

HOPE

Quarterly

Taking out hunger

CNN partners with
Convoy

Refugee crisis

ISSUE 05



Haiti: The children, families and communities



HAITI

THE CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES



Zendaya helps Flint, Mich.

Volunteer featured on *The Voice*

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ISSUE 05

HOPE Quarterly

330 S. Patterson Ave., Springfield, MO 65802
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Hope Quarterly
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On The Cover: The children of Haiti are happy and healthy thanks to food provided by Convoy of Hope.

Photographer: Austin Elliott



HAITI

**THE CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES**

From the vibrant energy of the cities to the fertile mountainous regions and sprawling beaches, Haiti is changing — through the lives of its people.

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The Reason We Help Refugees



Hal Donaldson
President and Co-Founder
CONVOY OF HOPE, Inc.

 @haldonaldson on Twitter

The Afghan boy rode the old bike masterfully. He swerved around mud puddles and never put his foot down for balance. Though poverty, hunger, unease and despair were ever-present realities in the refugee camp, he seemed focused solely on the ride. He only stopped riding when he came upon some of our Convoy of Hope team members who were in the camp to report on the work we'd been doing to feed, clothe and supply refugees.

"Hello," he said in English with a wide smile. "Where are you from?"

One of our team members answered, then listened intently as the boy told a harrowing story of fleeing some 5,000 miles from his war-torn country with his father. Now, less than 100 miles from their final destination, they've been stuck in the camp for months, unable to get into England where they will seek political asylum.

In the last two years, Convoy of Hope has provided lifesaving humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands of refugees displaced by man-made conflict and natural disasters. Today, there are more than 60 million refugees worldwide — of those, more than 50% are children.

Our rapid response has provided food and water; baby kits, including

formula, diapers and clothing; shelter (tarps, roofing); and heating and cooking stoves for refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and France — where our team met the boy on the bike.

We are also helping displaced people in Nepal, where a magnitude 7.8 earthquake killed more than 8,000 people last April. In response to the situation in Nepal, we launched our Emergency-Based Nutrition Program, which targets children who are at risk of acute undernourishment in remote villages tucked high in the Himalayas.

People often ask why we are so determined to help refugees. The reason is very simple: When we feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, and clothe the naked, we do so as unto the Lord (Matthew 25:32-40).

In the coming months, you'll read more about our work to help refugees in the Hope Quarterly and on our blog, The Hope Supply.

Please know that we are grateful for your support as we do this great work.

God bless you.



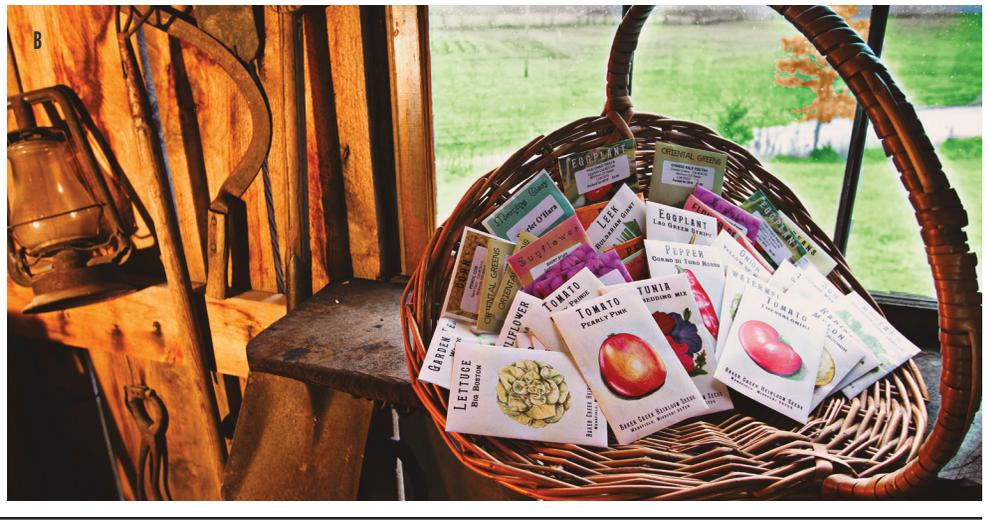
Photo: Surrounded by poverty and hardship, four refugee children find comfort in friendship. Photographer: Jess Heugel



A

Jared Harder on *The Voice*

Jared Harder volunteered with Convoy of Hope during the Joplin tornado response and was featured on this season of *The Voice*. During his introductory segment, Harder spoke highly of Convoy of Hope.



B

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds partners with Convoy of Hope to provide free seeds to Guests of Honor at Community Events across the United States. Since 1998, they've sold only open-pollinated seeds that are non-patented, non-hybrid, non-treated, and non-GMO.



C

Zendaya supports Flint

Zendaya, star of Disney's *K.C. Undercover*, recently encouraged her followers to donate to Convoy of Hope's Disaster Services Initiative following our response to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Her posts on Twitter and Instagram had more than 310,000 interactions and brought in hundreds of dollars to help those in need.

 **@Zendaya** • Jan 22

I talked to my friends at Convoy of Hope and they are on the ground helping the situation in Flint, Mich. sending trucks of water and supplies. If you want to donate click on the link in my bio. Thank you.



Delivering hope

By: Jess Heugel

In 2015, Convoy of Hope delivered more than 26 million pounds of food all over the world — doing so is no small task. It requires the expertise of our procurement and logistics team, of which Frank Senkinc is a valued member.

While most are sleeping or going about their days, Frank can usually be found on the road, pulling truckloads of product to or from our World Distribution Center in Springfield, Missouri. Over his 28-year career as a truck driver, Frank has driven nearly 3.5 million miles and he's done it with a smile and the warmth of someone who has a driving passion to feed the world.

CONTINUED ON 9

Convoy of Hope driver, Frank Senkinc.

Journey and work abroad



Convoy of Hope Field Teams are groups of volunteers that serve alongside in-country staff and partners throughout our focus countries for one week durations so children, families and every community can flourish.

Featured Trip

Ethiopia Lake Ziway Horticulture Site

*All 2016 trips are full. Now accepting 2017 applications.

convoy.org/teams

World Headquarters opportunity



Hands of Hope volunteer night happens every Tuesday at our World Distribution Center in Springfield, Missouri. Volunteers pack food for our international feeding programs and bag groceries for our Community Events.

Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

World Distribution Center
330 S. Patterson Ave
Springfield, MO 65802

*See website for blackout dates.

convoy.org/events

Volunteer at a Community Event



April

23 - Concord, Calif.
23 - Batesville, Miss.
30 - Las Cruces, N.M.

May

07 - Springfield, Mo.

June

11 - Worcester, Mass.
18 - Kansas City, Mo.
25 - Indianapolis, Ind.

July

09 - Hilo, Hawaii
16 - Oahu, Hawaii

August

06 - Wichita, Kan.
13 - Kennewick, Wash.
20 - Chicago, Ill.
27 - Cookeville, Tenn.

September

17 - Racine, Wis.

October

01 - Sioux City, Iowa
08 - Lafayette, Ind.

November

19 - Las Vegas, Nev.

*See website for full list of events.

convoy.org/events



4-STAR RATING

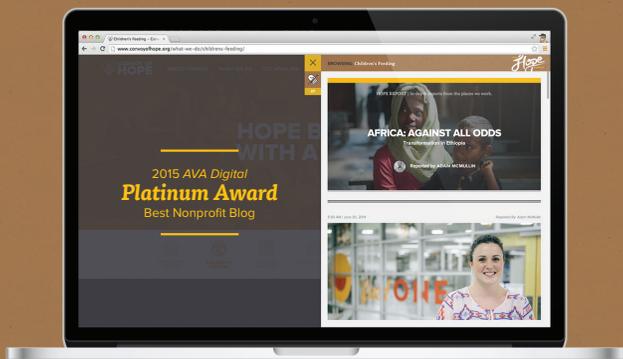
13th Consecutive Year

CHARITY NAVIGATOR, AMERICA'S LARGEST AND MOST-UTILIZED INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR OF CHARITIES, HAS AWARDED CONVOY OF HOPE THE PRESTIGIOUS 4-STAR RATING FOR THE 13TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

Explore our blog at
convoy.org/blog

HOPE SUPPLY

We believe that hope is the common denominator of our stories. **The Hope Supply** is your opportunity to journey with us, by the power of stories, to faraway places — and perhaps even your community.



Little heroes help end hunger

By: **Champion Slye**

After hearing about children who suffer from hunger and poverty all over the world, kids from Mountain Top, Pennsylvania, wanted to do something about it.

Michael was originally saving up for an iPad, but had a change of heart and decided to give his savings to feed children instead. Katie raked leaves and cleaned her room to raise money. She knew every little bit she raised would go to help a kid just like her. Carlee did chores at her grandmother's.

Because of kids like Michael, Katie and Carlee, we provide hope to the impoverished around the world.

An interview with driver, Frank Senking

CONTINUED FROM 7

What's the best part of driving for Convoy?

I love the arrivals. When you get to our Community Events or onto a disaster site, and the volunteers are there, they've got their cameras out, they're

jumping around, they're high-fiving ... I get goosebumps every time. And sometimes I get choked up. It's just an awesome feeling knowing you're there to support our volunteers as they help other people in need.

Did you always want to drive a truck?

Yes, I love it. When I was a kid, I was always excited to see a truck go by. And today, when a truck goes by all lit up, I still get that same feeling of wow!

What's your favorite snack food while on the road?

I eat a lot of peanuts and almonds. I try to stay healthy, but sometimes doing that is really hard. I also love chocolate ice cream.

How do you go about eating ice cream while driving the truck?

The same way I eat a bowl of soup going down the road, I suppose.



Life lessons learned from baseball

By: Bill Whitworth

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year, as baseball teams are coming out of training and fans are anticipating how the season will go. As a part of the Convoy staff and a lifelong fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, I've learned what a solid baseball team can reveal about the important things in life, and how it relates to what we do at Convoy.

Family. Cheering on the Cardinals has always been a part of how my family celebrates. Taking my dad to the first game ever played in the new stadium, welcoming my son back from Iraq and introducing my new grandson with his name on the scoreboard were just a few of the memories we have. Giving time, money or products to Convoy of Hope builds that same sense of family. We're all in this together.

Community. Gathering to root for your team together helps you feel a strong sense of community with others. Being "all in" with other fans builds an incredible bond. Building community is at the heart of what Convoy of Hope does — we make friends and build relationships around the world. We're "all in" when it comes to helping children and families who are suffering.

Loyalty. Sharing passion and excitement about your team, regardless of the score or record, is a great way to teach your kids great life lessons — so is giving of our time and resources to help those in need.

History and knowledge. Learning the history of a team and understanding the game helps anyone enjoy the game even more. Every day I try to learn a little more about why we at Convoy do what we do. In doing so, I've become a better employee and more well-rounded person who wants to help others.

Where there's a will, there's a way

By: Dan Rice

The "Where there's a will, there's a way" phrase has been around since the year 1640. I often use it to consider a "will" — an estate plan.

Every year around my birthday, I re-read my will. Just like annual physical checkups, reviewing a will is important. Most people have major changes to their will every three years.

Among those who do not have wills in place, reasons given are:



Your friends at Convoy care about you as our family as much as we care about the children and families you enable us to serve. We urge you to consider updating your own will and estate plan. To help you, Convoy has a will planning tool on our website to assist you.



LEARN MORE
convoyofhope.plannedgiving.org

EXPLORING HAITI

Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. The 10,000-square-mile country boasts beautiful coastlines, secluded mountainous regions and bustling cities. It's the most mountainous country in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the most densely populated.



TRANSPORTATION

Communal taxis, motorcycle taxis and colorful buses called “tap-taps” are the main forms of transportation. Only 5 of every 1,000 Haitians own a car.



CUISINE

- Tassot, or fried goat
- Pigeon peas & rice with chicken
- Fried plantains



CURRENCY

Gourds were used as currency until the early 1800's. Haitian currency is called “Gourdes” in honor of the fruit.

CLIMATE

- Tropical
- Avg. temp. 70-80° F
- Rainy season: Feb-May



“Boujou”
Good morning

“Merite”
You're welcome

“Mesi”
Thank you

LANDMARKS

- ▲ Citadelle Laferrière
Citadelle Laferriere, completed in 1820, was built to defend from attacks after Haiti gained independence from France.
- ★ The Presidential Palace
The Presidential Palace in Port-au-Prince was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake.



CONVOY OF HOPE®

Implementing Partner: **Mission of Hope**
 In-Country Director: **Lookens Pickering**
 Program centers: **394**
 Children fed: **67,845**
 Meals procured in-country in 2015: **123,044**



HAITI

**THE CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES**

**BY MOLLY ERICKSON
AND MICHELLE STORMZAND**

“Des poules! Des poules!” a merchant shouts insistently above the rattle of a Port-au-Prince market. She holds the clawed feet of chicken carcasses. The clamor of other street vendors’ calls collide with the hum of traffic and a cacophony of sounds that create a chorus, whose melody is in perfect pitch for those who love the hustle and bustle of cities.



Here, sidewalks are jammed with carts boasting a colorful spectrum of fresh fruits and vegetables, fish and bread. While some vendors cajole potential customers, others fan small fires with torn pieces of cardboard, roasting corn into a black and yellow patchwork.

The poverty is unmistakable, but laughter, beauty and courtesy are the hallmarks that shout: Riches can be found in hard work and relationships — not just in monetary wealth. Convoy of Hope is counting on that through our Children’s Feeding and Agriculture Initiatives, which couple financial and relational wealth so that children, families and entire communities are made stronger.

“We’re feeding more than 67,000 kids through partner schools and organizations in Haiti,” says Kevin Rose, senior director of International Program. “Our Feeding Initiative invests in the future of Haiti — its children.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



SARAPHINA

“I know that when you have, it’s important to give. Thank you to the people who give us food.”

Saraphina counts on the meals Convoy of Hope serves at her school.

Children like 10-year-old Saraphina. Her grey and navy school uniform is dotted with a few stains and her hair is pulled into pigtails tied with big navy bows. Erupting in laughter with her friends, a large grin reveals a perfect row of white teeth. Her school day is carefree — she knows it’s a safe place, with a warm meal and good friends.

Saraphina dreams of making the world a better place. Her younger brother has hearing problems, which is part of the reason she aspires to become a nurse. But not just to help her own family: She wants to help others too.

“Whenever someone needs help they have to have money to get it,” she says, with wisdom beyond her years. “I want to become a nurse so I can help those people who can’t afford it.”

Saraphina’s mother is a street vendor and her father fixes radios. Like many Haitians, they’re hard-working and determined to provide for their families. But the economics of poverty don’t always allow the

latter. Saraphina says she has experienced hunger in the past, but since meeting Convoy of Hope, she doesn’t go hungry.

Convoy has been feeding kids at her school for nearly 10 years. The beans and rice served at her school provide a healthy balance of protein and carbohydrates that give the students the nutrition they need.

“I know that when you have, it’s important to give,” she says graciously. “Thank you to the people who give us food.”

Taking the worry out of where their next meal is coming from is one of Convoy’s goals. One way we do that is by working with farmers through our Agriculture Initiative.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

IA



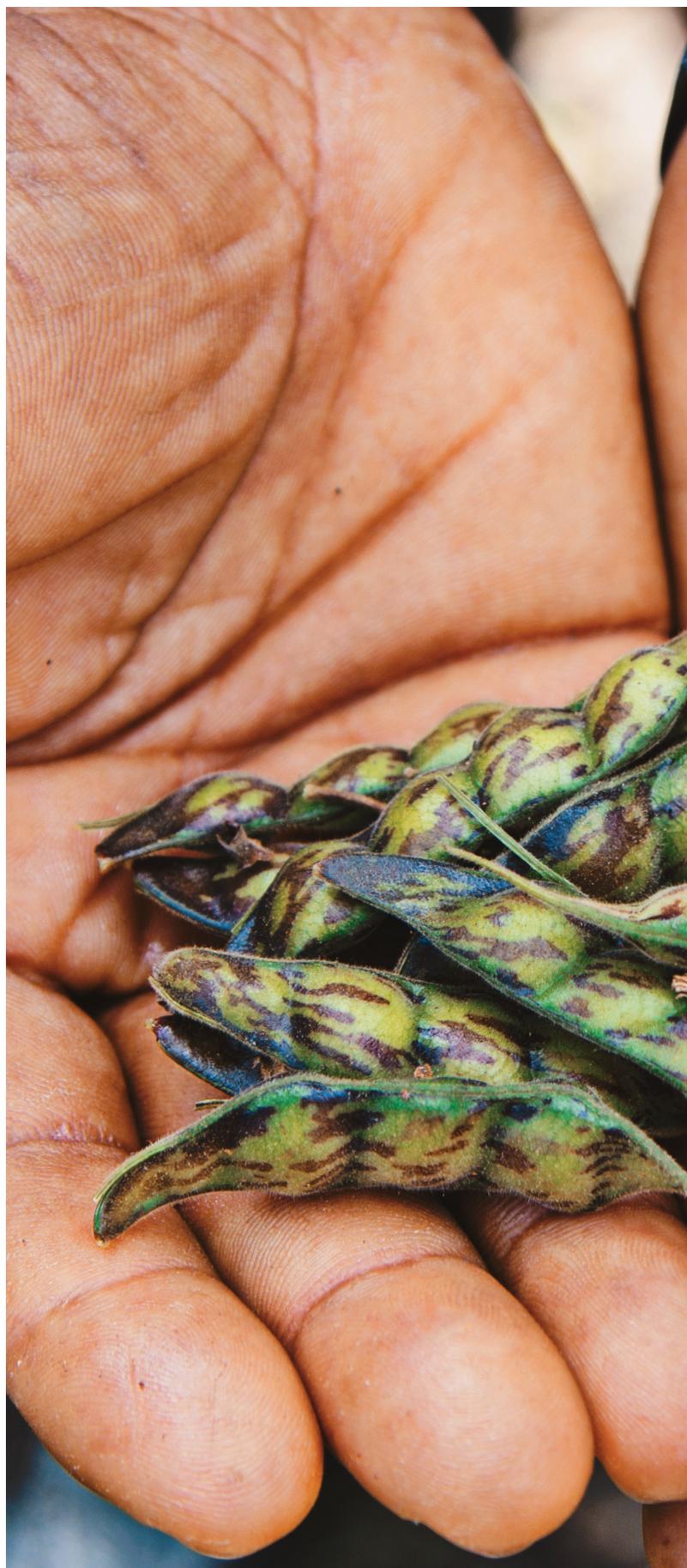
More than 70 children in this orphanage count on the meals Convoy of Hope provides.

High in the mountains, Turpin is approximately 28 miles from Port-au-Prince. Pastor Ellison, who trains local farmers, carefully sidesteps thorny burrs as he maneuvers into fields where pigeon peas, potatoes and other vitamin-rich vegetables grow. The rich soil beneath him supports a year-round growing season, where crops are grown in short three-month stints.

Here, farmers — many of them female — learn to produce crops that not only feed their families, but also provide a source of income.

Rosena, 27, relaxes in the shade near a community garden and fans herself with her hand. A slight breeze provides a respite from the heat that has produced beads of sweat along her hairline. A dusting of black soil covers her feet and ankles. Her tired but beautiful eyes tell more of a story than she vocalizes. Her hands, rough from work, appear to belong to a woman much older.

Rosena is married and has lived in Turpin for 10 years. She's been in the Agriculture Initiative since it launched in 2013. Before enrolling in the initiative, she used to eat the heirloom seeds from her harvest as she and her family were going hungry, rather than save them for the next planting season.



A GROWTH MODEL

“We were sometimes forced to eat everything we’d grown when money and food became scarce.”

“We were sometimes forced to eat everything we’d grown when money and food became scarce,” she says, as her posture slips and her eyes gaze towards the ground.

That’s changed since she started farming with Convoy of Hope. After farmers complete our agriculture training, which includes how to grow more abundant, disease-free crops, each is provided with seeds.

Rosena looks out across her section of the flourishing garden with quiet contentment.

“This has changed my life,” she says thoughtfully, as she stoops to untangle a stubborn weed from the freshly tilled soil. “I can feed my kids and sell the extra harvest to buy them what they need.”

Rose says the Agriculture Initiative is just one way

Convoy is going beyond the meal to address the issue of generational poverty. “Tomorrow is something many of the children in Haiti haven’t always had the luxury to think about,” he adds. “Oftentimes, they’ve had to live in only the current moment — right here, right now — and wonder when they might eat next. We’re changing that with all our initiatives.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Back in Port-au-Prince at an orphanage, five boys kick around a beat up, dirty basketball as if it were a soccer ball. They skillfully move the ball from player to player. Some play barefoot, others in sandals. A boy in a tattered T-shirt beckons for attention as he lifts the ball and launches it in a perfect arc to the oldest boy in the group: Jacques.



Jacques, 16, has lived at the orphanage since he was five. Really, it's the only life he's known. His life hasn't been one typical of most children around the world — his soccer buddies are his only family — but he has reason to be happy.

“Because of Convoy of Hope, I have two meals a day,” Jacques explains. “Sometimes I even have three!”

What many around the world take for granted delights Jacques: He can count on regular meals. And because he's fed and well-cared-for, Jacques is excelling in school. He has plans for his future — and the determination to make them happen.

“I want to be an engineer,” he says, explaining that such a role will, one day, enable him to care for his own family. “I want to build something I can pass on.”

Because they have access to food, clean water and education, Jacques and tens of thousands of other kids in Haiti — and around the world — are thinking about the legacy they can leave. That's amazing, and in no way possible without our generous friends who provide financial support.

Thank you for partnering with Convoy of Hope to provide children, families and entire communities with the ability to dream, achieve and create better lives.

“Because of Convoy of Hope, I have two meals a day, sometimes I even have three!”

**ENE
TO
SPA**

RGY

RE



A young girl with dark skin and hair styled in two buns with colorful ties. She is wearing a light purple tank top and has her hands clasped in front of her chin. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight, thoughtful smile. The background is a bright yellow wall with some white peeling paint.

FEED THE HUNGRY

2 out of 3 Haitians live on less than \$2 per day. Your gift provides nutritious food to hungry children and changes the course of their futures.

200,000 BY 2020

"We're putting a stake in the ground in our fight against poverty and malnutrition."

Hal Donaldson
President and Co-Founder

Disclosure Statement At Convoy of Hope, accountability and transparency are an integral part of everything we do. From every purpose restricted donation, Convoy of Hope's Independent Board of Directors may allocate between 12% and 20% of that donation to cover its administrative and fundraising costs. If restricted donations exceed the need of the crisis, the capacity to respond to a crisis and/or when local conditions prevent effective assistance, Convoy of Hope's Independent Board of Directors may allocate these funds to other worthy projects that help Convoy of Hope fulfill its global mission of helping children and families in need. A copy of Convoy of Hope's annual audited financial statement is available at www.convoyofhope.org/financials
North Carolina: A copy of the license to solicit charitable contributions as a charitable organization or sponsor and financial information may be obtained from the Department of Human Resources, Solicitation Licensing Branch, by calling (919) 733-4510. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.
Pennsylvania: A copy of the official registration and financial information of Convoy of Hope may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1(800)732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
Virginia: A financial statement is available from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Consumer Affairs, upon request.
Washington: You may obtain additional financial disclosure information on file with the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact them at Charities Division, Secretary of State's Office, P.O. Box 40234, Olympia, WA 98504-0234.
West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Convoy of Hope feeds nearly 150,000 children in 10 countries, but there are more than 180,000 on our waiting list. As part of our goal to feed 200,000 by 2020, this year we want to add 10,000 bowls for children throughout the world who will receive much-needed nutritious food, clean drinking water and hope.

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HOPE0416

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BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

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Name On Card

Signature

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*SMS service is available on most carriers. Message and Data Rates May Apply. Reply STOP to 50555 to STOP. Reply HELP to 50555 for HELP. Full terms: mGive.com/E

Thank you for your love and generosity. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Please make checks payable to:

CONVOY OF HOPE
P.O. Box 219368
Kansas City, MO 64121-9368





Convoy of Hope Europe helps refugees in France

By: Kirk Noonan

On an overcast and dreary day in a refugee camp in Calais, France, a handful of men, women and children from the Middle East and Africa gather near a church. Many of them have been in the camp for months after fleeing war, corrupt governments and terrorist groups such as ISIS.

“I miss my sisters,” says a 12-year-old

boy who endured a 5,000 mile trek to the camp with his father. The boy sits on a rusty bike, ankle deep in mud. He says he and his father fled their country because of war.

“I never imagined I would end up in a place like this,” says one man, who worked as a doctor in Syria before fleeing. “My government gave me a decision: Join the army and kill or be killed. I chose to leave.”

For months now, Convoy of Hope Europe (COHEU) has brought food, ongoing aid and hope to refugees in Calais and in nearby Dunkirk. In doing so, staff members have established a church in the camp and have had many opportunities to help and pray with refugees.

“We provide food, shelter, rain ponchos, cooking materials and

more,” says Michael McNamee, president of COHEU. “The refugee crisis is not going away. It will be one of the greatest humanitarian problems the world faces in the coming years.”

In Dunkirk, a refugee named Mahmoud, who recently fled from Syria with his wife and children, skillfully plays his violin as he

mourns his brother, who was killed by Syrian rebels.

“These are desperate people

in desperate need of help,” adds McNamee. “Mahmoud is extremely bright and talented. Many of the refugees here have left good lives just to survive.”

Additional reporting by: Tessa Hull

“I never imagined I would end up in a place like this.”



Truckloads of water were distributed on January 13.

Hope for residents in Flint, Mich.

By: Molly Erickson

On January 13, the Governor of Michigan declared a state of emergency and requested help from the federal government to provide clean water in Flint, after studies showed their water source was contaminated.

Our Disaster Services team responded immediately by partnering with local churches in the area to distribute water to affected residents.

“Nobody knows the areas of greatest need better than the local churches,” says Stacy Lamb, Disaster Services U.S. response director. “Within a very short period of time, we were able to start sending truckloads of clean water for them to distribute.”

To date, Convoy has sent 26 truckloads of water to partner churches in Flint. The response will continue, as needed, based on the capacity and distribution rate of the local churches.

“Our team is focused on bringing hope,” adds Lamb. “Because of our faithful partners, we will continue to do that.”



Convoy of Hope staff and CNN volunteers in Flint, Mich.

CNN partners with Convoy

In March, Convoy partnered with CNN to send 15 truckloads of bottled water to Flint, Michigan. They also provided 50 volunteers to distribute water to affected residents while in town for the Democratic Debate.



26 TRACTOR-TRAILER LOADS DELIVERED

Prompt response, hope restored

Going beyond a helping hand in the U.S. and around the world.

By: Michelle Stormzand

Fiji is normally a vacationer’s paradise with its lush islands, turquoise waters and swaying palms. But on February 7, the island nation was pelted by the strongest storm ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere.

Destructive winds reached speeds of 184 miles per hour, killing 42 residents and injuring many more.

“Thousands lost everything they owned,” says Ryan Grabill, Disaster Services response manager. “Winston wiped out vegetation, crops and fishing boats — people’s livelihoods were destroyed.”

Convoy of Hope was on the ground within hours and responded with emergency relief supplies including water filters, hygiene kits and debris removal. Nearly 800 families were served.

“We needed clean water — we just wanted to give our children what they needed,” says Miliana, a resident of Ra, a province hard-hit by the storm. “All we wanted was help.”

Since 1994, Convoy’s Disaster Services team has provided help during more



Volunteers gave more than 2,000 hours to help with flooding cleanup in the St. Louis, Mo., area.

than 280 domestic and international disasters — but that’s not all we provide.

“Helping during a disaster is much more than providing relief supplies and debris removal,” says Stacy Lamb, U.S. response director. “We couple help and hope to assist those affected.”

That renewal of hope was found in several communities in Louisiana in March, when Convoy launched a response to flooding caused by historic rainfall. More than 4,300 families have been served to date.

“It’s still unbelievable,” says James Carstensen, a single father of four from Haughton, Louisiana, whose house and belongings were a complete loss.

More than 900 volunteers have given over 6,000 hours to helping residents like Carstensen. They’ve done so by serving food, water and hot meals provided by our partners, as well as delivering cleaning supplies and assisting with debris removal.

In January, teams were dispatched to the St. Louis area and Branson in response to flooding. Already, our Disaster Services team has responded to six* disasters in 2016.

“Providing tools, resourcing and coordination assistance to communities in need helps expedite the recovery process,” adds Lamb. “But more importantly, families around the world reeling from disaster can count on Convoy to help provide a sense of hope when they need it most.”

Additional reporting by: Tessa Hull

“Winston wiped out vegetation, crops and fishing boats — people’s livelihoods were destroyed.”



Outstanding team members recognized

Recently, Convoy of Hope staff members Dianna Flaming and Bill Whitworth were each presented with a Convoy Award. Nominations for the award were taken to recognize outstanding team members for their dedication to the mission of Convoy of Hope and for their willingness to go above and beyond expectations, both in work and relationships with partners, donors, staff and those we serve.

Be a part of Convoy

We're currently looking for the perfect fit for these jobs:

- Creative Digital Media Coordinator
- Transportation Director
- Development Admin Assistant



FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY
convoy.org/careers

Convoy of Hope (CoH) is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, marital status, parental status, disability, military or veteran status of an otherwise qualified individual. In addition to being a 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation, CoH is a faith-based religious organization. As a faith-based religious organization pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. @2000e-1), CoH hires candidates who agree and attest to our Statement of Faith.



TAKE OUT HUNGER and the world's other problems follow suit...

...Convoy is doing that through Children's Feeding, Women's Empowerment and Agriculture.

Cartoon by: Earl Morgan



Tens of thousands of Guests of Honor will be served in 2016.

2016 Community Events season kicks off

By: **Michelle Stormzand**

2016 will be Convoy of Hope's 22nd year of serving guests at Community Events where we provide groceries, shoes, haircuts, family portraits, health exams, career services and much more to tens of thousands of Guests of Honor.

At 28 Community Events across the United States last year, 23,000 volunteers served more than 82,000 guests.

"We had no idea of all that we would receive here, the love that we would feel," says Mary, an honored guest at our Beckley, West Virginia, event.

"Today we found hope."

Mary was one of several unemployed guests at the event. Many families who attend our events are considered America's working poor — the underemployed. Such families don't often receive social benefits because they're not unemployed, but still don't make enough money to provide everything their family needs.

Community Events are designed to help those who need a hand up to get by.

"[It's] not just about giving out free stuff," says David Moore, city alderman of Chicago, where 10,000 guests attended last year's event.

"This [event] was about giving people hope to press on another day, another month and another year."

Steve Pulis, signature event director for Convoy of Hope, concurs.

"Many people want their neighborhoods to change for the better," he says. "They want peace rather than violence and crime. We're here to restore a sense of hope by helping out with a few of life's necessities."

Pulis says those necessities are sometimes enough to change the future for families struggling to make ends meet.

"It's unbelievable how many guests tell us they couldn't afford shoes for their kids," he says. "Because of our supporters, we get to be a part of helping families make it through another week."

Already, 17 events are scheduled for the 2016 season, with the first events kicking off in Concord, California, and Batesville, Mississippi, on April 23. For the complete schedule, see page o8.

Life Fights for Life



Dave Donaldson
Co-Founder

CONVOY OF HOPE, Inc.

 @daviddonaldson on Twitter

A scientist placed a plant in a room with no light. He was experimenting how long it would take for the plant to die from lack of sunlight. As the days passed, the petals wilted and turned brown. The plant struggled to live.

As he left for a trip, the scientist accidentally brushed the curtain by the door, which let a sliver of light into the room.

When he returned from his trip expecting to see the plant dead, he was astounded to see that the plant's branches were stretching toward the thin beam of light that shone through the curtains. That tiny bit of light sustained the plant, even in surrounding darkness.

Every time I think of that story, I'm energized. To think that new life and new growth can form in just a tiny amount of light; that renewal and regeneration come from a single beam ... especially now, as we're surrounded by light with the spring season upon us.

This time of year is a favorite for many because the cycle of new life pushing its way out of the soil presents itself as a metaphor for our own lives. It's as if we are all afforded fresh, new opportunities.

Just like the opportunities you, as a friend to Convoy of Hope, provide to women all over the world that enable them to grow crops and provide for their families. Through

your partnership, we've been able to educate and train more than 5,500 women and girls in six countries around the world — 3,091 of those women were given seed capital to start their businesses.

Women who could not give their children food before are now running successful businesses, building their own homes and sending their children to school — things they never expected to be able to do.

Thank you for helping us give women a better life for their families — for being that sliver of light to a wilting plant.

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