

Voices for CHANGE



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Photo Credit: Fouad Daddouch

Julie and Farm Worker Soukeina during a visit with Oxfam partners in Morocco.

Message from Julie

Innovation comes in many forms. And Oxfam donors like you understand that with innovation come breakthroughs in the fight against poverty.

You've been helping us innovate for decades!

In this newsletter you'll read about the Miles for Millions walk - Canada's very first fundraising walk to raise money for famine stricken countries in Africa. That's innovation.

You'll also read about a new resettlement program

Oxfam is leading for Syrian refugees in Italy.

And certainly the most quirky innovation you'll read about today - the business venture you are helping us support to transform human waste into fertilizer and biogas!

Innovation leads to change. And we couldn't do it without the devotion and good faith of our donors. So once again... Thank you!

Julie Delahanty

Thank you for your continued support of Oxfam Canada's work.

A Safe Space for Rani

"I was sold by a relative when I was 17, and forcefully married to a violent man double my age. After eight months, I escaped back to my village. But I was pregnant and my husband soon found me. Thankfully, I received support from Oxfam's local partner and was able to get a divorce, but I'm concerned about raising my son alone." – Rani

With your support, our "Creating Spaces" project aims to reach a quarter of a million women and girls like Rani over the next five years, working with 25 community partners in 6 countries. Our goal is to create spaces for women and girls to be safe, respected and included.

Because of you, we aim to prevent violence against women and girls, provide safe spaces, counselling, and change communities for good.

When women's rights are respected,



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade/Oxfam

Women's Community Discussion Class in Nepal

there are lasting benefits for generations to come. Children thrive and so do communities. Your support helps many women and girls like Rani, and their children. Thank you!

Did you walk with us 50 years ago?

Do you remember where you were in the spring of 1967?

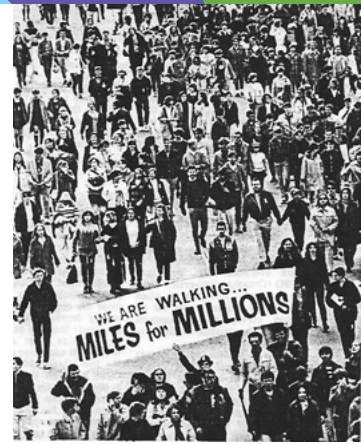
Perhaps you or someone you know was walking miles through your city or town in support of Oxfam!

That's right. Fifty years ago the very first fundraising walk took place in Canada. It was called Miles for Millions, and symbolically resembled a pilgrimage; a personal and collective challenge demanding both social and political conviction to end world poverty. It saw millions of people walk to raise money for famine stricken countries in Africa, and Oxfam was a key organizer.

Many Oxfam supporters still remember the event fondly. And for our Executive Director, Julie Delahanty, it was

life-changing. "Miles for Millions inspired me as a child to think outside myself. It was a small thing that as kids we did for fun but I have a different appreciation now of how each of those walk stories made up such a powerful movement of people doing something together for others."

If you have a Miles for Millions story to share, we would love to hear it! Letters and photos are welcomed at Rowena.Griffiths@oxfam.ca or at 39 McArthur Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1L 8L7.



Miles for Million Walk 1967

From Somaliland, with Thanks

Oxfam supporters can always be counted on to act swiftly and with great generosity in times of crisis. This year has been no exception.

In a small village in Somaliland, a travelling physician named Jama Abdi Abdile writes to tell you exactly what happens when Oxfam donors like you join together to help those suffering far away.

You know that a humanitarian emergency is currently affecting nearly 30 million people in Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen and South Sudan. Across Somaliland, water is scarce,

and livestock have died in their thousands. This is devastating to the children, women and men who rely upon their animals for milk, food, and livelihood.

In Dr. Abdile's village there is no health center. He is the only medical professional. Currently he is treating 144 people with malnutrition, including pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. Most of the people suffering are children.

Because of the water shortage, the village has been relying on a filthy shallow spring. One of our engineers called it the most contaminated water supply he has seen in 20 years of working for Oxfam.

But in April, Oxfam trucks began arriving - loaded with fresh water funded in an outpouring of support by donors like you.

Dr. Abdile can speak to what a relief it was to see the trucks. And how much the water has helped him care for his patients.



Photo Credit: Allan Gichigi / Oxfam

Dr. Abdile

"Mothers and children are most vulnerable to diseases," he writes.

"When people have immune deficiency, which is related to a lack of food and nutrition, they are vulnerable to all sorts of diseases."

With clean water, Dr. Abdile's patients and neighbours can more easily take their medications and their oral rehydration salts. They don't have to be afraid to drink or to cook with dirty water. And they are far less likely to get ill.

Dr. Abdile carrying clean water



Photo Credit: Allan Gichigi / Oxfam

The Most Unusual Gift You'll Ever Give

This holiday season, you may find Oxfam asking you to consider giving the strangest gift you've ever been asked for.

A toilet.

It may sound a little funny - but in fact, the need for toilets in the developing world is a very serious affair.

Imagine you are a teenage girl living in a refugee camp. There are no private latrines for women. The only place you can go is the outskirts of the camp, where sexual violence is a very real danger.

Or imagine you are living in an urban slum, where young girls have to use the same dirty public toilets as hundreds of other people - with nothing but newspaper or old rags to clean themselves.

And of course there are thousands and thousands of girls who stay away from school when they are menstruating, because there are no safe and private toilets. Or who go to school in filthy, unsanitary conditions.

But our World Toilet Day Appeal in November will help change all that - one innovation at a time.

And you won't believe what our innovators are up to - have you ever heard of a PeePoo bag? How about a tiger toilet? Stay tuned and watch your mailbox and your Inbox for more news in the next few months!



Photo Credit: Pablo Tosco / Oxfam

Khalil, Fatem and their son

Safe Passage

In 2013, Khalil and Fatem fled Syria with their infant son. They made it to Lebanon safely, where they have lived ever since in one small room.

Khalil does his best to find any work he can, but many times there is none to be had - and he has to borrow money and food from neighbours and relatives just to survive.

Oxfam workers met this family in Lebanon and helped them apply for a special new refugee resettlement program in Italy.

This program will be the first resettlement program led by civil society - a coalition of communities and churches) and an EU government. With our donors' support, Oxfam will host 500 families in the Tuscany region of Italy, helping them learn Italian, give them work mentorship and cultural mediation services, and education.

The program is called Humanitarian Corridors, and we are thrilled to be walking those corridors to safety alongside families like Khalil's and Fatem's, as they build a new life until the day that it is safe to go back home.

Oxfam installed Girls Toilets



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

Oxfam installed toilet



Photo Credit: Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Photo Credit: Allan Gichigi/Oxfam



Elizabeth Wayua

Empowering Elizabeth

In our work around the world, Oxfam staff have found that domestic workers are a group very likely to be short-changed at best, and abused at worst.

Now we've made it a priority to support domestic workers in their struggle for fair treatment.

In Nairobi, Elizabeth is a domestic worker and a nanny, who walks from her impoverished settlement to a middle class area each day. Women like Elizabeth are often paid less than the legal minimum wage, and forced to work long, grueling hours.

Your gifts are helping Oxfam and these workers to form groups where they can discuss issues that affect them in their work, and bring their concerns to the attention of the government. As you and Oxfam know so well - there is immense power in numbers! Please visit www.shortchanged.ca to learn more and demand an economy that works for women everywhere!

GET INVOLVED

Would you like to fundraise for World Food Day on October 16th? Hungry4change is an educational program used to promote awareness about world hunger and poverty through fundraising events for Oxfam Canada. Contact Ifhtia Haque at events@oxfam.ca to get your school or community group involved with Hungry4change!

JOIN US

Oxfam Great Britain's Duncan Green is one of the most widely read bloggers on international development and author of "How Change Happens" and "From Poverty to Power."

Duncan starts his Canadian tour in November, and we'd love to see you there! For details of his tour, visit www.oxfam.ca/speaking-tour.

ROWENA'S CORNER

Richard is a man who has made the battle to end poverty part of his life story. And you can too.



Photo Credit: Laura Hynd/Oxfam

Richard, Oxfam Supporter

An Oxfam supporter, Richard has chosen to leave a bequest to Oxfam in his Will. In his words, "I don't go to bed hungry. I can buy the food I need. But I'm aware that many people in the world do go to bed hungry. We who have so much shouldn't forget that there are many who have so little."

When Richard came to include charitable bequests in his Will, he says it was natural for him to think of Oxfam. If you share Richard's belief in a world without poverty, you can help long into the future, too. Visit www.oxfam.ca/donate or contact me, Rowena, to find out more.

Rowena Griffiths, CSA, Planned Giving

If you're interested in learning more about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Rowena at 613-237-5236 ext 2209 or Rowena.Griffiths@oxfam.org.