



# BRINGING HOPE SHARING LOVE

**“Soy milk keeps me healthy,”** says Lee Tae Bok, an orphan-boy, living at Wonsan Primary Boarding School in DPR Korea (North Korea). In a country like North Korea, many children live in hunger and are chronically malnourished. But it doesn't have to be this way. With your help, First Steps is making Lee Tae Bok and 90,000 children like him healthier by providing a daily cup of nutrient-rich soymilk.

This Annual Report is the story of your prayers and donations at work in North Korea. Moreover, it is a testament to what God has accomplished through First Steps in 2012. Some examples:

- **We are praising the Lord that 90,000 children are receiving a daily cup of soymilk – thanks to you. It's the first time some have had the energy to laugh, play and remain focused at school.**
- **Your ongoing support of First Steps' micro-nutrient Sprinkles program allowed us to send a Sprinkles packaging machine to the Institute of Child Nutrition in Pyongyang, North Korea. This will help more pregnant women and babies receive micro-nutrient Sprinkles.**
- **As devastating flooding stalked Dokchon, a rural coal-mining town in July 2012, you helped First Steps send emergency assistance. First Steps was later asked to establish a soymilk program in this city – please pray as First Steps pursues this partnership.**

None of this would have been possible without your kind gifts. We thank you for giving to hungry children in North Korea. Together, we made 2012 a year of provision and hope.

Blessings to you, and thank you for your prayers and partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ritchie".

Susan Ritchie  
Executive Director  
First Steps

First Steps has come a long way since it sent its first food aid – a container of Pablum – to a hospital and daycare in Kangdong County, North Korea, in 2002. Today, First Steps is providing a daily cup of nutrient rich soymilk to 90,000 children. In 2012, 4.5 million micro-nutrient Sprinkles sachets were distributed to pregnant women and babies through public government healthcare clinics in North Korea.

The Lord continues to provide for First Steps. The number of individuals who daily respond to the desire He has given them to help feed hungry children in North Korea is overwhelming. Together, in the name of our Father, we have accomplished much. First Steps hopes to keep expanding in the coming year to reach the tens of thousands more children who continue to suffer from malnutrition.

In 2012, First Steps was able to send:

- For the Soymilk program:
  - 280 metric tonnes (or 617,294 pounds) of soybeans
  - 10 electric-powered VitaCow machines (bringing the total number of VitaCows to 52 and the total number of VitaGoats to 36)
  - One cargo truck to transport soymilk and 6 voltage stabilizers
- For the Sprinkles program:
  - 3 million micro-nutrient Sprinkles sachets for young women
  - 1.5 million micro-nutrient Sprinkles sachets for babies
  - 1 Sprinkles packaging machine
    - Premix and packaging foil for 2 million micro-nutrient Sprinkles sachets
- Donated and purchased humanitarian relief goods:
  - 733 kg of dried apple chips donated from Gleaners
  - 5.1 tonnes of dried soup mix donated from Gleaners
  - 2859 kg of canned fruit (peaches, pineapples and oranges)
  - 1460 kg of canned meat (tuna, luncheon ham and cooked ham)
  - Vegetable seeds – spinach, peppers, lettuce, squash, radishes, etc.
  - Fabric rolls, blankets, and thousands of hand-knitted scarves, mittens and toques
  - Vitamins
  - 13 Clini-cases (with essential basic medicines and medical supplies)

## **Monitoring Visits:**

First Steps visited North Korea from March 20 to 27, 2012. The children and their caregivers were extremely thankful for the scarves, hats and mittens First Steps' volunteers had made to help them stay warm. During the long cold winter, institutions that house children are mostly unheated. While visiting Nampo and Wonsan, the First Steps team was made aware of some harsh realities. For example, the water pipes have deteriorated to the point where the city's population relies mostly on water from wells.

From June 12 to 19, 2012 a First Steps team covered more than 700 kilometers, visiting six orphanages, eight soymilk production centres, five kindergartens, three medical clinics, and one cooperative farm. The First Steps team also confirmed the arrival of 10 new VitaCow soybean-processing machines in North Korea.

A First Steps team of 7 people visited North Korea from August 30 to September 8, 2012 to confirm the arrival of 100 tonnes of soybeans, dried soup mix and dried apple chips donated from Gleaners, etc. The First Steps team went to Dokchon, a coal-mining city of 250,000 people, northeast of Pyongyang. The team confirmed the arrival of 220 emergency tents, which had been delivered in partnership with ShelterBox UK, following a devastating torrential downpour and mudslide in July that displaced 8,000 people and claimed 46 lives.

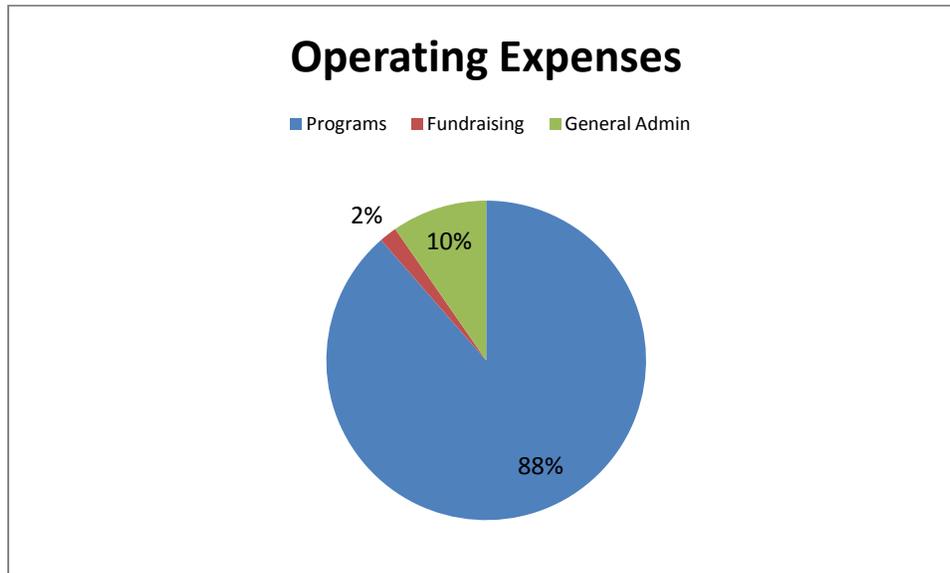
Susan Ritchie, Phil Schafran and Maisie LeFave visited North Korea from November 24 to December 4. The First Steps team met with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) to talk about the micro-nutrient Sprinkles program in North Korea. Sprinkles are continuing to have a positive impact on the health of pregnant women and babies. First Steps sent a Sprinkles packaging machine to ICN in late November.

## **Fundraising Events:**

- 2012 Canada Muse Youth Symphony Orchestra Annual Concert
- Presentation at Mission Vision 2012 in Fort St. John, BC
- William Kim and Friends Benefit Concert
- First Steps' Calgary Volunteer Group has continued to knit scarves, hats and mittens for children in North Korea
- Sleeping Penny Movement (ongoing)

## **First Steps 2012 Expenditures:**

- Programs \$923,770.24
- Fundraising \$18,683.12
- General & Administration \$100,509.77



**First Steps 2012 Revenue:**

- \$1,079,145.53

**First Steps Board of Directors:**

- Day, Valorie
- Lim, Jackie (Chun Ran)
- Oh, Eunice (Yusoon)
- Ritchie, Susan – Executive Director
- Schafran, Phil

**First Steps Office:**

- Han, Elinor – Office Administrator
- Lee, Anne – Communications Coordinator
- LeFave, Maisie – Executive Assistant

First Steps wants to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our supporters and prayer partners. This ministry is made possible by your prayers and donations. God bless you for partnering in this ministry to feed hungry children in North Korea.

*“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”*