

God Bless Bessie's Girls

A girls' service group at the Mennonite Brethren Church in Linden, Alberta, heard about First Steps' mission and put on some fundraising activities, including a very lucrative pie auction. Beverly

Burke, leader of the group recalls: "The church family really got behind our girls. We had about 12 pies for sale that day and the person who bought the second pie paid \$50. I hope he enjoyed his pie!" With each



Plaques on new VitaGoats.

pie sold, the price increased. In one afternoon the girls raised enough money to buy a VitaGoat, which they promptly nicknamed 'Bessie'.



New milk cans are filled, ready for delivery.



Children at Nampo Kindergarten pose for group photo.

Bessie is now hard at work in a nursery in Nampo city. The children of this nursery school, all age 5 and under, board at the school and go home to visit their parents one day a week. Having access to soymilk twice a day will greatly improve the children's nutritional status.

The Year at a Glimpse

- ★ We shipped in 20 new VitaGoat machines.
- ★ We shipped in 400 tonnes of soybeans (with support from MCC).
- ★ We shipped in 250 stainless milk cans.
- ★ We shipped in 1.5 million sachets of Sprinkles.
- ★ In partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee, we shipped in a 20-foot container of their beautiful warm handmade blankets and top-quality canned turkey to orphanages in Wonsan.



Set up for new VitaGoat installation.

Young Adults Get Cookin'

The young adults group at High Park Korean United Church in Toronto cooked and served lunch for more than 100 people, raising \$900 for First Steps, sending along the following note: "YAG members contributed not only their time and effort, but also their continuing prayers for your organization and the children in North Korea. Although the

gift is small, we pray that God will multiply it and help bear fruit wherever the help reaches."



Su Nam Kim (top) weighed only eight kg when he began drinking soymilk. Six months later (bottom with Hannah), he had doubled his weight.



Thanks also to:

- * HOP (Helping Our People), a group of young volunteer students headed by Mrs. Sun Young Kim, who worked hard to raise funds for First Steps
- * West Point Grey Presbyterian Church for their Scott Woods Band Fiddle Benefit Concert.
- * Grace Hanin Community Church Youth Orchestra for working so hard to prepare for a successful benefit concert.
- * Metro Vancouver Men's Choir for donating the entire proceeds of their wonderful concert for the second year in a row. This year they were joined by other Lower Mainland choirs for a gala performance in September.
- * Grace Jong Eun Lee, for performing at the PitterPats party this past summer giving children a rare opportunity to see and hear the Kayagum up close, and also for her concert to benefit First Steps held at Carnegie Hall in New York.
- * Loving Hearts for their benefit concert featuring traditional Korean instruments.
- * Open Canvas, a group of young artists, who held an art show called Open Canvas to sell their inspired works to raise funds for First Steps.

Baby Keziah's VitaGoat

Project Manager Hannah Visser was presenting a First Steps update at Deer Park Alliance Church in Red Deer, Alberta, in November when it was announced that members Justin and Lynn Hubert had just lost a stillborn daughter. Sadly that left their children Sarah, Janai and Elijah without their eagerly-awaited baby sister Keziah.

"Even without knowing the family, hearing such sad news breaks your heart," said Hannah. "Soon after, I was contacted by some friends at the church who decided to start fundraising to purchase a VitaGoat in memory of baby Keziah. How precious it is to know that the memory of this little child will touch the lives of other little children across the world."



Hi! from happy soymilk drinkers.

In Remembrance

Paul Dedi, a thoughtful and compassionate First Steps supporter, sadly has passed away following a hiking



Beautiful eyes, delicious soymilk.

accident last winter. Paul's life brought so much joy and encouragement to the lives of others, and his commitment to needy children will always be remembered. Paul came into contact with First Steps one day at Mountain Equipment Co-op, where he worked, when Susan was perusing the warm sleeping bags, imagining how

they could keep orphanage children warm during the harsh winters. Paul began asking questions and soon learned much about First Steps, becoming clearly and deeply concerned about the children. Im Mei Kwok, Paul's widow, asked that donations go to First Steps in lieu of flowers. Paul will be greatly missed.



Love and care goes good with soymilk.