many out-of-town donors to collect these items and many other places in Chatham-Kent. He was instrumental in making the Grade 8 Faith Days work in partnership with CFFC-CK and the St. Clair Catholic School Board for many years.

Marvin's connections found us a trucker, Doug Bateman, and he worked with Doug each month to personally load each truck using a manual fork lift.

Over the past 16 years, Marvin assumed joint responsibility for providing leadership to many of our volunteers, attended to any concerns regarding the warehouse, was a valuable member of our Board of Directors, Financial Director and advisor.

Marvin assumed many other duties, too numerous to mention, and as a result of all of his efforts has largely been responsible for the operation and success of CFFC-CK. His love and dedication to reaching out to the poorest of the poor will never be forgotten and we wish him a **blessed** retirement.

Many hands make light work!



Brady, Harper & Alexi worked hard this summer to sort toothbrushes and toothpaste. We appreciate all their help!

Josef Stonehouse is unloading pallets of paper we were able to acquire to send with duo-tangs and binders. School supplies give children a chance to grow to their full potential.



Mike Bonvarlez and Bernie Rivard unload yarn which was purchased in bulk. This yarn is distributed to many volunteers who make blankets, washcloths, and baby items.

Proteins, such as canned meat and peanut butter, are so important and provide excellent nutrition. Many thanks to volunteers, Ron Berlemont and Mary Dunlop, who work hard to source great prices for peanut butter, lined paper, soap, and many other needed items.



Packed peanut butter and other needed items ready to go.



Christina (Dr. Simone's daughter) with Anna in El Salvador. Anna is thankful for the nutritious peanut butter.



Saa received a jar for which he is grateful.



Nothing could be simpler for you.

Whether you want to donate once or give monthly, give a charitable gift, or donate securities, it's easy at CanadaHelps! You get a tax receipt immediately and they take care of the paperwork for us. CFFC-CK can accept **e-transfers!**

Email: cffcchathamkent@gmail.com

Website: www.canadianfoodforchildren-ck.com

“Quiet Servants” Faith in Action



Chris Vallee has been volunteering at CFFC for over 10 years, and comes every Wednesday and Thursday morning. He is a strong, steady worker and has fun with all the other volunteers.

In Chris' words: "I come here to do volunteer work – I like that I help unload vehicles and flatten milk bags, and I enjoy the people here. They are very nice."

Chris is very generous and treats every volunteer with cards at Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en cards. We appreciate all of his help!



Marlene Schives has been a volunteer at CFFC-CK for over 15 yrs and works in the “Sewing” area every Thursday morning. She prepares kits which provide everything someone would need to sew. Marlene will pack boxes with a refurbished sewing machine, fabric, scissors, threads and notions. This provides a livelihood for our sisters and brothers in need.

Marlene has done amazing networking and after she did a presentation in Harrow, the group there has been donating items every month for many years. She picks up items at Ashley's in Tilbury every week, and some women from Comber frequently drop off items at Marlene's house.

Lisa Hall has a quilting shop in Tilbury and makes many donations to CFFC as well. The community works together to support many in need and this is a WIN/WIN as the surplus items go where they will be used

and needed. We Re-Source everything we can!

When asked why she does this, Marlene said, “knowing someone can sew – use it, have a better life, and the items are not going into the garbage...makes me feel good!”

Every time we **Love**, Every time we **Give**, it's **Christmas**.

Dale Evans