




FIRST STEPS
preventing child malnutrition

2014
Annual Report





A Note from Our Executive Director

Thanks to the prayers and support of First Steps' donors and volunteers, First Steps provided more than 100,000 children with a daily cup of soymilk this year. Although there were challenges, First Steps was unable to make a confirmation visit in the fall due to the Ebola quarantine, much was done in the time we were given. Three visits were made where First Steps was able to meet with partners and children. It is always inspiring to hear from and learn about our friends in North Korea.

We were able to provide more equipment and support throughout our visits, while

also gaining insight from our partners' feedback. In 2014, First Steps delivered two 1000-litre soymilk storage tanks, 40 soybean grinders, 65 metric tonnes of soybeans, and 100 stainless-steel milk cans. Additionally, two super-sized VitaCows, 3 VitaGoats, spare equipment parts, 225 metric tonnes of soybeans, 3.1 million sachets of micronutrient Sprinkles and 12 metric tonnes of dried soup mix were either ordered or the shipment was in progress at the end of 2014. In addition, during monitoring visits First Steps delivered many essential items such as medicine, medical equipment, vitamins, and other items.

As well, First Steps was blessed with many volunteers and donors who were willing to invest their time and finances to help prevent malnutrition in North Korea. We saw amazing results in the high school students' club, as well as other events put on by our partners. Truly every thought and prayer counts, whether it be a child's coin can or seniors' faithful prayers.

On behalf of First Steps and the beneficiaries and partners in North Korea, thank you to each and every person who has contributed this year. Your support is blessing so many young lives in North Korea.

Susan Ritchie

2014 Confirmation Visits



March 25 – April 1
Linda and Phil Schafran and
Susan Ritchie.

The first trip of the year was undertaken by First Steps' executive director Susan Ritchie and director Phil Schafran and his wife Linda.

One of the highlights from this trip was talking to Hong, Yong-Su, a 50-year-old worker at the Hanggu Daycare & Kindergarten Supply Centre, delivers milk on his bicycle to children, four cans a day – one at a time. It takes him one hour both ways. He has never had an accident or spilled any milk, but it is dangerous. He has also never missed a day of work. It is inspiring to see our partners working so hard to accomplish our mission of eradicating malnutrition in North Korea. At the Kalma Poly Clinic, Dr. Ri, Jung Shil stated: "When [the mothers] don't have [Sprinkles] they ask for it and I notice the difference in women taking and not taking Sprinkles. Their children by 16 months are faster, they walk faster and earlier, and stand up faster."

Due to concerns over Ebola, a First Steps team was unable to visit North Korea in the fall, before the end of 2014.

June 28- July 5
Susan Ritchie, Brooke Goossen,
Mitzi Figueroa, Hamish Ross

Susan travelled to North Korea with a First Steps team including three others from June 28 to July 5 to confirm the arrival of soybeans. Site managers at our partner soymilk production centres were thankful to have received the shipment because domestic soybean production was down. Heavy rains adversely affected the crop during the 2013 growing season. The highlight of the visit was hearing from site managers, children who receive soymilk and women who have been given micronutrient Sprinkles.

Aug 5-9
Susan Ritchie, Brooke Goossen,
Yong Ki-Min

From August 5 to August 9 a First Steps team visited North Korea. This shorter than usual five-day trip was virtually non-stop. The team confirmed the arrival and installation of new soymilk processing machinery in Wonsan. In Pyongyang, discussions began with the Institute of Child Nutrition to expand the Sprinkles program. Sprinkles are an internationally-accepted and cost-effective method of preventing child malnutrition.

Fundraising

- O School of Music Concert
- Traditional Korean Music and Dance Performance
- Pan Korea
- DMC Youth Orchestra Concert
- Calgary Korean Traditional Food Festival
- THiNK
- Ho Yeon Won Flute Recital
- Hanna Oh Hair Shaving Fundraiser

Ongoing Fundraising

- Coin Cans
- Knitted Goods
- Sleeping Penny Movement
- High School Clubs

2014 Highlights

Developed a new website
- due largely to volunteer efforts

Johnston Heights Secondary's First Steps Club
and the Port Moody Secondary First Steps Club
did amazing work this year and contributed
significantly through a number of creative events!
Each club raised over \$1000!



First Steps 2014 Expenditures

First Steps 2014 Revenue **\$861,131.95**

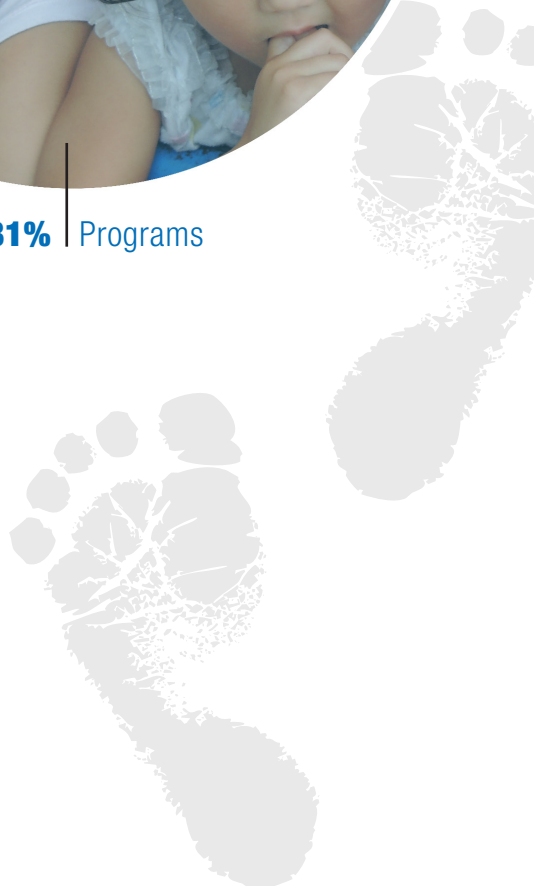
Programs
\$567,189.12

Fundraising
\$30,365.77

General & Administration
\$105,614.22



81% | Programs





First Steps Board of Directors

Eunice (Yu-Soon) Oh

Jackie (Chun-Ran) Lim

Phil Schafran

Susan Ritchie

Valorie Day



First Steps Staff

Elinor Han Office Administrator

Joanne Cho Administrative Assistant

Mitzi Figueroa Community Manager

Hannah Dissen Regional Coordinator



**THIS SERVICE THAT
YOU PERFORM IS NOT
ONLY SUPPLYING THE
NEEDS OF THE LORD'S
PEOPLE BUT IS ALSO
OVERFLOWING IN
MANY EXPRESSIONS
OF THANKS TO GOD.**

2 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV)

On behalf of First Steps, thank you for partnering with us to impact precious lives.