

Message from Ma Jaya - Our Founder

Even if you touch just one person, you will have changed the world. Understand this, and you will understand who you are and your purpose. Stay in your heart and be grateful for your life. Yearn to help others and remember that every human being is connected to every other human being. Gratitude and forgiveness are the way of God. To give and to receive is a miracle. My prayer is for you to be grateful for every opportunity you are given to serve humanity.



Feed Everyone - Christmas

The ranks of the hungry and the homeless are growing in Indian River County. The jobless rate is up an unprecedented 7% and it's not easy to have a merry Christmas when your



wallet is empty, your stomach is tightening from hunger, and you are thinking about the impossible holiday longings of your kids.

Feed Everyone, the River Fund's local grassroots program in Gifford, Florida, sees some of the hardest cases -- the men and women who aren't

working, who may be abusers of drugs or alcohol, who may be mentally ill or HIV positive, the grandmothers taking care of 5 or 6 HIV/AIDS orphaned kids. These people don't get a lot of sympathy in this country - let alone adequate social services. And this Christmas, just like in 2006 they will be

able to feast on an abundant holiday dinner alongside their neighbors.

Under tents set up outside the Kingdom Church, they'll have barbecued chicken, macaroni and cheese, greens, sweets -- the works. Every man, woman and child will be invited into the church and given a gift bag filled with age appropriate gifts, something warm, something fun, something useful, and something just because it's Christmas.

Last year, we served Christmas dinner to 450. This year, we're making plans for 750. It takes over 40 volunteers months to plan and gather and put together this party. Generous angel donors add their monetary gifts to funds we have set aside and somehow it all comes together. Volunteers decorate, make music, give out gifts, ladle out the food, and give love, respect, and caring.

The Christmas party comes but once per year, but for us at Feed Everyone, this day is just an extension of what we do all year long in our regular program. All that matters is that a child smiles, a hungry man is fed, and an old woman, if only for the moment, knows joy.



From the Executive Director:

Jaya Canterbury-Counts

This has been an amazing year for the River Fund. Last May, our Feed Everyone program participated again with Stamp Out Hunger, the annual national food drive by the Post Office. More than 17 tons of canned and dried goods were collected. In August we partnered with other local grassroots organizations to give away over 800 backpacks filled with school supplies. Again this year we worked with Project Response to send 21 children to Camp Heartland, which serves children who either have HIV/AIDS or who have lost parents to AIDS. Our Feed Everyone program in Gifford continues to grow, helping hundreds of families each month with meals and groceries, love and hope. It's as if we host a small party each Saturday, both inside the Kingdom Church and on the street, and no one is turned away.

I travelled to Uganda twice this year, visiting our orphans program, which now serves 1400 children, and continuing to develop the women's workshops. I also met with many of our children who are HIV+. The second trip happened during the worst flooding in a generation. Around 300,000 people lost their homes or crops, and the UN estimates that many will still be in terrible conditions into December. People are really suffering.

When we weren't busy digging our vehicles out of the mud or crossing flooded rivers, we managed to sponsor two trainings for rural women on HIV/AIDS Long Term Survival Skills. All the participants were wonderful. So far, our local trainers

have trained nearly 5000 local people, and extended the program into the North, where a 20 year war is just ending.

Also in the North, we have begun a new project to begin feeding 25 of the most malnourished children in Kitgum. It's a small start in an ocean of misery, but by Ma's grace we will find a way.

Thank you to Mr. Prasanna Kumar in Nellore India for the love and care of our children at Little Hearts Orphanage. Many thanks to Lynde Francis, Vicki Gershon, Teopista Auma, Janet Kirumi, and Mary Justine Onyango for their tireless work and commitment to our projects in Uganda even under the most difficult circumstances. Finally, I am so grateful to Ananda Devi and her fantastic team of volunteers at Feed Everyone who demonstrate time and time again Ma's teaching that 'there are no throw away people'. Every day I feel the love and compassion and the strength of the River Fund community of volunteers and donors. Thank you all so much.

This year we will need your help even more ... both here at home and abroad. Please help us to feed a child, to bring love and hope to a family, to change a life. Please give generously to the River Fund.



On Saturday, August 4th, over 800 excited children in Gifford received backpacks and school supplies. Shy kindergarteners led the parade and grade by grade the students came into the gymnasium and were handed back packs and all the school supplies they needed to begin the new school term.

A diverse team of volunteers packed and handed out the supplies, did face painting, and served food. The bags quickly disappeared from the tables into the eager hands of the kids and grateful parents.

Outside the gym, donated food and cold drinks were served. Interested kids were treated to a tour of a fire truck by a group of local firefighters. There were balloon animals and an ongoing raffle with prizes donated by many local businesses.

Thank you one and all for a job well done. The event could not have been accomplished without the help of so many willing and generous hands and hearts. Know without a doubt that what you gave in time and money and service made an incredible difference.

As this school year unfurls, think with a smile of all of those 800 children who began this year with the tools that they needed to succeed.

Back to School

UGANDA

Our programs in Uganda continue to grow – with increased support to our partners and with a new outreach to the war-ravaged North.

The North

Twenty years of war in Northern Uganda have left enormous suffering and loss. Thirty thousand kidnapped children were turned into killers or sex slaves by rebel forces, and a 1.5 million people were resettled into squalid refugee camps – in their own country. Now a fragile truce has been arranged, and the people are on the move, back to villages and farms to restart their lives. It will not be easy. Against this background, the River Fund has two small programs in N. Uganda – the Women's Workshops and the Jaya Project.

Monsignor Matthew Ojara

The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative, an interfaith group, has been deeply involved both in peace negotiations and serving the people. Many clergy, from all religions, have been killed, tortured or jailed during the war. This spring, the River Fund helped to bring Msgr. Matthew Ojara to Florida for a much needed rest and retreat at Kashi Ashram. Our partnership with Msgr. Matthew, who is now back in Kitgum working with displaced people and former child soldiers, makes it possible for the River Fund to effectively bring our projects to this war-torn area.

The Jaya (Victory) Project

After Ma Jaya met Msgr. Matthew she asked the River Fund to begin a small feeding program in Northern Uganda for 25 of the most malnourished children. What can we do for a million hungry children? Ma has always taught us to start with the child who is right in front of us; and so Msgr. Matthew agreed to choose 25 of the most severely malnourished kids. Beginning in December, we will feed them a nourishing meal one time per day, seven days a week, which can make the difference between healthy development and a lifetime of diminished chances. In time we hope to grow this program to include more and more hungry children.

HIV/AIDS Long Term Survival Skills Women's Workshops

This program, led by Lynde Francis, of The Centre in Zimbabwe started in Tororo in 2005 with the goal of helping people with AIDS live longer and healthier lives. The initial group of 35 women has trained almost 5000 others, using grassroots networks for preventing AIDS, improving family health through nutrition, and understanding and advocating for women's rights ... empowering women with hope, skills and a shared mission. "Women are now experts in their own destiny." Working with local networks, we have fostered a significant change on a tiny budget – something that sets the River Fund apart from many large organizations. After three years, that first group of women has become trainers of trainers. It was an exciting development in March when three of them took a bus to Kitgum in the war zone to begin training there. In September, a team from the River Fund, led by Jaya, Lynde Francis and Vicki Gershon, returned with the Tororo trainers to give a complete 5 day workshop, preparing the Northern women to become trainers who can take our grassroots effort into the villages and refugee camps.

RARUDO

Since 2002 we have partnered with the Rayland Rural Development Organization (RARUDO), a farm coop of about 100 mostly women-headed families. Seventeen trainers from the women's workshops have reached over 800 rural women, and are seeing more HIV prevention, better family nutrition, and better preparation for antiretroviral treatment that is now more readily available. This year RARUDO has started a new partnership for people with disabilities and built a new vocational training center.

Ma's Centre

Our partnership with Fr. Centurio and the Uganda Martyrs Orphan Project now cares for 1400 orphans and other vulnerable children of all ages. This requires a variety of programs: Food support and medical care, nurseries and kindergartens, both academic and vocational secondary schools. Our support over the years has allowed the program to serve ever more children, build dormitories, build and equip a library, buy a bus, and more.



**Make a difference!
Support the River Fund**

India

Little Hearts Orphanage in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India cares for children whose parents died from AIDS. Nellore has a very high occurrence of AIDS. The orphanage is now home to 25 girls and boys from ages 3 – 14. These children attend school, are fed three meals a day, clothed, and given medical care. They are healthy and happy and loved. There are many requests to take new children, but with limited financial resources and the small space, we cannot handle more than the current group. In 2005 and 2006, River Fund volunteers saw for themselves the care and the hope that Mr. C. P. Kumar (founder) and his family and staff has given to these children.

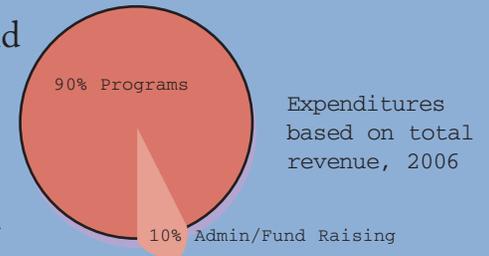


The River Fund wishes to thank the following groups, organizations and people for their compassionate commitment to those we serve.

- Ma Jaya & everyone at Kashi Ashram
- MAC AIDS Fund
- Broadway Cares
- Macho Products
- The Kingdom Church, Gifford Florida
- The River Fund New York
- Freddie Woolfork
- The Gifford Youth Center
- Mike Bunker
- The Sebastian Postal Workers
- Gayle & Ken Seifert
- Jongs Produce
- Publix Super Market
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- Toni & Arthur Aros (Devi Shakti & Shivanath)
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- Parvati Silver
- Delores & Fred Failla
- Luis Morais
- Phyllis Karvetsky (Agni Devi)
- All of our faithful & tireless volunteers!

Who Is The River Fund?

The River Fund is dedicated to providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to people living with AIDS and other life threatening illnesses, to their loved ones, and caregivers. We serve the poor, those who often are alone and in need — regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender.



State of Florida Registration: CH5279

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