



Message from Executive Director September 2008

Autumn is a wonderful time of change, reflection and appreciation. Children and parents focus on a new school year, workplaces re-energize to end the year on a positive note, families pause to give thanks and remember others, and nature moves slowly, steadily toward another winter.

At Canadian Feed The Children, we embrace these last few months of the year as a time to dig deep and raise the level of our commitment to children. We have been diligent throughout the year in our efforts to fill the gap so many children experience as they struggle with daily poverty. We bring nutritious food, clean water, schooling and health care to children who would otherwise go without. And though we address immediate needs when required, it's important that our work is not a stop-gap measure or a band-aid fix, but rather opens doors for children, families and communities to build the skills, confidence and foundation needed to ensure these basic needs are consistently and reliably accessible.

This long-term approach means that, together with our community partners, we remove whatever ongoing barriers keep a child from having a healthy, fulfilling childhood. For a child living in aboriginal communities in Canada, that means finding relief from hunger at a community centre or school through our nutrition programs. For a child in Haiti, that means reduced chances of becoming ill from poor hygiene, thanks to new community latrines. For a child in Sierra Leone, that means becoming well because a rural health clinic is well-stocked with relevant medicine. And for a child in Ghana, that means joyful learning at a new school with a roof, a teacher, desks and school books. Whether it's through direct support such as this, a family income program or a community strengthening initiative, we are proud to effectively turn young lives around in so many important and meaningful ways.

You and all our supporters help us make these vital changes for children in all the countries we support and we are relying on you to renew your commitment to reach our remaining goals for 2008 and to plan for even more impact in 2009. There is always a danger of seeing the relentless need and wondering if your support is truly making a significant difference. Those of us who regularly witness the devastating effects of poverty on children are often tested in this way. It's easy to see nothing but the struggle and the enormity of the problem and feel overwhelmed. But I see first-hand the undeniable impact of combining your support and our work, and I can tell you wholeheartedly that together we've helped thousands of vulnerable children get what they needed to grow up as healthy, educated, contributing members of this world - against all odds.

Everyone associated with Canadian Feed The Children – our supporters, partners, staff, volunteers and the communities we support – share a goal to bring positive, lasting change to the most innocent and vulnerable among us. We are doing just that because we are hungry for change and stubborn in that quest – no matter what the season.

With great thanks for your support,

Jim Dahl
Executive Director