



# MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

VOICES AGAINST POVERTY



International - United Nations Millennium Campaign

[www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)

Canadian – Make Poverty History

[www.millenniumpromise.org](http://www.millenniumpromise.org)

Calgary –Children without Poverty

[www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)

[childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca)

Children without poverty monthly newsletter: November 2007

Please do your part.

The millennium campaign was created in 2000 by the United Nations to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Please help. Read on to help and wear a white band to show your support. White bands are available for \$1 from [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org).

“We have to become increasingly aware that the poor are the hope of humanity, for we will be judged by how we have treated the poor.”  
Mother Teresa

### Did you Know?

Poor families spend over 70 percent of their income on food. An average American family spends only 10 percent.

**Source:** World Bank 1992; "School Feeding Works for Girls' Education", WFP

### Give your family a great gift this Christmas

In Calgary, every year, the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) matches between 160 – 180 volunteers (individuals, couples or families) with immigrant or refugee families in their Host Program.

Speaking with Beata Lutaba, the coordinator of the program at CCIS, she expressed her admiration of the program. After she sets up a Host family / volunteer with a new family to our country she has no opportunity again to see the families interact except at the annual Christmas party. At the Christmas party Beata gets to see these families interact together as friends. And it warms her heart.

“They have become like extended families for each other”, she says.

Beata goes on to explain, the families arriving in Calgary have left behind family in their home countries. When they come here, they find their host family becomes their new Canadian family.

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY is not a registered charity. Please donate to the charity of your choice. Our aim is to educate people with facts and information so that they can make informed decisions around their own personal philanthropy.

”The difference I see in the families is amazing. They are happy and confident and the children are really good friends,” says Beata.

Beata explains that she has Host volunteers say that they gain so much more than what they expected, so much more than what they are giving.

The Host program at CCIS matches host volunteers (individuals, couples or families) with immigrant or refugee families. It assists the new family to Canada with moral and emotional support, helps them with social adaptation, eases the experiences in Canada and helps with practical things like taking the bus or where to find winter clothing. The idea and expectation is that the match will provide both parties with new FRIENDS. Although new families coming to Calgary often find friends easily, it is often within their similar ethnic or religious circles. This is good for them, but what this program does is connect them with a Canadian family, so that they can learn the Canadian culture, our customs and expectations within our society.

In their friendship, the families will often go to festivals, parks, or cook together. They might go shopping to help find items that they are looking for. They might assist the family with finding inexpensive organized activities for the children. Or they might help to find resources for both the family and children.

Beata explains, ‘we have such a diversity of families for matching, that we can be sure to find a match to make it comfortable, easy and compatible’. This is meant to ensure host volunteers who would only be able to deal with families who can speak English are matched appropriately or if there is a preference of similar religions or other interests, skills, or geographical location within the city they can set up the match in the most beneficial and enjoyable way.

It was important for me to be reminded by Beata that some of the refugee families they match have higher needs and will require a match volunteer / family who will assist with more basic needs. As Beata explained, these families have sometimes lived in refugee camps for 11-13 years with no running water. They may require assistance with nutrition and hygiene and the need to learn the very basics to better able the family to integrate in their new country.

There is no obligation of money. This is a great opportunity to learn from other people and about different cultures. It’s a great opportunity to provide exposure to different perspectives for the whole family.

If you are interested in becoming a Host volunteer (individual, couple or family), please call Beata Lutaba at the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society at 290-5752 and tell her Richelle Wilson sent you.



## Update from the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank

Christmas is coming up, as is the family trip to get your Christmas tree. The Ikea tree lot last year raised \$18,000 for the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank as well as much goodwill and cheer spread throughout the community. Again this year, the **Ikea Christmas tree lot will be donating a portion of their proceeds to the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank.**

Your support allows the Food Bank to raise the food and funds needed to assist Calgarians in crisis. One of the ways they provide assistance is through their Emergency Hamper Program where families are eligible to receive a nutritionally balanced hamper up to 6 times per year. The majority of their clients are the working poor who only access the Hamper Program two or three times before they regain their stability. In 2006 they helped over 109,000 people. More than 42% of these clients were children. In addition, through their BP Food Link program, they are able to share their resources with over 100 other not-for-profit agencies in Calgary who require food as part of their program delivery. In 2006 this program distributed 2.4 million pounds of food.

To have people added or removed from the distribution list or to provide feedback, questions or requests, please respond to: [Richelle@rogers.blackberry.net](mailto:Richelle@rogers.blackberry.net).

