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Mary's Meals Receives Prestigious Princess of Asturias Award

Mary's Meals Recognized for Addressing Child Hunger with Innovative School-Feeding Model.



Award announcement and children in Malawi ready to receive a meal at school.

Bloomfield, N.J. – June 14, 2023 – Today, Mary's Meals was awarded the 2023 Princess of Asturias Award for Concord for its work in defending and advancing human rights. This international award from Spain is one of the most prestigious in the Spanish-speaking world and recognizes the work of global school-feeding charity Mary's Meals across five continents.

"We are deeply honored and grateful to be chosen for this hugely prestigious award! We will be happy to accept it on behalf of all those people who are working with Mary's Meals all over the world to ensure that every child in this world might receive a daily meal in their place of education," said CEO and founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

Founded in 2002 by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Mary's Meals offers a simple, locally-managed solution to world hunger: feed children where they learn to enable the education that can help break the cycle of poverty. Currently, Mary's Meals provides meals to 2,429,182 children every school day in 5,084 schools in 18 countries including Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Myanmar, Niger, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The Princess of Asturias jury commended Mary's Meals on its dedication to one of the most pressing issues in today's world [child hunger] and on operating an innovative and effective business model that allows optimal use of resources.

Mary's Meals can feed a child for an entire school year for just \$25.20 by working with local communities and collaborating with in-country partners. Its work is supported by volunteers and donors worldwide and its mission is more critical than ever as a protracted global hunger crisis affects 345 million people and 60+ million children who are out of school.

The Princess of Asturias Awards are conferred on those individuals and/or institutions that contribute to progress and social well-being in an extraordinary and exemplary way through their work and merits in scientific, technical, cultural, social and humanitarian fields.

Of the eight categories of these awards, Mary's Meals was bestowed with the Concord. This category is aimed at recognizing the work of defending and advancing human rights, as well as that of promoting and protecting peace, freedom, solidarity, world heritage and, in general, the progress of humanity.

"In a special way, we accept it on behalf of the thousands of people living in poverty who volunteer their time each day as a gift to cook and serve the hungry children in their communities. And we look forward very much to the ceremony in Oviedo in October! Thank you on behalf of the children," added MacFarlane-Barrow.

Previous winners of the Award for Concord include Japanese architect, Shigeru Ban; renowned chef, José Andrés, and his NGO, World Central Kitchen (WCK); and Spanish health workers on the front line against Covid-19.

The [Princess of Asturias Award](#) will be conferred this October in Oviedo, Spain and comes with a financial award of \$50,000 EURO or about \$54,283 US dollars as of this announcement.

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About Mary's Meals

Now in its 21st year, [Mary's Meals](#) is a global movement that sets up school-feeding programs in some of the world's most vulnerable communities, where conflict, poverty and hunger often prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals works with in-country volunteers to provide one daily nutritious meal in a place of learning to attract children into the classroom to receive an education. This simple solution to help end world hunger also enables children to lift themselves from the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Mary's Meals began by feeding 200 children in Malawi in 2002. Today, the organization feeds 2,429,182 hungry children every school day in 5,084 schools across five continents in the following countries: Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Myanmar, Niger, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Mary's Meals collaborates with the U.N. World Food Program, partners with USAID in Liberia and is part of the global School Meals Coalition, an emerging initiative of governments and partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve, and scale up food and education systems. For more information about Mary's Meals, visit marysmealsusa.org.

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The Princess of Asturias Foundation

The Princess of Asturias [Foundation](#) is a non-profit private institution whose essential aims are to contribute to extolling and promoting those scientific, cultural and humanistic values that form part of the universal heritage of humanity and consolidate the existing links between the Principality of Asturias and the title traditionally held by the heirs to the Crown of Spain.