




FIRST STEPS
preventing child malnutrition

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The continuing generosity and prayerfulness of our supporters gave thousands of children and mothers the opportunity to live a healthier life. Thank you for helping to provide a daily cup of soymilk to more than 100,000 children, and micronutrient Sprinkles to 20,000 women and their babies in 2019.

First Steps teams visited North Korea four times in 2019 to confirm the arrival and distribution of 400 tonnes of soybeans, stainless-steel milk cans, VitaGoat and SuperCow machines, as well as Sprinkles that were sent at the end of 2018. We met with beneficiaries to see and hear about the health of children and pregnant and nursing mothers.

Of the 400 tonnes of soybeans which we shipped, we distributed 300 tonnes to our partners and 100 tonnes were kept in storage. In November, we were able to allocate the beans to factories based on local needs. What an amazing blessing these 100 tonnes of soybeans became as COVID-19 began to severely impact supply chains into the country.

We were also grateful to begin a partnership with a soymilk factory in Munchon, Kangwon province on the east coast as well as Dokchon, in South Pyongang province in the interior of the country. By the end of 2019 we were already receiving encouraging feedback and noticing positive changes in these areas.

“Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” – Ephesians 5:20

Susan Ritchie
Executive Director



Where We Work

First Steps operates in 10 areas across four provinces and one district in DPR Korea.





WHAT WE DELIVERED



400 tonnes
of high quality non-GMO soybeans
to soymilk production sites



300 milk cans
to soymilk production sites



80 tonnes
of nutritious food items
to children



3 VitaGoats
to soymilk production sites in
Dokchon, Nampo (Hanggu) and
Samjiyon



2 SuperCows
to soymilk production sites in
Nampo and Wonsan



VISIT SUMMARIES

February

A First Steps team confirmed the distribution of soybeans in Nampo, as well as Sprinkles in Dokchon, Hyongjesan and Nampo.

At the Sohung Polyclinic, the team met five women who had taken Sprinkles. Each one described health improvements in morning sickness, anemia, appetite, or sleep.

September

A First Steps team visited beneficiary sites on the west and east coasts and in the north to confirm the distribution of soybean shipments. The team also confirmed the arrival of a VitaGoat and a SuperCow at factories in Nampo, and a SuperCow in Wonsan.

The First Steps team had a very busy schedule, visiting 35 locations - factories, clinics, hospitals, daycares and kindergartens - all in 10 days!

June

A First Steps team confirmed shipments of Sprinkles, milk cans, and dried soup mix in locations in the west and east and in the remote northern areas. A VitaGoat machine was delivered to Samjiyon.

Under construction was the Samjiyon Soymilk Factory, which is now the only building that the authorities in the city permitted to have a smoke chimney - a necessity for their VitaGoat.

November

A First Steps team visited locations on the east and west coasts to meet with beneficiaries and to confirm arrival of the remaining soybeans in Hyongjesan.

In Munchon, a new partner location for First Steps, the Director of the Foodstuff Factory was extremely grateful for the First Steps soybeans and had stored them neatly in a separate room labelled with hand-painted signs.

First Steps made 33 visits to soymilk production centres, 37 visits to clinic and hospitals, and visited 27 daycares or kindergartens in 2019



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Valorie Day
Madeline Harden
Jackie (Chun-Ran) Lim
Mary Wong-Moon
Susan Ritchie

2019 STAFF

Betsy Abraham	Administrative Intern (part-time)
Emma Jeffrey	Intern (part-time)
Caleb Ritchie	Intern (part-time)
Nancy Zhang	Summer Intern (full-time)
Genna Hook	Summer Intern (full-time)
Eonjoung Lee	Communications Coordinator (part-time)
Kayla Black	Programs Coordinator (full-time)
Mary Amendt	Regional Coordinator (part-time)
Joanne Cho	Financial Coordinator (part-time)
Susan Ritchie	Executive Director (full-time volunteer)



VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our faithful volunteers.
We appreciate the time you spend
helping children and women in DPR Korea.

Volunteer Fundraising Events

- DMC Youth Orchestra Concert (Port Coquitlam, BC)
- Korean Food Festival (Calgary, AB)
- Building Bridges Benefit Concert (Calgary & Edmonton, AB)
- Bake sale and Halloween Costume Contest (Vancouver, BC)

Volunteer Groups

- PitterPats Kids Club
- School Clubs
- Calgary Volunteer Group
- Edmonton Volunteer Group



Individual Volunteers

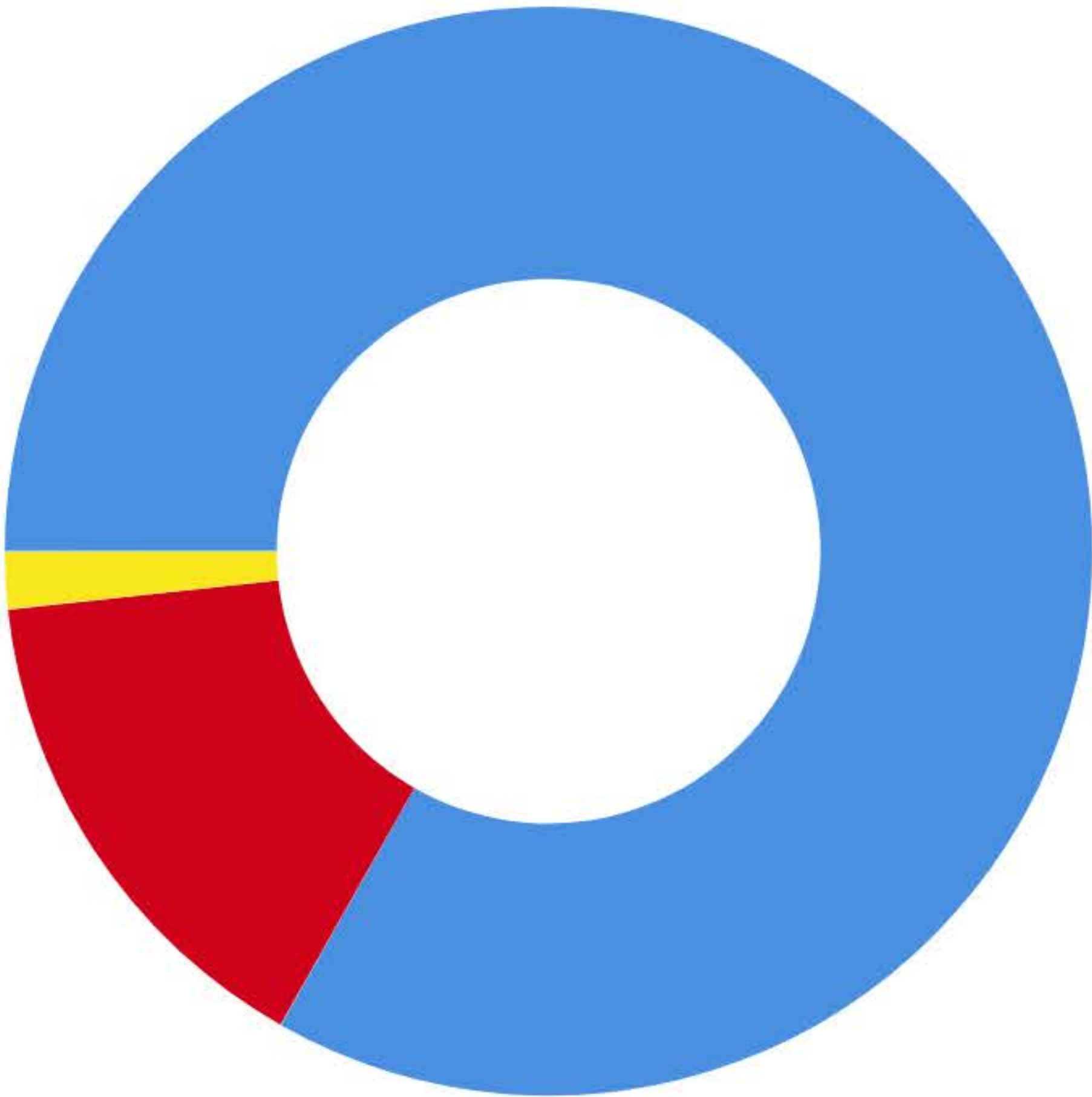
Volunteers gave 2480 hours working in our Vancouver office or from home in 2019. That's equivalent to about 70 work weeks!



2019 FINANCES

Revenue:
\$1,202,672.68

Expenditures:
\$1,235,550.80



Programs
\$1,028,230.71
(83.22%)

General Administration
\$186,304.04
(15.08%)

Fundraising
\$21,016.05
(1.7%)



THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting First Steps in 2019.
Together we are providing more than 100,000 children with a daily cup of soymilk
and 20,000 mothers and babies with micronutrient Sprinkles!



"I cannot tell you how healthy my baby is since taking Sprinkles! His rickets was corrected. He had diarrhea early on but he was fine after taking Sprinkles!"

- Mrs. Ri Yoo-Mi and her seven-month-old baby Kim Ryo-Un

"Sometimes it's really not easy to produce enough milk for all the children. When you send the soybeans from so far away, I can't tell you how grateful we are."

- Director Jo Jong-Suk at the Waudo Daycare and Kindergarten Supply Centre

