

mary's meals

Press release

Niagara Falls Turn Blue for Mary's Meals

Thursday June 4, 2015

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Niagara Falls has been lit up in Mary's Meals' signature blue to mark the launch of *The Shed That Fed A Million Children* – the book written by the global child hunger charity's founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

Huge blue spotlights illuminated the famous landmark on Tuesday night to celebrate the publication of the book by Harper Collins and to show support for Mary's Meals.

The Shed That Fed A Million Children charts the remarkable story of the Argyll-based charity which encourages children, who may otherwise be forced to work or beg, to come to school through its community-run school feeding programmes.

The illumination coincided with a visit to Canada by Mr MacFarlane Barrow who was in the country to talk to supporters about his book, which hit the Sunday Times bestseller list immediately after its release.

He said: "To have a famous landmark like Niagara Falls lit up in Mary's Meals blue was hugely special for all of us that are part of this global movement. It comes just a couple of weeks after we celebrated reaching a million children every day with a nutritious meal at school.

"The support we have received in Canada is just extraordinary and it is really wonderful to know the number of people around the world who are joining us, to ensure that every child receives a daily meal in their place of education."

Mary's Meals now feeds 1,035,637 of the world's poorest children with a nutritious meal every day they attend school, in countries including Liberia, Kenya, Malawi, Haiti and India.

The charity has grown phenomenally over the last few years, and enjoys support from fundraising groups across the globe – in Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, UAE, UK and USA – as well as from celebrities such as Gerard Butler and Celine Dion.

Mary's Meals is committed to keeping its running costs low, ensuring that at least 93% of all donations are spent directly on charitable activities.

It costs just £12.20 for Mary's Meals to feed a hungry child for a school year. The nutritious daily meal draws chronically hungry children into the classroom, where they can receive an education that can help them escape poverty in the future.

The Shed that Fed a Million Children by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is out now, published by William Collins in the UK.

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Notes to editors:

- Images of Niagara Falls lit up for Mary's Meals are available on request.
- Mary's Meals began in Malawi in 2002 when its founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow met a young woman called Emma who was dying from AIDS. She was sitting on the mud floor of her hut surrounded by her children. When Magnus asked her 14-year-old son what his dreams were in life, his stark reply was: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day". This was a key part of the inspiration that led to the founding of Mary's Meals.
- Mary's Meals began feeding 200 children in one Malawian primary school in 2002. Today, the organisation reaches 1,035,637 children with a daily meal in school in 12 countries, across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Find out more about Mary's Meals at: www.marysmeals.org
- Follow Mary's Meals on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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