



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY *for* KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Food Relief

HARE KRISHNA FOOD RELIEF PROGRAMS HELP TO FIGHT WORLD HUNGER

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is doing its part to combat world hunger. In the last four decades, ISKCON's Food Relief programs, including "Hare Krishna Food for Life" and "Annamrita" have served more than 2 billion hot, nutritious, vegetarian meals to the disadvantaged throughout America, Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe.

In 1974, seeing street children rummaging through garbage for something to eat, ISKCON founder A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada was moved to tears and instructed his followers that no one within a ten-mile radius of any Krishna temple should go hungry. Today, the program includes free food restaurants, mobile kitchens, and emergency relief services, and distributes more than a million free vegetarian meals per day to needy people in more than 60 countries.

In India, ISKCON's affiliated Annamrita program distributes free hot lunches to school children in partnership with the Indian government's Mid-Day Meal program.

Annamrita works from twenty kitchens in eight different Indian states to feed 1.2 million children daily at hundreds of schools. These programs aim to liberate underprivileged children from the vicious cycle of poverty. They not only address hunger, they also encourage school attendance and better performance in class by providing students with fresh, nutritious lunches. (<http://annamrita.org>)

Elsewhere in the world, Hare Krishna Food for Life has responded to major disasters by providing nutritious vegetarian meals to victims of tornados, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, and war.

This material is available online at <http://communications.iskcon.org>

###

Appreciation for Annamrita Mid-Day Meals:

"We are deeply appreciative of the contribution made by this great movement. Just imagine... Annamrita every day in India it provides food to over one million children healthy food and the message... of love, compassion, which is inherent in Indian civilization"

Shri Pranab Mukherjee
President of India

"We are extremely grateful to Annamrita Food Relief Foundation for their timely action. These children are happy to receive the khichdi. We whole heartedly appreciate the high quality, nutritious food that is delivered efficiently, on time and at the location instructed by us. We are looking forward to a very long association with Annamrita Food Relief Foundation in the future too"

Prof S. Parasuraman,
Director – Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

Disaster Relief in Action

- **Typhoon Haiyan – Philippines (2013):** Almost 13 million people in the Philippines were affected, including five million children, and 1.9 million people were displaced. Over 5 months Hare Krishna Food Relief volunteers in Manila provided tens of thousands of freshly cooked vegetarian meals.
- **Japan Tsunami Relief (2011):** Food for Life in Japan provided thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as cooked vegetarian dinners to survivors living in shelters in the Miyagi-ken district for months following the devastating tsunami.
- **Earthquake in Pakistan (2006):** Food for Life volunteers from neighboring India, working closely with local military and police set up base at an ISKCON temple within the earthquake-affected region, and provided drinking water, rice, bread, and blankets to victims.
- **Hurricane Katrina in Gulf Coast, U.S. (2005):** Local Food for Life team members ventured into the hardest hit areas of the Gulf Coast, to distribute hot meals to affected residents, and continued to serve 800 meals a day for months following the disaster
- **Tsunami in Southeast Asia (2004):** Food for Life provided relief support and hot meals to victims beginning the day of the disaster. In Sri Lanka alone more 10,000 meals were provided daily, along with medical care, clothing, and shelter for orphans.