

CONTACT:

Helena Finnegan
Mary's Meals USA Communications Manager
Helena.finnegan@marysmeals.org
239-290-7788

Royal Visit Shines Spotlight on Mary's Meals

A May 11 visit by Princess Anne celebrated Mary's Meals milestone of feeding more than three million children in 5,800 schools worldwide.



Bloomfield, N.J. – May 14, 2026 – Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited Mary's Meals shed in the Scottish Highlands (UK) to help celebrate the charity's milestone of feeding three million children every school day.

[Mary's Meals](#), which began by feeding 200 children from this shed in the Highlands, recently announced the incredible milestone, one which its Founder, [Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow](#), "could never have imagined."

On May 11, The Princess Royal joined Magnus and a small group of supporters and volunteers at the rickety tin shed in Dalmally, Scotland, where the charity was founded more than 20 years ago.

Her Royal Highness spoke with volunteers about their work and unveiled a plaque honoring the visit. She also received a gift presented by schoolchildren: a commemorative photo book featuring children whose education is made possible through Mary's Meals' school feeding program.

Mary's Meals was founded in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, from Dalmally in Argyll, visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, he replied simply, "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day."

Today, 24 years later, Mary's Meals provides school meals to more than three million children across 16 countries, including Haiti, South Sudan and Syria. A nutritious meal, funded by a donation of just .13 cents per meal or \$25.20 per year, brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future.

Magnus, who still works from the shed that serves as global headquarters, said, "It was a pleasure to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to the little shed in the Highlands where the work of Mary's Meals began. It was an honor to receive such a prestigious visit soon after achieving the milestone of our school feeding program reaching more than three million children every school day. For someone who grew up in a remote part of Scotland, I never expected to be welcoming Her Royal Highness to Dalmally for a tour of my shed!"

This achievement follows a major scale-up of Mary's Meals' school feeding programs across nine countries, including in Ethiopia's war-torn region of Tigray, Malawi and Zambia, which are enduring the effects of climate change-induced drought and flooding, and Haiti, a country besieged by political unrest and extreme violence.

This remarkable growth comes amid a backdrop of cuts to international aid budgets and a global cost-of-living crisis, as the low-cost charity, which can feed a child for an entire school year for just \$25.20, continues to punch above its weight.

Mary's Meals wouldn't be able to reach these children without its dedicated volunteers; both those who help serve school meals in their own communities and those who raise awareness of its mission across the globe, including those volunteers and supporters in the United States.

Magnus added, "What began as a small, community-led program serving meals at two schools in Malawi has grown into a global program providing nutritious daily meals to children in thousands of places of education across 16 countries, thanks to the generosity of supporters and volunteers who share our belief that no child in this world of plenty should have to suffer hunger or miss out on an education."

— END —

About Mary's Meals

Now in its 24th 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 and trusted partners to provide one daily nutritious meal in a place of learning to bring 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 more than 3 million children every school day in over 5,000 schools in the following countries: Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Mary's Meals is part of the global School Meals Coalition, an emerging initiative of governments and partners to drive actions that can urgently reestablish, improve, and scale up food and education systems. For more information about Mary's Meals, visit marysmealsusa.org.

Follow Mary's Meals USA on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).