




FIRST STEPS
preventing child malnutrition

2015 Annual Report





**NOW THEREFORE,
OUR GOD, WE THANK
YOU, AND PRAISE
YOUR GLORIOUS NAME.**

1 Chronicles 29:13

A Note from Our Executive Director

In 2015, First Steps was able to daily provide more than 100,000 hungry children with a cup of nutrient-rich soymilk and more than 10,000 pregnant women and babies with micronutrient Sprinkles.

Although concerns over Ebola infection continued into the beginning of the year during which North Korea's borders were closed, First Steps was able to begin making regular visits again in April, resulting in three confirmation visits in 2015.

Shipments were delivered which contained soybeans, soymilk-making equipment, micronutrient Sprinkles and donated relief

goods. All of this work was made possible due to the love, prayers and hard work of First Steps' supporters.

First Steps delivered a total of 4.8 million sachets of micronutrient Sprinkles for children and mothers, 200 metric tonnes of soybeans, 3 VitaGoats with boilers (each producing approximately 30 litres of soymilk per hour), 1 SuperCow (80-90 litres of soymilk per hour) and replacement machine parts. First Steps was also able to facilitate gifts to orphanages and clinics. Items delivered included 14.4 tonnes of dried apple chips and 12 tonnes of dehydrated vegetable soup mix donated by the Gleaners Society; medical

instruments (scissors, tweezers, and other equipment) donated by Mectra Labs Inc.; tens of thousands of children's daily vitamins and adult daily vitamins; and other medical supplies donated by Vancouver-area doctors' offices.

It's a privilege to be involved in the lives of mothers, children, orphans and all the wonderful people we work with in North Korea. Thank you for being a special part of this ministry by loving, praying and providing for people you've never met. May God bless you for partnering with us in this work to improve the health of precious children.

Susan Ritchie

2015 Confirmation Visits



April 28-May 5
Susan Ritchie, Mary Amendt,
Alex Harden, Andrew Parker.

A First Steps team visited orphanages, soymilk production sites and clinics to check in with our partners and beneficiaries. At the Tongchon Kindergarten Daycare Supply Centre, Director Yoon-Kum Ran said: "When I see the children drinking soymilk it makes me want to work harder. I can't tell you how much the children like soymilk."

After discussions with the Institute of Child Nutrition, it was decided that First Steps should focus on increasing Sprinkles distribution in Kangwon province. The decision was influenced by the 2012 DPRK Nutrition Survey which showed that the rates of anemia among women and children in Kangwon province were among the highest in the country at 34.2% for women and 39.3% for children, respectively.

Aug. 8- Aug. 15
Susan Ritchie, Kayla Black,
Brooke Goossen, Shaunti Bains

The second confirmation visit was a four-person team that included Shaunti Bains, a North Vancouver high school student. At age six Shaunti started the PitterPats Kids Club so that elementary school children could learn about hungry kids in North Korea and raise awareness about First Steps. Shaunti was excited to be able to see the results of her hard work for the past 10 years and our partners in Korea loved meeting her!

The team visited soymilk production sites, orphanages, daycares and kindergartens, including the Bongsu Daycare where the director told us that the children generally do not have breakfast. The soymilk fills them until 11 a.m. when they have a snack. The director said: "The children are happiest when drinking soymilk. They love it!"

The team also had the opportunity to spread the word about Sprinkles in Munchon, the

second largest city in Kangwon province. There, together with local officials and doctors, the team discussed expanding the Sprinkles program.

Dec. 1- Dec. 5
Susan Ritchie, Kayla Black

A team of two made a confirmation visit in December. While there the team visited orphanages, soymilk production sites, daycares and kindergartens to confirm the arrival of soybeans. In addition, First Steps confirmed the delivery of dried soup mix and dried fruit donated by the Okanagan Gleaners and Fraser Valley Gleaners. In Pyongsong, the orphanage directors expressed their sincere thanks for the support.

Kim Ryoll, director of the Pyongsong Kindergarten Orphanage, said: "The children's nutritional status has to be good for them to go to elementary school and go on to be great people and with supplemental nutrition we see that happening before our eyes every day. So the teachers are very thankful."

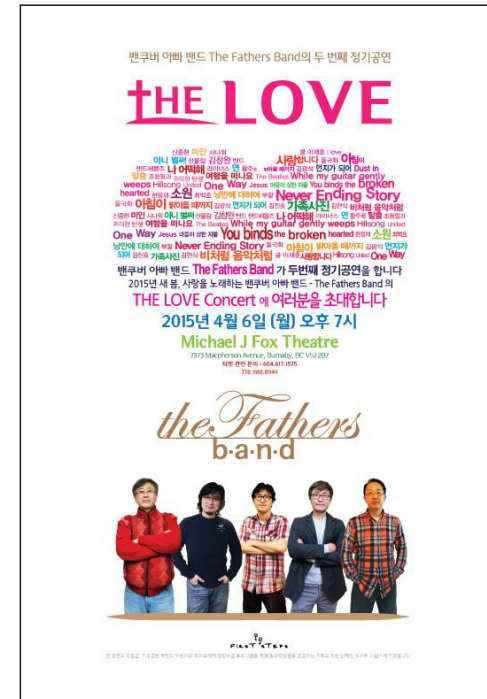
Fundraising

Special Event Fundraisers

- Discipleship Methodist Church Youth Orchestra Concert (Coquitlam)
- The Fathers' Band Concert (Vancouver)
- Korean Food Festival (Calgary)
- Building Bridges Concert (Calgary and Edmonton)

Ongoing Fundraising

- Coin Cans
- Port Moody Secondary First Steps Club
- Johnston Heights First Steps Club
- Sleeping Penny Movement



First Steps 2015 Expenditures

First Steps 2015 Revenue **\$1,046,699.42**

Programs
\$639,322.25

Fundraising
\$31,641.99

General & Administration
\$112,330.72

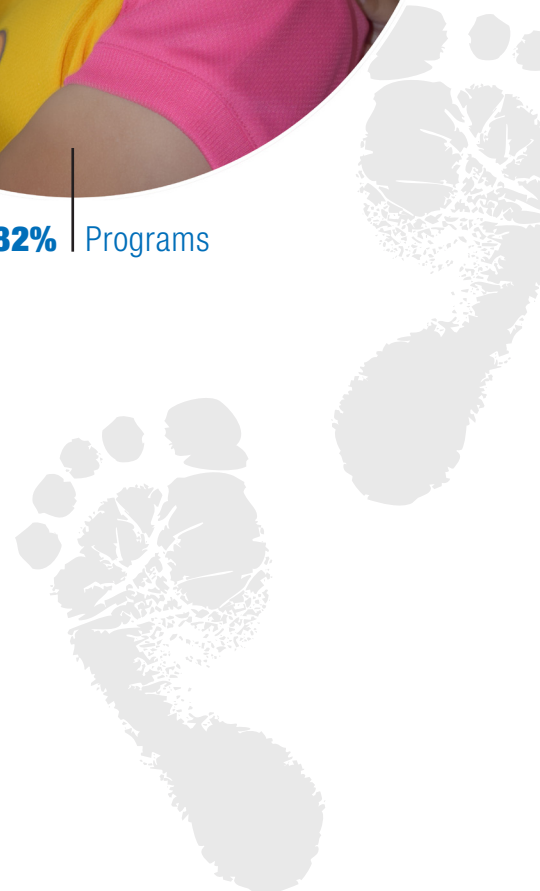


14% General & Administration

4% Fundraising



82% Programs





First Steps Board of Directors

Valorie Day
Jackie (Chun-Ran) Lim
Eunice (Yu-Soon) Oh
Phil Schafran



First Steps Staff

Mary Amendt Regional Coordinator (part-time)
Kayla Black Operations Manager (full-time)
Hannah Dissen Regional Coordinator (maternity leave)
Holly Figueroa Social Media Manager (part-time)
Elinor Han Finance Administrator (part-time)
Joanne Jo Office Administrator (part-time)
Susan Ritchie Executive Director (full-time volunteer)



At the end of 2015 First Steps was happy to welcome Mary Amendt to the position of Regional Coordinator (Alberta) as Hannah Dissen went on maternity leave. In addition, First Steps now has its first full-time staff! Kayla Black joined the team in August and has been a great addition to the First Steps team.

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

