

KDCCW Service Commission Chair Report January 6, 2018

The service project adopted for the convention in April is a fund raising effort for the organization Mary's Meals. This is a global charity whose mission is to provide a nutritious meal daily to impoverished children in their place of education. Providing a meal at school encourages attendance and allows them to obtain the education which will hopefully free them from poverty.

Mary's Meals has an interesting history dating back to 1992 when two Scottish brothers organized a one-time relief mission to war torn Bosnia. They had visited Medjugorje about ten years before and felt drawn to help those who were now suffering. The outpouring of support was overwhelming and they continued their efforts in Bosnia and other countries. One project led to another and eventually they focused on childhood hunger and became Mary's Meals. Today, they serve children across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and South America. In 2016, Mary's Meals provided meals at school for over 1,200,000 children living in poverty. They also support a home in Romania for young people with HIV who were abandoned as children.

Mary's Meals is dependent on world-wide fund raising efforts, which they have established in fourteen countries including the USA. They are dedicated to spending 93% of every dollar donated to directly serve the impoverished children across the globe. It costs \$19.50 to feed a child one meal every school day for one year. They depend on a small army of volunteers from many nations and faiths to carry out their mission.

Mary's Meals maintains an excellent web site for information, soliciting donations, and providing ideas and materials to assist in local fundraising events. Our challenge will be to come up with ideas to raise funds for Mary's Meals in association with our Diocesan Convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Byers