

MARY'S MEALS USA

MAY 2026

AMBASSADORS

BE THE ANSWER TO A MOTHER'S PRAYER



**ORDINARY PEOPLE AND
THEIR EXTRAORDINARY
ACTS OF LOVE**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

**POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER
INTENTION FOR MAY**

**A MOTHER'S STORY:
"LIFE IN A REFUGEE
CAMP"**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**AMBASSADORS OF
HOPE**

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

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This Mother's Day season, we celebrate the quiet strength of mothers everywhere, especially those fighting every day to keep their children fed, in school, and full of hope.

For millions of mothers around the world, the greatest obstacle is not love—it's hunger.

This is where you come in. Because of you, children can be fed, mothers can have hope, and classrooms can be filled.

Just like Our Lady said "yes," you have the opportunity to step into the story—standing alongside a mother across the world and ensuring her child receives a daily meal at school. You can provide hope and nourishment for generations to come.

ORDINARY PEOPLE AND THEIR EXTRAORDINARY ACTS OF LOVE



Because people like you said yes, incredible things happened:

DALLAS

In April, Magnus came to Dallas for the global premiere of Mary's Meals' newest film, *Lettie*, and for the first ever Sound of Hope 5K Walk/Run and Spring Festival!



IOWA

Heartland For Kids hosted their 13th annual Race to Feed Kids – Ellen Miller invited her community to rally around mothers and children in Malawi.



In 2025 almost 1,000 people attended the Heartland for Kids' Jasper Winery concert and donations yielded enough to feed 2,698 children for an entire school year. The next concert is on August 27 from 5:30-8:30 PM in Des Moines, IA.



NEW YORK

Our champion ambassadors Jay Fortune and Virginia Rodriguez Perlado brought our mission to the 2026 National Association for Catholic Nurses in Rockville Centre, New York. This is a great example of what happens when people decide to act and share our mission into new spaces.



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP TODAY



Start feeding a school today! Bring your community together and ensure hundreds of children receive daily meals and the chance to learn.

1. Choose a school to support
2. Invite your community to join you
3. Together, you can feed hundreds of children for an entire school year

Share the Lettie Film with your community.

In our new film, Lettie tells her story—from a 10-year-old facing hunger, leaving school, and caring for her younger siblings, to a healthy, educated mother providing for her own family. Her story shows how access to food, education, and compassion can transform not just one life—but generations to come.

Host a screening this summer! Contact us for resources and to learn more.



POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY IS EVERYONE MIGHT HAVE FOOD

This May, Pope Leo XIV invites us into a simple but urgent prayer; that every person in the world would have enough food.

For millions of families, hunger is not a distant issue—it's a daily reality. Parents are doing everything they can, yet still face the impossible question: how do I feed my child today?

This is where you come in. Your prayer is not small. It is a powerful first step in changing that story. When you pray, you stand with a mother who is hoping for food.

Join the July virtual gathering to learn how to get more involved!

Stay tuned for an email with a poll to help determine the date and time!



A MOTHER'S STORY: "LIFE IN A REFUGEE CAMP"

What would you do if you couldn't feed your child tomorrow? In Haiti, one mother faces this reality every day. Her story is not just about survival—it's about hope, resilience, and the difference one meal can make.

After gangs occupied their neighborhood in Haiti's capital, Port-au Prince, Anne and her mother Altagrace fled to a camp for internally displaced people (IDPs), where daily survival now depends on the safe haven provided by reliable meals served daily at her school.

With 90% of Port-au-Prince now controlled by armed gangs and organized crime groups, more than 1.4 million people have been internally displaced across the country. When gangs started to occupy their neighborhood, 14-year-old Anne and Altagrace became a part of this shocking statistic – fleeing to a camp for internally displaced people near the school to escape the violence.

How has the gang-related violence that continues to escalate in Haiti changed your lives?

Altagrace: Everything started to change when I had to flee. Gangs invaded the neighborhood and started shooting. That's why everything changed in my life.

That's why I left my neighborhood and went to live in a camp with my children. But where I am now, I don't feel comfortable. I'm just trying to survive.

I had a brother who was killed in a gang-related shooting. After my brother's death, I was forced to leave the area in order to save our lives. When the gangs started to invade, there were residents who risked staying there. If someone didn't leave the area, they would be[come] part of these groups.

Anne: We were forced to flee due to the insecurity. [This] resulted in many issues because we had a place to learn at La Saline. And now, we've been forced to come here [to the camp]. Things have become very difficult. When we were at home, my mother used to prepare food in the morning when we had to go to school, but in the camp, there are far too many people. Now she can no longer get up very early in the morning like we used to do at home.

How is Mary's Meals' school feeding program helping you feed your children in the refugee camp?

Altagrace: Imagine someone who lives in a place where ten other people live in one room. We are like animals in a cage. In the morning, even if you have money, there is nothing you can do to prepare something for the children. You can only prepare bread and peanut butter for them in the morning which means it's not nourishing.

But with the help of Mary's Meals at school, I no longer have concerns. Sometimes the child comes home and tells me that she was given ground corn and bean stew, she was given rice with beans and vegetables. The children always come and tell me about the different types of food they are offered. Then, as a mother, even if I can't eat, if my child finds something to eat, it makes me happy.

Anne: Thanks to Mary's Meals, we've received a lot of help. Imagine living in a camp. Your mum can't wake up early to prepare food for you to go to school. You have to wait until 10 o'clock to eat something.

Altagrace: The meal is very important for a child to learn. If

they are hungry, they will not be able to learn. If they are hungry, they will only be worried about what they are going to eat. Mary's Meals provides food stability. This makes me very happy.

Finally, what would you like to say to people around the world who continue to support and donate to Mary's Meals?

Anne: I would like to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of all the schools to which they provide hot meals. I would like to keep going like this because they are saving a lot of people.

Altagrace: May Mary's Meals continue to operate so that children can enjoy a meal, and so that when they are learning, they can do so without worries, and so that the schools can continue to benefit from it.



SAVE THE DATE

Join a community of people who are stepping into the story:

Virtual ambassador gathering – Early July.

Learn how to start and hear stories from people just like you. We will be sharing updates from Mary's Meals' programs and new tools for ambassadors!

Mark your calendars to be encouraged, equipped, and inspired alongside others living this mission at the next **Ambassador in-person gathering on September 25, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa.** Hotel accommodation will be covered for ambassadors from 9/24-9/26 leading into the Christ our Life conference.



Featuring Angie Westcott as the MC for the Ambassador in-person gathering!

Scott and Angie were introduced to Mary's Meals at a Christ our Life Conference several years ago. They had been looking for a way to give back in a meaningful and credible way. Magnus was speaking about Mary's Meals, and they immediately fell in love with the concept. The idea of working together to raise money to help those in need has been tremendously rewarding for them.

You don't need a big platform to make a difference. Start with what you have and ask your community to join you in this mission.

AMBASSADORS OF HOPE



JULIE AND SAM VOLLMUTH

We are honored to spotlight a special mother-son duo, Julie Vollmuth and her son, Sam Vollmuth, whose creativity and compassion are helping to feed the next hungry child. Julie creates and sells beautiful Saint bracelets, turning her talent into a meaningful way to support the mission. Each bracelet is a reminder of faith in action. Her son, Sam, a dedicated high school student, has also found his own inspiring way to contribute. Through baking and selling homemade bread, he has been actively spreading awareness about Mary's Meals within his school community. You can start something just like this in your community.

ELIZABETH AND EMILY FARRELL

We are excited to spotlight a special mother-daughter duo, Elizabeth Farrell and her daughter, Emily Farrell.

Emily, along with her friend Keira (pictured), took initiative in the most impressive way. The girls put up flyers at their local park, spreading the word about their treats, and then brought their efforts to a busy baseball game—taking orders directly from parents watching from the stands. With enthusiasm and determination, they delivered fresh cookies to customers before the game even ended. This beautiful example of teamwork shows how even young hearts can make a big difference. When someone steps in, everything changes and children’s lives are transformed.



MICHELE FAEHNLE

Michele Faehnle became involved with Mary’s Meals in 2011, and became an ambassador in 2017. Since then, Michele has assisted with Mary’s Meals’ special events, ambassador training, and contributed to fundraising efforts, including donating proceeds from her co-written book, *Divine Mercy*, to Mary’s Meals.

Reflecting on her involvement, Michele said, “Mary’s Meals is lots of little acts of love. You don’t have to be a millionaire and give big donations to make a difference. I love that you can make a sacrifice by eating in instead of going out to dinner and send the money to Mary’s Meals, knowing you just fed a child for an entire year!”



This is your moment to say yes.
There is a child waiting for a meal.
There is a mother praying for help.
And there is a role only *you* can play.



Email us at ambassador.usa@marysmeals.org and we will walk with you every step of the way.

Join our [Facebook Group](#) and check out our [Ambassador Hub](#).

Start your fundraiser and [create a fundraising page](#).