

## **MCC**

In partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee, we shipped a 20-foot container of handmade warm blankets and 12 tonnes of top-quality canned turkey meat to orphanages and schools in Wonsan in October 2008. Wonsan elementary school started to provide a daily portion of 50-100g of meat to children from November, 2008. In our most recent visit to DPRK, Kang Sung Hee, the director of Kangwon orphanage, said “children’s health conditions are greatly improving. The children just can’t wait to have meat!” Furthermore, Jung Jung-sook, the director of Kangwon day care center also added that the children would not suffer from any diseases if they could continue to have meat and soymilk every day.

This remarkable nutritional support was possible due to the contributions and efforts made by MCC. Therefore, First Steps would like to extend its appreciation to MCC for partnering with us and thanks God for allowing us to work with such a wonderful and generous organization.

## **VitaGoats**

First Steps is now reaching an additional 20,000 children with our VitaGoat machines!

Now there are more than 70,000 children drinking a cup of nutritious soymilk every day.

In April 2008, five new VitaGoat machines were installed which added another 10,000 children to the 50,000 who were already receiving a daily cup of nutritious soymilk. Moreover, 15 new soybean grinders were also sent.

In summer 2008, an additional 5 VitaGoat machines were also installed, increasing the number of our beneficiaries to 70,000

Currently, there are more than 50 VitaCow and VitaGoat machines operating at various sites and the number will continue to grow in 2009.

## **Soybeans**

In the summer, 200 tonnes of soybeans were delivered. We give special thanks to our supporter and volunteer Laura Pogson, Dave Butterham, executive director of the Canadian Soybeans Export Association, and David Hendricks, owner of Hendricks Seeds. Due to their efforts and cooperation, First Steps was able to purchase 400 tonnes of high quality soybeans grown in eastern Ontario this year and ship them to North Korea

## **Sprinkles**

In spring 2008, Hanna Visser traveled to DPRK and met with officials at the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) to review our Sprinkles pilot program. Last year, ICN launched a two-year Sprinkles study and the officials were very positive as preliminary study results have shown the rate of malnutrition dropped from 56% to 32% among women and babies who had been taking Sprinkles for just a six- month period. The program has continued to show great results and heard positive remarks from our North Korea partners and beneficiaries during our visit to a Nampo clinic in the summer. A physician told us that, since the Sprinkles program began, they have not seen a single case of rickets. In addition, many mothers have reported that their children did not get sick even once after they started taking Sprinkles.

In 2008, we were able to send 1.5 million sachets of sprinkles and about 16,000 children and 27,000 pregnant and nursing women received Sprinkles.

## **Milkcans**

This year, First Steps was able to send 250 milkcans to our North Korean soymilk production sites.

### **First Steps 2008 Expenditures**

- General & Administration 7.4%: \$46,130.84
- Fundraising 3.6%: \$23,178.63
- Programs 89%: \$554,647.52

### **First Steps 2008 Income**

- \$824,373.47

### **First Steps Board of Directors**

- Eunice (Yusoon) Oh
- Susan Ritchie
- Andrea Rose

### **First Steps Office**

- Elinor Han-Office Administrator