

FEEDING CHILDREN

2nd Quarter 2015
Volume 1
Issue 1

A publication of **Kids Against Hunger**®



Families scavenging through the dump near Guatemala City happily receive Kids Against Hunger meals.

— page 9



Hopegivers President Helping Orphans Become Ambassadors

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Ja-hed—one reason we feed children.

— page 10

Meet some KAH Satellite Directors



— pages 5,8 &11

From the desk of the CEO

It was about 95 degrees, and I was on the outskirts of New Delhi, India this past March with a small group of people. As we drove into a leper colony to meet the people suffering in this village, my expectation was what most of us may have. Since I had never met anyone with leprosy, I had an image in my head of what I thought I would see. That was immediately shattered as soon as we parked our vehicle.

We did not find diseased people lying around the streets with their hands out looking for help, which was one of the visions in my head, but we found a group of people inflicted with a terrible disease, who were working as hard as anyone I have ever met.

I saw men working on manual looms making some of the most amazing fabric I had ever seen. I met men and women taking cotton and dyeing it into incredibly vibrant colors, and I saw that same cotton being made into different size threads to put on spools to load onto the looms.

In the midst of what I would have thought to be despair, I saw hope and joy that made me rethink my perspective on my life.

I do not know about you, but the emotional rollercoaster I go through on a regular basis trying to achieve

the goals before me, can tend to wear me out. Just the regular day-to-day activities that grind away at my emotions seem overwhelming at times.

Then I remember my trip to India, and seeing this elderly, blind gentleman with no fingers or toes, who still radiated joy and thanksgiving. I do not write this to elicit feelings of guilt for the blessing of living in this amazing country. Quite the opposite, as a matter of fact. I rejoice daily for the life I have.

What *has* changed, is my perspective on the children and families we, at Kids Against Hunger, are trying to serve around the world and here at home. I am thankful that we live in a place where we can make a difference in the lives of literally millions of people around the world.

I am thankful that we have so many supporters, like you, who give, not because of guilt, but because we believe we have been entrusted with a great gift that we must share with the world around us. If you do not believe that you are making much of a difference, remember the story of these lepers who you are helping and so many more around the world. You *are* a difference maker!

Before I run out of space, I should

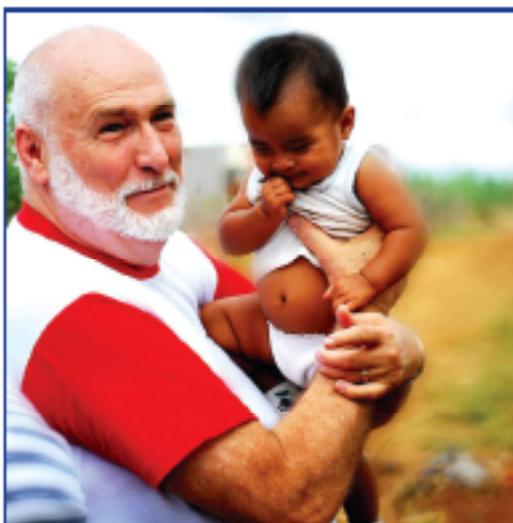
also thank you for picking up and reading the first edition of “Feeding Children” magazine. Our desire here at Kids Against Hunger, is to connect you to those we all are serving. This magazine will help serve this goal. We want you to read stories of our satellite network around the country and all the good that is being done by so many people. We will produce this magazine quarterly and our hope is that you are blessed and encouraged being a part of our family.

With Great Hope,

Nick Yaksich
KAH CEO

Feeding Children is a publication of Kids Against Hunger®, a trademark of Freedom Foods® and a humanitarian organization with a mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the USA and to feed starving children throughout the world. We ship meals to starving children and their families in over 60 countries through partnerships with humanitarian organizations worldwide.

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In Memory

Bill Beltz

Satellite Director, Highland, IL

*Your vision and tireless work for Nicaragua was an inspiration.
You will be missed.*

“It is not length of life, but depth of life.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Kids
Against
Hunger®**

Meet the Corporate Team



Nick, CEO — Nick Yaksich has served as the CEO of Kids Against Hunger since December 2014 and has led an amazing team of people at our corporate office in Omaha, NE. Nick's vision is to lead and grow the Kids Against Hunger satellite network to continue its mission

of feeding families around the world and around the corner.
nick@kidsagainsthunger.org



Stephen, Director of Development — If you could bottle joy and enthusiasm, Stephen would be the result. Stephen is a perfect advocate for KAH as we work on developing and growing our network. In his role as Director of Development he is here to serve our satellites and help them grow.

stephen@kidsagainsthunger.org



P.J., Director of Community Engagement — P.J. graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Family Science. He has obtained great leadership qualities by playing Division I football during his time at UNL. P.J. is also the founder of Team13 Foundation,

which focuses on kids with a disability. He has a passion for making a difference in as many lives as he can. As the Director of Community Engagement, P.J. will help KAH develop new products and coordinate fundraising events.

pj@kidsagainsthunger.org



Kelly Jo, Director of Distribution - Kelly Jo was drawn into the KAH family when her oldest son hosted a birthday party with KAH nearly 10 years ago. She and her husband Nick acquired the Omaha satellite a few years later. Her previous experience as administrative

director of a ministry for 25 years and running a satellite brings together her passion to help those in need with the skills of problem solving, and to go above and beyond to help the satellites have successful events.

distribution@kidsagainsthunger.org



Gary, Director of Satellites – Gary has been a part of KAH off-and-on for many years. He has a passion for feeding people around the world and helping our satellites become the most effective satellites possible. Gary has such a servant's heart and we are blessed to

have him on our team as our Director of Satellites.

gary@kidsagainsthunger.org



Elijah, Director of Logistics — Many people hear the word logistics and cringe. When Elijah hears it he gets excited and wants to find the best way to make something happen. From shipping and receiving to helping our satellites become more efficient, Elijah gets

the job done.

warehouse@kidsagainsthunger.org



Maribeth, Development – When it comes to customer and corporate contacts, Maribeth leaves others in the dust. She is working diligently in our development department finding new events for the satellites.

maribeth@kidsagainsthunger.org



Bob, International Spokesman – Bob is affectionately known as the Christian Indiana Jones. He is an expert in biblical archeology and has spent many years in parts of the world where KAH food is distributed. Bob has traveled the world and seen firsthand the devastation of starvation. His school and hospital in Ethiopia is partnering with KAH to conduct a scientific test of our WHO formula product.

bob@baseinstitute.org



Irene, Graphics/Marketing — Irene and her husband, Dan, built and operated an orphanage in Haiti for more than 18 years and have a passion for those in need. She also served as Publisher/Managing Editor of a regional Christian Newspaper. Not only is Irene

exceptionally talented, but she is compassionate and has a heart for KAH.

admin@kidsagainsthunger.org

“KIDS” Against Hunger

These children prove that even the very young can make a difference in their world by packing Kids Against Hunger’s life-saving meals for hungry and starving children around the world.



SATELLITE SPOTLIGHT



KAH - Bay Area CA
Sherri Leal



Sherri Leal
Bay Area Satellite Director

“I have the best 2nd career ever!” Sherri Leal is quick to share her feelings about being the Director of the KAH - Bay Area Satellite in Pleasanton,

CA. She retired from Bank of America and is now a full time volunteer with KAH.

Leal’s journey with KAH began in 2010 when a friend, Sherman Balch, went to Haiti after the earthquake to learn how he could get involved in helping rebuild Haiti. He saw KAH food in orphanages, Doctors Without Borders Clinics, and a few tent cities. After his return from Haiti, Balch and his wife Cheryl, asked to meet with Leal to discuss a possible new career following her retirement. Balch told

Leal that if she could feed 1,000 kids, that would be great — or 10,000, even better. Leal thought “No pressure!” The Balchs bought the KAH licensing and gave Leal a building for a year to build the business and see where it would go.

“After I was done talking with Sherman and Cheryl about possibly starting a satellite, I got in the car and the song “Give Me Your Eyes” from Brandon Heath was on the radio and it hit me hard that I could do this!”

Leal asked 50 friends and family to pack and then challenged them to go get another group to pack and that is how KAH – Bay Area has been since the beginning. Leal shared, “We are a weird ‘pay to play’ non-profit with 93% of every dollar donated going directly to food and shipping.”

Leal enjoys watching people who pack, as they begin to truly feel like they’ve done something to make a difference when they see how much they’ve packed. Leal’s goal is to bring back the saying “Many hands make light work.” The Bay Area Satellite has packed over 5 million meals since that first event in June 2010.

Some of Leal’s favorite memories involve a dad & daughter and a wedding.

Leal received a call from a dad the day after a school packing event. His daughter had come home the night before and told her parents that she wanted to break open her piggybank and donate all her savings to feed more children. Her dad wanted to check out KAH so Leal drove over

to the KAH warehouse and gave the family a tour, then proceeded to book an event for the dad’s company to host a team-building event the following week.

The most unusual packing event for Leal was a wedding reception for 60. The wedding couple wanted something different, so they went to city hall for the ceremony then invited their guests to join them in a packing event in lieu of gifts. When the packing was completed, the wedding party had cake.



Another tool Leal uses to encourage children to become more aware of worldwide hunger issues, is a journal she supplies to school libraries. The journal provides a place for students to write about how they fed a child for a month. Children are asked for a \$5 donation. An entry from one little girl described how her dad took her on a breakfast date once a month. She asked her dad if she could make breakfast on Saturday and would he then donate the money he would usually spend on the “date” breakfast, to KAH?

Leal concluded, “That is truly a child who gets it!” ■



Every year, Kids Against Hunger Satellites pack and ship millions of life-saving meals around the world ...and around the corner.



Orphans Become Ambassadors

Hopegivers International hopes to launch one million leaders by 2030



Dr. Samuel A Thomas
President and CEO
Hopegivers International

By Lee Warren
Contributing writer

When you think about third-world orphanages, you probably don't consider them a launching pad for the gospel. Nonetheless, that's exactly how Hopegivers International views its 48 orphanages throughout India, Nepal, Burma and Haiti.

The ministry has rescued, equipped and launched some 37,000 orphans into full-time ministry, and it is cur-

rently preparing an additional 6,000 children who live in their "Hope Homes" – strategically placed orphanages, with the purpose of raising leaders.

But that is just the beginning.

Hopegivers has a rather ambitious goal of rescuing, equipping and launching one million orphan leaders by 2030.

It all starts with food.

Kids Against Hunger (KAH) partners with Hopegivers to distribute food to children in Hope Homes – a partnership that KAH president and Hopegivers vice president Dr. Chris Leader says changes lives.

"The food is tangibly used to extend the gospel to them," Dr. Leader said. "Every grain of rice, every bit of our meals from KAH is making a difference. Not only in the physical lives of the children right now, but also in where they will spend eternity."

He praises the work Hopegivers president Dr. Samuel Thomas is doing with the children in Hope Homes, as well as his work in other ministries.

"He also has a heart to feed the

children on the street who may never be part of our orphanage network, but are desperate for food, and need Jesus just the same," Leader said.

Hopegivers will serve over 6.5 million meals to children this year. So when an organization like KAH steps in to help, it allows Hopegivers to rescue more children, and increase the quality of their education and healthcare.

"Every grain of rice, every bit of our meals from KAH is making a difference. Not only in the physical lives of the children right now, but also in where they will spend eternity."

- Dr. Chris Leader

Years ago, a three-year-old boy named Shree was placed in a Hope Home in India by his parents because they could no longer care for him. Shree's family lived in a leper

colony of 4.5 million – many of whom were missing toes, fingers, noses, eyes or various other body parts.

Shree wasn't receptive to the gospel for many years while he was living at a Hope Home, but shortly before he graduated from the orphanage, he met with Dr. Thomas, who led him to Christ.

"When I was baptizing him, he immediately said to me, 'Change my name to Joseph,'" Dr. Thomas said.

Shree is the name of one of the goddesses in India. As a new creation in Christ, Shree recognized that he needed a new identity. So, from the moment of his baptism, he became known as Joseph Thomas (assuming Dr. Thomas' surname).

Joseph went on to seminary, and then chose to go back to his leper colony, where he then led his parents to Christ. He is currently pastoring 275 lepers outside of Delhi, while also ministering to 280 children in a "slum school."

"He's making a difference not only in the lives of lepers, but in the lives of these children who will one day become arrows for Christ," Dr. Thomas said.

Stories like this are endless.

A seven-year-old girl named Pooja came to one of the Hope Homes after her mother was imprisoned for killing her father. While Dr. Thomas was interviewing the young girl, he asked her what she wanted to become when she grew up.

"I want to become a policewoman," Pooja said. "I want to make sure my father gets justice and my mother spends the rest of her life in jail."

That was nine years ago. Pooja's heart is much different after spending so much time in her Hope Home. Recently, Dr. Thomas asked her the same question.



Kids Against Hunger Board President, Dr. Chris Leader cuts the ribbon for the launch of a new class of graduates from a Bible College in India.

"I want to become a medical nurse and hopefully marry a pastor and serve the Lord in a village one day," she said.

"You've come a long way since the day you said you wanted to become a police officer," Dr. Thomas said.

Hopegivers will serve over 6.5 million meals to children this year. So when an organization like KAH steps in to help, it allows Hopegivers to rescue more children, and increase the quality of their education and healthcare.

"Christ has taught me how to forgive," she said. "And I've forgiven my mother."

KAH CEO Nick Yaksich recalls traveling to India to be part of a weekend celebration for one of Hopegivers' graduating classes.

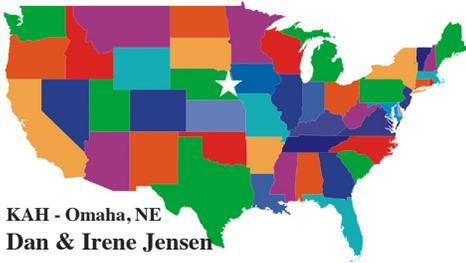
People from all over India were in attendance. Before the ceremony, he noticed that Dr. Thomas was trying to pull away for a bit to get some rest in his office, but when two lepers who were maimed and blind wanted to see him, he couldn't refuse.

"In the middle of all the festivities and with so many people wanting time with him, he stopped and spent significant time with these individuals, and you could see them radiate as they left," Yaksich said. "Dr. Thomas is a true servant."

After orphans graduate, they are God-fearing, financially-independent, lovers of their nation – servant-leaders. They go on to become pastors, nurses, businessmen and parents, contributing to the betterment of their communities as they care for others who are less fortunate than themselves. ■

If you would like to get involved, Dr. Thomas asks you to visit www.hopegivers.org. From there, you can choose one of the Hope Homes to sponsor for \$35.00 per month.

SATELLITE SPOTLIGHT



KAH - Omaha, NE
Dan & Irene Jensen

Daniel & Irene Jensen, live in Omaha NE, have been married for 26 years, and have 4 children – all grown and living on their own.

Before joining KAH, the Jensens founded a non-profit missions ministry with a primary focus on Haiti. For the 18 year period before joining KAH, they built and operated an orphanage, which was home to 50 children; led short-term mission teams to Haiti, Trinidad, Taiwan and Sweden; published a Christian Newspaper for the Omaha metro area; and raised the



full support for the organization. Prior to those years in missions work, Dan served as a Chaplain at a local retirement community, spent a year working with the Luis Palau Association, and operated a business for 15 years before starting mission work in 1996.

The Jensen's first encounter with KAH occurred a number of years ago with the gentleman who first began a KAH Satellite in Omaha. A couple years later, Nick and Kelly Jo Yaksich blessed the Jensen's mission work and kids in Haiti with the KAH meals, which the kids loved. KAH meals were also distributed in some of the Haitian villages.

The Jensen's mission work in Haiti



Dan Jensen with some of the children from the orphanage in Haiti.

had come to a close in February 2014. After a few months to rest, they received a call from Nick & Kelly Jo Yaksich. They shared the need for new directors for the Omaha Satellite, as they were moving into the corporate operations of KAH. Dan Jensen shared, "Our hearts are still with the poor and needy in Haiti, and



Irene & Dan Jensen
Omaha Satellite Directors

around the world, so KAH seemed a very natural fit for our 'DNA' as a way in which we could still help kids and families in need."

As a recipient of the meals in Haiti and having the blessing of sharing the KAH food with people in need, the look of deep gratitude in the faces of people who deal with the challenges of starvation daily, will always remain etched in the minds of the Jensens.

On the local front, one of the Jensen's favorite observations, is the look on peoples faces when they hear the real-life stories of kids in Haiti eating dirt cakes, and then realizing that with their own hands and a little bit of money, they can actually pack food and know that it makes a difference.

"We have been privileged to be on both ends of the KAH spectrum – as a recipient in Haiti, and now on the packaging end in Omaha." Jensen continued, "KAH has created a great product, and a great opportunity for people to serve with their hands, and with their resources. It's an honor to be a part of an organization that is seeking to make a substantial difference in our world!" ■

Kids Against Hunger

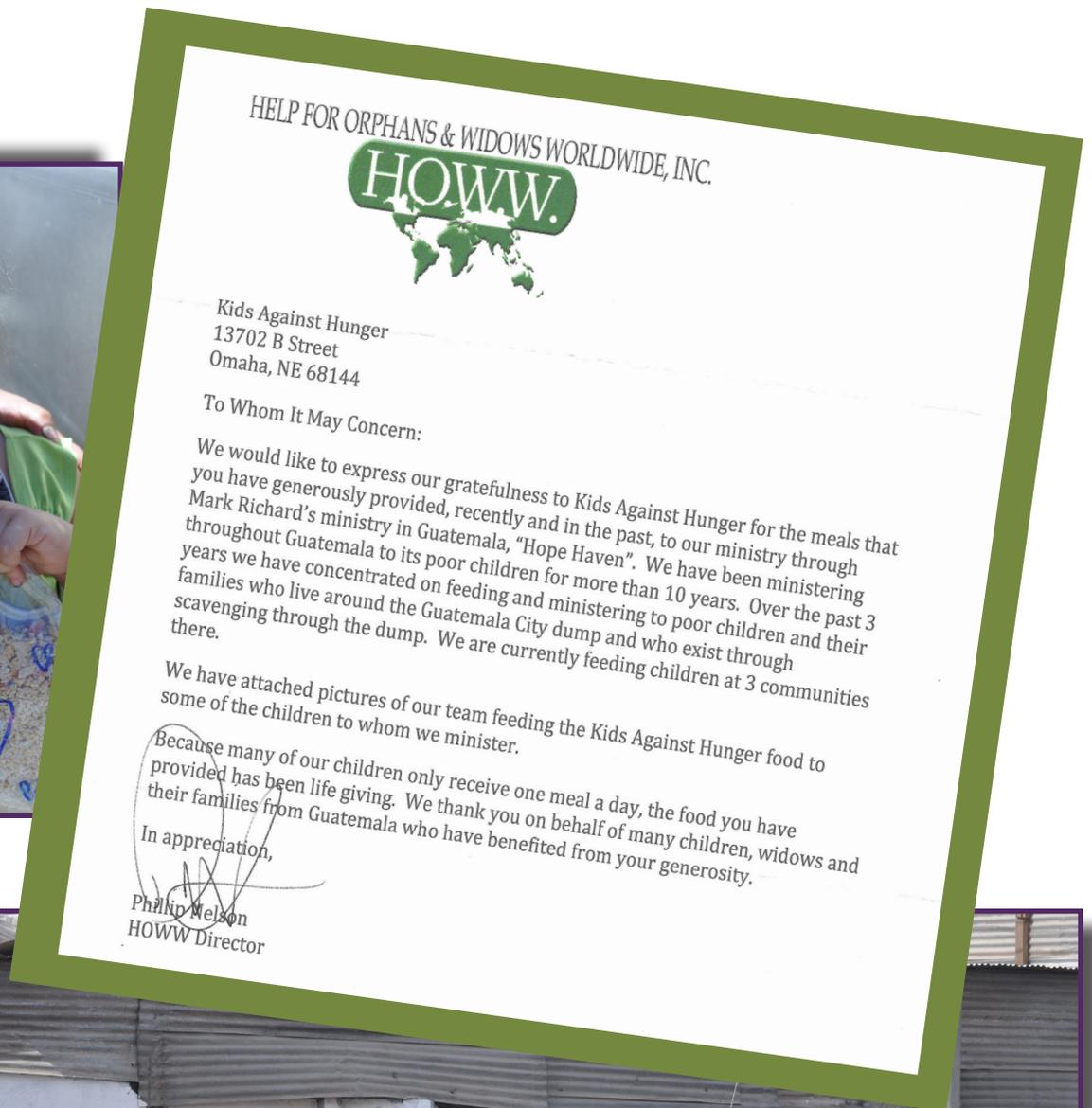
We live in a world where a child dies every 6 seconds due to hunger related diseases. That's 16,000 children that will die TODAY...simply because they do not have enough to eat.

A \$54 donation provides 216 life-saving KAH meals that can feed a starving child in a third world country for more than six months.

DONATE TODAY
www.kidsagainsthunger.org



Making a difference in Guatemala



Families who live around the Guatemala City dump and who exist by scavenging through the dump, stand in line for a hot Kids Against Hunger meal served by Help For Orphans & Widows Worldwide, Inc.

Why do we feed children?

By Stephen McBee
KAH Director of Development

As I left the air-conditioned cocoon of our airplane, the mixture of tarmac heat, diesel exhaust and some version of ammonia hit my face and olfactory senses like a sucker punch in the gut from the school bully. Not wanting to offend my new friends in Africa, I put on my game face and took one for the team. As time and tears passed, I got “used” to the onslaught to my senses. The only experiential wave that washed over me more powerfully, was the hearts that I was blessed to connect with on our mission trip to Africa and Israel earlier this year. Today, I have the pleasure of introducing you to one of these powerful hearts. His name is Ja-Hed (Ja HEED).

Ja-Hed is 12 years-old, but if you compared his size to his American counterparts, you would not think him a day over 9. What Ja-Hed lacked in size, he made up for in heart. I first saw Ja-Hed standing at the crossroads of two dust-soaked highways, watching our bus and trying to anticipate which direction we were going to turn. By the way his eyes lit up, it appeared that we went the way he wanted. Ja-Hed then proceeded to run, barefoot, uphill, to get to the top of this mild mountain that we were climbing in our comfortable bus.

Ja-Hed could care less about our journey to explore what secrets we would find in Africa. His mind

did not focus on the spiritual significance of visiting the oldest recorded baptismal fount in Africa or the tombs of Knights Templar and he didn't even care to see the valley where the fierce Eritrean tribes fought off Nazis and Russians for the independence of his people, which is why I thought we were going up this mountain.

Ja-Hed had one mission, a single focus—Ja-Hed wanted to find that one person who would buy his brass, hand stamped, cross on a piece of green yarn. Turns out, I was that person. I had to reward his efforts! He ran for what I could guess a mile to a mile and a half up hill, barefoot, and stayed with us the entire way. Now there were others who ran with us part way and others yet were already there when we got to the top of this mountain. But Ja-Hed was the only one that ran the entire way for the opportunity to sell his wares.

What would motivate a young 12 year-old to do this, maybe to earn money for an XBox or a new bike or maybe some sweet tunes for his iPod? No, Ja-Hed was selling crosses to the Americans so that he could feed his family. Ja-Hed was doing what he could with what he had.

Did I get taken on the price of the cross? No way! Because what Ja-Hed taught me was priceless—take



Stephen McBee, with Ja-Hed

care of yours, no matter the cost. He was fighting for a chance. There are many in this world that are lazy and just looking for the easy way out. These people are tough to motivate and change, but Ja-Hed is not one of them. All he was looking for was a chance. I wonder how many more children out there are just looking for a chance, one opportunity to keep going.

That motivates me. Ja-Hed is the kid worth all the work, all the sweat, all the money, because Ja-Hed will change his world—if he has a chance. That is what we are about here at Kids Against Hunger. Giving the Ja-Hed's of this world a chance.

Feed the children. ■

Look for Part 2 of Stephen McBee's article in the next issue.

9

years-old...the average age of a homeless person in the United States.

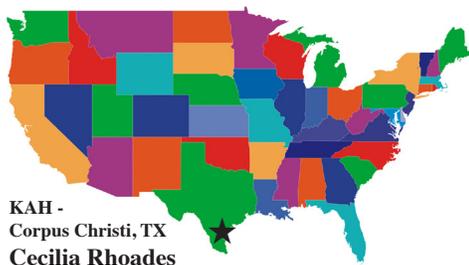
Kids Against Hunger delivers millions of life-sustaining meals to food pantries around the U.S. every year.

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Donate Today - www.kidsagainsthunger.org



SATELLITE SPOTLIGHT



KAH -
Corpus Christi, TX
Cecilia Rhoades

Working with poverty and justice issues as a professional anthropologist and lay minister taught Dr. Cecilia Rhoades about the need for both charitable outreach and advocacy. Rhoades, the Kids Against Hunger Director at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi, Texas discovered she can do both through community building that provides real-time help for those in need.

In 2011, Child Outreach International Director, Wanda Garcia, was looking for a sponsor to start a Kids Against Hunger satellite to support hungry children throughout South



Anyone can help pack KAH meals. This little girl acted as her great grandmother's eyes.

“In addition to providing much needed nutritious food for the hungry, Kids Against Hunger provides an excellent medium for advocacy to improve the lives of the poor.”



Dr. Cecilia Rhoades, Corpus Christi Satellite Director

Texas, especially along the border with Mexico and in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Mission trips with Child Outreach International convinced Rhoades of the need to make a difference in the daily nutritional development of the children she saw.

The KAH-Corpus Christi Satellite was launched on Feb 8, 2014 with an initial packing event where over 31,000 meals were packed by more than 200 volunteers from throughout the community.

Rhoades enjoys the smiles, the laughter, the joy on the faces of people who are helping others. She notices an overall sense of joyous peace come over people from all walks of life who are sharing their love for their fellow man. Rhoades marvels at the sense of pride seen when the packing teams gather together with the packed boxes for closing pictures. Their faces radiate the joy they share.

“KAH is literally ageless – the youngest can be involved and the oldest can continue to share their love for their neighbor. People with disabilities help, poor people help, all races can help, all religions help. The sense of community is empowering with all these people sharing a common cause.”

Rhoades has visited some border communities where the KAH food is a critical component of their daily diets. She also helps a village in Nicaragua whose residents depend on

KAH to get through the season of famine (tiempo de hambruna) that lasts several months during their winter when the crops have been sold or eaten. Rhoades hopes to develop enough ties to be able to ship



food there every season of famine.

Rhoades concludes, “In addition to providing much needed nutritious food for the hungry, Kids Against Hunger provides an excellent medium for advocacy to improve the lives of the poor. Many of the volunteers are passionate about doing this and with the educational component of KAH, they become avid advocates for the region.”

Rhoades looks forward to being able to hold monthly packing events and building momentum for improving better access for the poor throughout communities on multiple issues. ■

How are KAH meals received?



With tears of gratitude!

“The Heavenly Ambassadors [in] Sierra Leone sends you their heart felt greetings. And want to thank you for sending help to Sierra Leone during the Ebola schuss [crisis]. The food you sent help[s] a lot of children in Sierra Leone.”

Kids Against Hunger®

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*Feeding families around the world
...and around the corner.*



Today nearly 16 million American kids are held back by hunger – that’s more than one in five children. We are doing our part to help kids flourish. One child, one meal, one champion at a time. Join us. ChildHungerEndsHere.com.



+ ConAgra Foods Foundation = HOPE