

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Founder and CEO of Mary's Meals

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is the Founder and CEO of the international school feeding charity, Mary's Meals. It started as a vision that every child deserves an education and enough to eat and evolved into a global school feeding movement on four continents.

Magnus began his career as a salmon fisherman in his native Scotland. Following a profound experience in Medjugorje, Magnus discerned a calling to help the most vulnerable. In 1992, he began delivering aid to Bosnia. A decade later, during a stop in Malawi, Magnus met 14-year-old Edward, who told Magnus that he wanted to have enough to eat *and* to go to school. Inspired by those words, Magnus realized his life's vocation to feed children in a place of education.

In 2002, he founded Mary's Meals, a fruit of Medjugorje, and named it after the Blessed Mother. Starting with a feeding program of 200 children in Malawi, Mary's Meals quickly grew. It's a unique school feeding model of collaborating with in-country partners and communities to manage the programs made it cost-efficient and scalable. It also enabled everyone to be a part of the solution to child hunger and missed education.

This school feeding work is now in over 5,800 schools across 16 countries where hunger, poverty, conflict, and economic and climate shocks present barriers to food and education. More than a daily meal, school meals offer hope for a different future—that a child with an education can break the cycle of poverty.

Mary's Meals now provides meals to more than 3 million children every school day. This simple solution to world hunger serves all faiths and none is inspired by faith, guided by the Blessed Mother and supported worldwide. It invites everyone to share their prayers, time, talent, and resources to help end hunger.

Magnus is a captivating and sought-after speaker who delivers keynote addresses and presentations globally and frequently participates in print and broadcast interviews.

He is also the author of two books, *The Shed That Fed Two Million Children* and *Give: Charity and the Art of Living Generously*.

Magnus has been recognized by CNN and Time Magazine for his life's work. In 2023, Mary's Meals was awarded Spain's prestigious Princess of Asturias Award for Concord for its work in defending and advancing human rights, and recently, it was featured alongside global organizations in the PBS documentary LIFT: Connecting Humanity.

In February 2025, Magnus addressed world leaders and humanitarians at Pope Francis' Summit on Children's Rights at the Vatican, where he introduced the powerful concept of a child's "[Right to Hope](#)."

He and his wife, Julie, reside in Scotland and are parents to seven children and one grandchild.