

THE LINK

Newsletter

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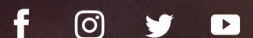
SPRING 2026

IN MOTION:

**Where Small
Steps Are Making
a Real Difference**

 **international needs**
transformed lives, changed communities

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A Daily Need: Consistent Meals in Lasivenu



Scan the QR Code
to support the **Nutrition
Intervention Program**

For more than twenty years, International Needs Ghana has partnered with teams from Canada to provide medical care in rural communities across the Volta Region. Through these visits, one issue kept coming up: many children were not getting enough of the right food to grow well.

Since 2023, nutrition-focused outreach clinics began tracking children's growth, diet, and health. The results were clear. **Malnutrition is not an isolated issue. It is affecting a significant number of children across these communities. These findings pointed to the need for a more focused, long-term response, beginning in Lasivenu.**

Lasivenu is made up of three rural communities where most families rely on small-scale farming or informal work. Income changes with the seasons, and food access is not always reliable. Recent assessments found:

- 1 in 4 children is underweight
- 1 in 4 is stunted (short for their age)
- 1 in 9 is wasted (too thin for their height)

The school feeding program helps, but rising food costs mean meals are often limited in variety and nutrition. **Many children are still coming to school without the nutrients they need, affecting their health and ability to focus in class.**

The Lasivenu Nutrition Intervention Program is a five-year plan designed to support children consistently, not just during short-term outreaches.



It will begin with 50 of the most vulnerable students at Lasivenu Basic School. Each child will receive:

- Daily balanced meals at school
- Food support for home where needed
- Regular health and growth monitoring
- Deworming and health insurance coverage
- School uniforms and learning materials
- Basic nutrition education integrated into the school day

Progress will be tracked with a mid-term review and a final evaluation to assess results and guide expansion.

To run this program, \$30,000 is needed each year. **Our goal is a 50 for 50 model: 50 donors giving \$50 per month to support 50 children.** While \$50 a month provides consistent meals, health monitoring, and school support for one child, any monthly gift toward this program helps moves it forward.

We are looking for 35 more donors to help reach this goal. Your support, combined with others, will help ensure children receive the consistent nutrition and care they need throughout the school year.

\$9,150
secured

\$30,000
needed 2026

A Place to Stay and Learn: Kamlapur Drop-In Centre Today



Scan the QR Code
to support the Kamlapur
Drop-In Centre Today

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Kamlapur Drop-In Centre (KDIC) continues to support boys who have spent time living on or around the streets. Through its daytime program, the centre provides basic education, healthcare, meals, and counselling for up to 40 children at a time. **What began as a daytime program has now expanded to include a residential facility as well, offering stability for those who need it most.**

Each child's situation is different. Some arrived after leaving home due to conflict, pressure at school, or difficult family circumstances. Others travelled from their villages to the city by train, and later found themselves unsure of how to return. When it is safe and possible, the goal is to reunite children with their families. **In 2025, 9 boys were successfully repatriated.**

This process is often complex. Many children cannot recall a full address, only small details like a village name or a parent's name. Staff work carefully to piece this together, using tools like Google Maps and working with local officials to confirm family information before arranging a safe return.

For others, reunification is not an option. Some have no family to return to, while others come from environments that are not safe. **Today, 20 boys are living at the residence and attending formal school at Banasree Day School in Dhaka.**

The original plan was for the boys in residence to attend International Needs Bangladesh's boarding school in Naogoan. However, government requirements for birth certificates have delayed this transition.



For now, the boys remain in Dhaka, continuing their education while staff work through the process. This next step is important, as moving to Naogoan would create space at the residence to reach other boys currently living in vulnerable situations.

Caring for the children at KDIC, both those in residence and those attending the centre each day, requires ongoing support. From meals and education to the staff who walk alongside them, this work continues because of that support.

Looking ahead, we hope to organize a Discovery Tour to the project in October 2026, offering supporters a chance to see this work firsthand and spend time with the team in Dhaka. To learn more or express interest, please contact corrie@internationalneeds.ca



\$25,900
secured

\$71,400
needed 2026

Rally for Real Hope: Supporting Children in Kawangware



Scan the QR Code
to support the Rally for
Real Hope



On October 25th, our Director of Operations, Josiah Dueck, will run the Niagara Falls International Marathon in support of children at Real Hope in Kenya.

Real Hope is a place where children arrive in difficult circumstances, many having spent time on the streets or coming from unsafe home environments. **At the safe house and drop-in centre, they find something different: consistent care, meals, education support, and people who walk with them toward something more stable.**



The need doesn't slow down. New children continue to be referred, and the team works to respond while supporting those already in their care. **Supporting this work helps ensure that when a child needs a safe place, there is one.**

Josiah's run is one way to step into that need. He has set a personal fundraising goal of \$1,100, reflecting the cost of caring for one child for six months. **This effort is part of a broader initiative we're calling Rally for Real Hope.**

Rally for Real Hope will continue through 2026, creating space for others to take part in a way that fits their season. If you're already planning to take part in an activity or challenge yourself to reach a personal milestone this summer or fall, consider dedicating it to something meaningful.

That could mean joining Josiah in October, taking part in a run, walk, or bike ride, or planning something of your own. **Whether it's a formal event or something you organize yourself, every step helps support the work at Real Hope.**

We'd love for you to be part of it. To learn more about the fundraiser, explore ways to get involved, or support Josiah's efforts, scan the QR code at the top of the page.

\$750
secured

\$5,170
needed per month

Seeing Transformation: Reflections from Marcia Mantel



Scan the QR Code
to sponsor a child today

Recently, our Sponsorship Manager, Marcia Mantel, travelled to Zambia to visit students and their families and connect with local partners. **During her time there, she met students who are already supported through sponsorship, and others who are still waiting.** In her own words, Marcia reflects on one moment that stayed with her.

As we drive into the yard, it does not look any different from other houses we visited earlier that day. A mud-brick home sits on a swept plot of dirt. A faded cloth hangs in a small window. Maize borders the yard, and an outdoor kitchen with a few dishes hints at a recent meal. It does not look any different, and yet the difference becomes apparent the moment we get out of the car.

*After a morning in which children had watched us from a distance, a young boy walks up to us immediately. His arm is outstretched and, although his eyes don't quite meet ours, his hand does. He shakes our hands rather solemnly, one by one. I am looking at his other hand, though. To me, his other hand is just as telling. Maybe even more so. He is wearing the yellow and black of a ZACTS uniform, and his left hand clutches his shirt. It takes me a moment to realize that he is holding it closed because it is missing some buttons. **I am struck by the simple yet profound dignity of this.***



Soon we are gathered around the boy's mother. There is something different in the way she steps forward without hesitation. She stands straight and looks ZACTS' executive director, Cyrus, in the eye. She answers his questions directly and, even though I don't understand her words, I can see that she has something to say. I can see that she is passionate about it.

*Even before I know who she is, even if I had not met them at the same time, it is obvious to me that this is the mother of the young boy who clutched his shirt closed with one hand and shook our hands with the other. **I learn that the boy's name is Brian, and his mother, Prisca, is a leader in the women's agricultural cooperative.** This cooperative gives mothers of ZACTS' students access to land and training in farming and business skills. More than that, it provides an income, often for the first time, and a confidence that comes from that opportunity.*

This is what transformation looks like. It is evident in the simple dignity. It is obvious in a posture, a demeanor, a confidence. ***Transformation has made something new, not just for this mother, but also for her family. And in a few years, I know I will be listening for the story about how the hand that clutched a yellow shirt closed has reached out to seize his own opportunities.***



Walk for Water 2026: Water and Sanitation for Mana



Scan the QR Code to support the **Mana Village Water Project**

The Walk for Water fundraiser began in 2023 as a simple way for communities to come together and support access to clean water. **Since then, it has grown into an annual initiative, bringing people together each year to take part in something practical and meaningful.**

Participants walk 5 kilometres to reflect the daily reality faced by many families who must travel long distances to collect water that is often unsafe to drink.

This June, Walk for Water efforts are led by long-term partners Bonavista Church in Calgary and Women Making a Difference in Cottam, raising funds for a clean water and sanitation project in the village of Mana, Burkina Faso.



In communities like Mana, access to clean water remains a daily challenge. Many families rely on rivers or shallow wells that can become contaminated, contributing to the spread of waterborne illnesses. Limited sanitation infrastructure makes it difficult to maintain safe and healthy living conditions.

Funds raised through the 2026 Walk for Water will support the construction of boreholes and latrines in Mana, helping provide reliable access to clean water and improving sanitation for the whole community.

If you would like to support their efforts, you can contribute directly to the project and help bring clean water within reach for residents of Mana.



\$26,400 secured **\$43,000** needed

Praise & Prayer Corner

Praise: We're thankful for supporters like True North Academy, who have been involved in child sponsorship since 2009. Through casual Fridays, students bring a donation if they choose not to wear their uniform, taking part in a simple, ongoing act of generosity.

Prayer: Please pray for the boys at the Kamlapur Drop-In Centre, that they would be able to obtain the documentation needed to transition to Naogoan School. This next step would allow more children in urgent need to access the residential program.