

CANADIAN FOOD FOR CHILDREN (Chatham-Kent)



Registered Charity # 80865 8280 RR 0001
Newsletter #32~ Spring 2024
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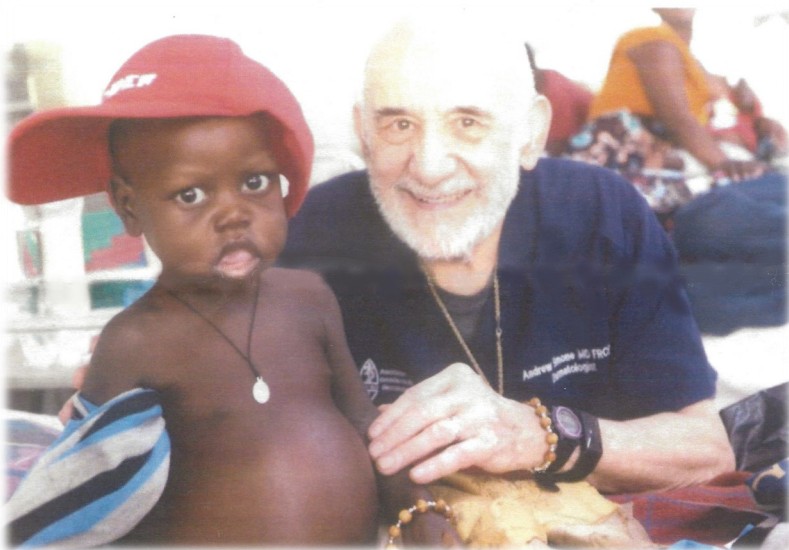
Spring into Action!

We often get the **urge to purge** our households and closets during this time of year. It's amazing how many things we accumulate. This year perhaps you could consider Canadian Food for Children for your no-longer-needed items. We are able to send gently used clothing, household items, blankets and sheets, personal hygiene items, school supplies, tools/garden tools, toys, shoes, suitcases, bicycles, wheelchairs, sewing/knitting supplies, and medical supplies. Our warehouse is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am -12:30 pm.

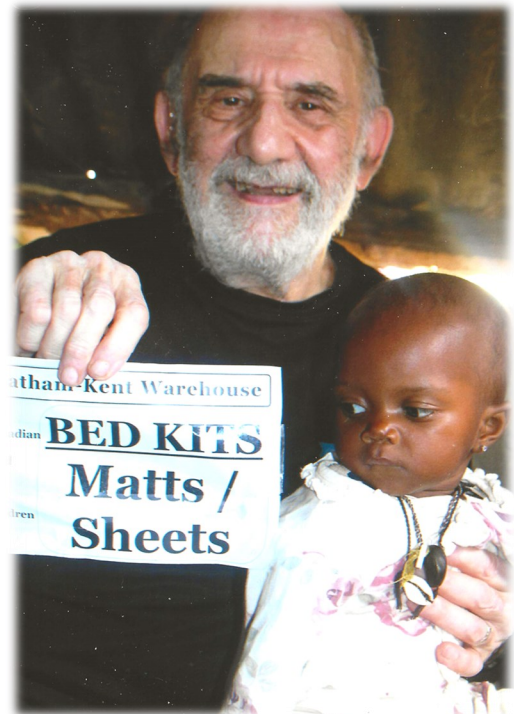
All of these items are sorted, packed, labeled and shipped to the Mississauga warehouse. In 2023, they sent 211 containers filled with food and all of the above-mentioned items to various countries in Africa, South and Central America and the Caribbean.

This is thanks to your continued generosity and the work of our many dedicated volunteers.

To date we have sent 5 transport trucks filled with so many needed items.



Above: Dr. Simone with Ivan, 1 year and 8 months old. Diagnosed with kidney cancer (Nephroblastoma). St. Mary's Hospital Lacor, Uganda.



Youth Serving Others

Personal Hygiene Kits

Ursuline College Chatham (UCC) Girls Physical Education and Health students have helped other women and girls by packing feminine hygiene kits. Following a presentation about CFFC, students from Michele Mommersteeg's classes came to the warehouse in the Fall and Spring to pack soap, underwear, washcloths and sanitary pads (which have been sewn by hard-working volunteers). Over 400 kits have been prepared by these helpful students. The comfort they have provided to their sisters in other countries is immeasurable! We **do need** washcloths, (crocheted or purchased), new women's underwear (S,M,L), and bars of soap.



Lenten Collections

Once again, our youth have put their faith into action through their Lenten Collections.

UCC students collected over 4500 items, primarily soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. They surpassed their goal of 1275 by a landslide. Lancer Loud! Lancer Proud!



Pictured Left: Georges P Vanier students generously collected a variety of items, school supplies, personal hygiene items, milk bags and other greatly needed items.

The Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

focused on collecting shoes and soap during Lent this year. Their generosity provided our brothers and sisters with over 450 pairs of shoes along with soap and many other miscellaneous items.

St. Anne's Catholic School

in Blenheim, filled the bus again this year!! Students collected school supplies, clothing, shoes, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, sports equipment and brought all of this to the warehouse to sort and pack. Amazing work, St. Anne's Stars!

Thank you!



Laurel, one of our CFFC-CK volunteers is holding dolls made by her sister Carol. These beautiful hand made items were generously donated knowing that the children who would receive them would really appreciate her 'made with love' gifts.

A big thank you to all of those who make crocheted and knitted blankets, washcloths and many other items. **Pneumonia vests are no longer needed.** Your 'gifts' are appreciated by those who receive them.

Cyclones Hockey Teamwork

Chatham AAA Cyclones Hockey Team (under 14) was back again this year, along with a huge collection of items that they had collected from other hockey players and families. They worked hard, sorting and packing, to make a difference for others!



GRATEFUL

A huge shout-out to our partners for their ongoing support:

Harvest Pac

New Life

Value Village

St. Vincent de Paul

Harold North Trucking

Evans Wholesale

Southwestern Ontario Gleaners

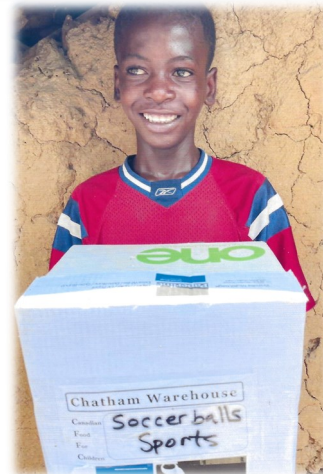
Loads of Love

Salvation Army

CK Tubs and Taps

New to You (Ridgetown)

Habitat ReStore





Nothing could be simpler for you. Whether you want to donate once or give monthly, give a charitable gift, donate securities, it's easy at CanadaHelps! You get a tax receipt immediately and they take care of the paperwork for us. Now, CFFC-CK can accept **e-transfers!**

Email: cffcchathamkent@gmail.com

Website: www.canadianfoodforchildren-ck.com

Outreach in the Dominican Republic - written by Veronica Lloyd

January 18th of this year, volunteers and friends of CFFC took approximately 400 lbs. of educational supplies to 2 schools in the DR as a side trip of our vacation.

We visited 2 schools, both were surrounded by brick walls and barbed wire for safety. The rooms were small, crowded and lacked many items we take for granted. There is a lack of qualified teachers and we were shown a newly built high school standing empty because there were no teachers available.

Our most meaningful stop was at a school in the heart of a barrio (poor neighbourhood), which had a tiny cement pad for a playground, a kindergarten room with tables and chairs but no toys. Three small shelves held only a handful of tattered scribblers, a small folded alphabet mat and few reading books. The older classroom we visited was equally sparse.

Sadly, the children outside the school were Haitian (illegal) immigrants and are not allowed to attend school. When asked about those children obtaining an education, we discovered that the parents would be deported if they tried to become citizens so the circle of poverty just continues. Our guide shared a few of the school supplies we'd brought with these children and it was bittersweet to see them dancing around clutching filled pencil cases and duo-tangs to their chests.

(Although this wasn't an official CFFC trip) the experiences we had in the Dominican Republic gave new meaning to the work we do at the warehouse, and we will keep the people we met in our minds, hearts, and prayers.



Words from our Co-Foundress - St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

Prayer in action is love, love in action is service.