

## WHAT'S INSIDE

International MDR Course . . . . .	2
Focus Haiti . . . . .	2
Reaching Out Locally . . . . .	2
Editorial . . . . .	3
Run for Vaughan . . . . .	3
Slave Lake Disaster . . . . .	4

# HUMANITY *matters*

RESTORING COMMUNITIES • BUILDING A FUTURE



SUMMER ISSUE | 2011

## AFRICA DROUGHT: Humanity First Relief Efforts



The situation in East Africa continues to deteriorate. Drought and famine in parts of the region covering Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya has displaced millions of people including 25% of the population of Somalia. Successive seasons of failed rains, combined with increasing food prices, conflict, and limited access to resources have resulted in a humanitarian crisis.

Victims of the drought are living in temporary camps where food and water are available, but the lack of hygiene and sanitation is leading to outbreaks of measles and other disease to exacerbate the appalling effects of acute malnutrition on a weakened population. Children and the elderly are most at risk, with an estimate of over 13 million affected.

Humanity First has launched a global appeal for funds to assist in the relief operations from Nairobi, with a focus on: food, water, sanitation and health. Humanity First is coordinating our global response through our Humanity First Kenya team where over 90 volunteers have been involved.

We are procuring items in Nairobi for the next convoy in 3 main areas: Family Food Packs (maize flour, corn flour, beans, oil), Family Hygiene Packs (soap, wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste) and Children's Gift Packs (high energy biscuits, toys, pencils and paper, balls). We plan to take further relief supplies for over 20,000 people. So far we have taken over 32 tons of food aid.

Humanity First convoy's are regularly bringing relief supplies to the camps in Dadaab where Somali refugees are living in large numbers. We are now widening our assistance to indigenous Kenyans suffering from drought in areas such as Wajir.

Humanity First is planning longer-term preventative measures such as agricultural projects to give more chance of better harvests even with poor rainfall in the future. We are looking to exploit our skills from the Feed a Village programme that has been successful across Africa even in neighbouring Uganda. This is likely to include more resilient seeds, drip irrigation technology, tools and crop processing technology.



## DONORS DINE TO LET HUMANITY SHINE IN AFRICA

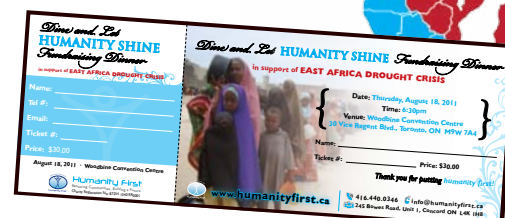
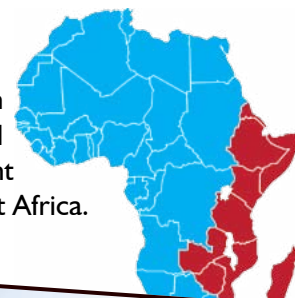
In support of Africa drought relief efforts, Humanity First held a successful fundraising event in Toronto on August 18, 2011. Over 1400 supporters attended the event, raising more than \$65,000. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Honourable Dr. Kristy Duncan, MP, and Honourable Jim Karygiannis, MP.

Commenting on the dire situation in East

Africa, Dr. Aslam Daud, the chairman of Humanity First Canada said, "This is the most preventable disaster where lives can be saved by providing food and water. As human beings, we cannot sit and watch people die. The unwavering support from the communities across Canada has been remarkable."

Humanity First fundraising events continue across Canadian provinces;

all proceeds from these events will go towards drought relief efforts in East Africa.



## International MDR Course USA



On May 6-8, 2011, Humanity First volunteers from across USA and Canada travelled to Washington to attend the International Medical Disaster Response (MDR) Training Course.

The MDR course was attended by various Medical Doctors, Nurses, Firefighters, Paramedics and Logistics volunteers, some who have previously been deployed in a Humanity First disaster mission. The three day course was aimed at providing experiential learning to Humanity First volunteers when caring for patients in a disaster situation.

The course involved formal lectures and practical hands on experience through a series of challenging mock disaster scenarios prepared to simulate experiences that may occur in a disaster zone. The objective of the course was to understand how to provide medical and humanitarian services in disaster situations, and be able to successfully coordinate and function as a team. The training received excellent reviews and the participants feel very confident and prepared for responding to disasters.

“The teachers are knowledgeable, approachable and empathetic. I look forward to the next steps to dedicate my nursing career in every way possible to HF and its amazing cause.”

## FOCUS HAITI | Our Children Our Future



future of Haiti; a land where less than half the children finish 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

An estimated 200 children are expected to attend classes at the 'Humanity First School - Where the Stars Still Shine' starting this September 2011. Humanity First continues to accept donations for the education of Haitian children.

After the massive disaster in Haiti in 2010, Humanity First continued to successfully provide relief and support to the victims of the earthquake in conjunction with developing long term rehabilitation plans to provide a secure and sustainable future for Haitians. Humanity First is investing in Haiti's future by providing education to its children, through the development of a primary school which is almost near completion.

Dedicated to providing educational opportunities to children around the world, this new school building is necessary for the



## SUTTON DISASTER Reaching Out Locally

Recently, On July 11, 2011, a fire broke out ripping through a three storey apartment in Sutton, Georgina, just one hour northeast of Toronto. The fire displaced dozens of residents from their homes and on to the streets early Monday.

Humanity First assisted the victims by providing boxes of food supplies through the Salvation Army. Humanity First volunteers delivered large amounts of food supplies to the Sutton Youth Shelter to help with the distribution to the homeless.

Victims of the fire did not sustain any injuries, but families watched their homes gutted by flames. The Town of Georgina is working on a longer term strategy to assist those affected by the fire.

Humanity First continues to provide assistance and aid to those affected by disasters, both locally and internationally.





## Looking Past Ourselves

**Dr. Aslam Daud | Humanity First Chairman**

Recently, I was at a dinner where the food was extremely delicious. As a result I over ate and also a very small portion of food was left over on my plate, as I could not finish it. Of course there was no room for dessert and I was thinking of going for a walk before going to bed to digest the over eating.

Despite the wish and the need of walk or exercise, I could not go due to other important things to take care of. I was on the bed thinking of the delicious food and need for the walk when my thoughts suddenly drifted to the drought in North East Africa. With my eyes closed, I was seeing very hungry people, malnourished children and a vivid picture of extreme poverty. My thoughts started jumping back and forth from the evening dinner that I had and the millions of malnourished children and very hungry population. One moment I was seeing more than enough food in front of me making me over eat and the next moment I am seeing very hungry and deprived people. To say the least, this gave me a very troubling and disturbing night. I remained restless for a long time. The only comforting thought that came to my mind was that Humanity First is doing the relief work and providing food to affected people.

The thought that at least we are doing something through Humanity First did bring some relief to my restlessness. But it did make me realize that perhaps we are not doing enough. Perhaps we have to do more.

Before the night end, I pledged that I will try not to over eat. But more importantly I also pledged that I will do more for the relief of suffering humanity.



## RUN FOR VAUGHAN | Supporting the Local Community



Humanity First has been supporting the Run for Vaughan since it began in 2003. To see the entire Vaughan Community come together for a wonderful cause, the Future Vaughan Hospital, is remarkable.

The Run has garnered support from all levels of Government, from various businesses and citizens of Vaughan and the GTA. This year's event was held on Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Bai'tul Islam Mosque in Maple.

Along with corporate partners such as RBC, and lead sponsors

Power Stream and the Carpenter's Union, Humanity First has been an active community partner of Run for Vaughan and is one of the largest supporters. During this event Humanity First set up various stalls and information booths to promote and raise funds for both Run for Vaughan and various Humanity First projects.

The event was attended by the Honourable Maurizio Bevilacqua, the Mayor of Vaughan; Michael

DiBiase, Honourary Chair of the Run for Vaughan and Regional Councillor of Vaughan; Greg Sorbarra Member of Provincial Parliament; along with Vaughan's entire City Council.

Mario Iozzo won the 10 kilometre race in a time of 34:57 minutes, for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year. The Run for Vaughan attracted 1,100 participants. Over \$50,000 was raised at this year's Run, increasing the total contribution to the hospital to over \$350,000.



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED. JOIN US TODAY!**

## SLAVE LAKE DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS

On May 15, 2011, fast moving wildfire caused devastation in the northern Alberta community of Slave Lake. The damage was catastrophic. Hundreds of homes, churches and businesses were destroyed. The power was out and about 7000 people were forced to evacuate their homes on 20 minutes notice. South eastern parts of the town had the greatest damage where over half the homes were consumed by flames.

A team of Humanity First volunteers in coordination with Emergency Relief Services Edmonton and Slave Lake Community Services provided manpower resources for sorting and organizing goods received through donations, and assisting with ground efforts and field work. Volunteers divided into two groups and went from door to door offering help and assistance with cleanup and rehabilitation to individuals and families in the neighbourhood.



**FOOD BANK *wish* LIST: Canned Meat, Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Soups, Oil, Peanut Butter, Juices, Mr. Noodles & Kraft Dinner. PLEASE DONATE TODAY!**

### Pledge Form

☐ **Yes! I/we would like to donate to Humanity First. Proceeds will go to** \_\_\_\_\_ write name of project or program

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

APT# \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD** \*Please make cheques payable to Humanity First

☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Credit Card

☐ I would prefer to pay by credit card (I have provided my information)

**CREDIT CARD TYPE:**

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

**Please accept my gift of:**

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**This is a:** ☐ Monthly Donation ☐ One-time Donation

**CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT #** \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD EXPIRY DATE** (MM/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ **CVD#** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** (as it appears on Credit Card) \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION AMOUNT \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax, email or mail the completed form to: **416.440.0346** or **info@humanityfirst.ca** or **245 Bowes Road, Unit 1 Concord, Ontario L4K 1H8**



**To donate: CALL  , CLICK  or COME  !**

**To comment on these articles or to make suggestions, please contact us at: [info@humanityfirst.ca](mailto:info@humanityfirst.ca)**



**Humanity First**  
Restoring Communities, Building a Future  
Charity Registration No: 87254 1040 RR0001

245 Bowes Rd., Unit 1, Concord, ON L4K 1H8  
Tel/Fax: 416.440.0346  
Email: [info@humanityfirst.ca](mailto:info@humanityfirst.ca)  
Web: [www.humanityfirst.ca](http://www.humanityfirst.ca)

Humanity First is a registered international non-profit charitable and humanitarian relief organization that aims to mitigate hunger, poverty and disease among the less privileged human beings around the world and strives to reduce peoples sufferings caused by natural disasters or human conflicts. Humanity First provides support to communities at a national and international level. Our organization invests in issues that matter the most, in order to strengthen communities and give humanity a chance to exceed their potential and help build for a brighter future.

**THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION**

