

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Sean Krausert (403) 609-1762
seankrausert@gmail.com

Former Lawyer Eating Refugee Rations for 3 Months to Raise Awareness About Global Hunger

There's enough food in the world to feed everyone, and yet almost 1 Billion people are hungry . . . including some in Canada. That's simply unacceptable according to social justice advocate Sean Krausert, and he is doing something about it. In raising awareness about hunger and encouraging people to raise their voices in support of making hunger alleviation a top priority, for 3 months Krausert is eating the equivalent of food rations provided by the World Food Programme to people in refugee camps.

Krausert, 43, lives with his family in the mountain town of Canmore AB. Through his project called **That Poverty Project**, he is undergoing a series of poverty awareness building experiences. Highlighting homelessness last summer/fall, Krausert lived for 3 months in a sparsely equipped tent. Over the winter, he lived on \$7.50 per day while focusing on the struggles of the working poor. Now, having started on March 1st, Krausert is eating refugee rations for 3 months. **Why do these things??** To engage more Canadians in the fight against poverty, which he describes as deadlier than AIDS, TB, malaria, and natural disasters COMBINED.

In the first 4 weeks of eating the food rations, Krausert has already lost 20 lbs. The World Food Programme food rations provide approximately 2100 Kcal of food consisting of rice, pulses, vitamin enriched corn soya blend, oil, salt, and sugar. Following the example from his visits to West Africa, the 6'2" food loving Krausert also adds spices.

Krausert explains, **"Eating refugee food rations is NOT about trying to replicate the refugee experience. Rather, it is about making a statement. This is the food that is keeping hundreds of millions of people alive and which almost a billion people are literally dying to have."**

That Poverty Project has attracted tens of thousands of followers to date while receiving mixed reaction ranging from those who enthusiastically applaud Krausert's efforts to those who think he is crazy. **"You know what is crazy?"** responds Krausert to his detractors. **"Living in an abundant world full of wealth, resources, and technology and yet having billions of people starving or otherwise in need who are not having their basic human rights met. That is crazy!"** Krausert is referring to the almost 1 billion people in the world who suffer from lack of food, the over 2 billion people without adequate water and/or sanitation, over half the world's people who live on insufficient income to properly meet their basic needs, and the one in 10 Canadian children who live in poverty.

That Poverty Project is about unleashing compassion by building understanding about poverty and engaging people in raising their voices to make poverty eradication a top priority. While Krausert blogs, posts and tweets regularly about his experiences, another legacy of That Poverty Project will be an on-line poverty library to help people connect with information and organizations dealing with poverty. Additional information about That Poverty Project can be accessed at www.thatpovertyproject.com.

Media Backgrounder

Poverty Statistics (& Sources)

- It is estimated that 25,000 people die every day due to hunger or hunger related causes (i.e. over 9 million people per year).
Source: Poverty.com based upon statistics from World Food Programme, Oxfam, and UNICEF . . .
<http://www.poverty.com/index.html>
- It is estimated that 3,575,000 die each year from water-borne diseases.
Source: Water.org citing World Health Organization 2008 Report: Safer Water, Better Health; Costs, benefits, and sustainability intervention to protect and promote health . . .
<http://water.org/learn-about-the-water-crisis/facts/>

NOTE – It is not certain whether the hunger and hunger related deaths includes the water-borne disease deaths, but even if it does not there is likely some overlap. Therefore, the estimated deaths from poverty are between 9-12 million people per year.

- It is estimated that between 1.6 – 2.1 million people die from AIDS each year.
Source: <http://www.avert.org/worldstats.htm>
- There were almost 300,000 deaths due to natural disasters in 2010 (an unusually high year).
Source: United Nations News Centre – January 24, 2011
- It is estimated that there are 1 million deaths due to malaria each year and in 2006 there were 1.7 million deaths due to TB (tuberculosis).
Source: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/intervention-areas/humandev/humandevhealth3_en.htm
- Currently, 925 million people in the world do not have sufficient food to eat.
Source: World Food Programme (<http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>) referencing the Sept. 14 '10 News Release from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Nearly 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion people do not have proper sanitation.
Source: (<http://water.org/learn-about-the-water-crisis/facts/>)
- Almost half of the world (over 3 billion people) live on less than \$2.50 per day.
Source: (<http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats#src3>)
- 3.5 million Canadians live in poverty, including 1 in 10 Canadian children.
Source: Make Poverty History (<http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/learn/issues/end-poverty-in-canada>)

The Rev. Sean Krausert (Deacon) B.A.,LL.B.

- Executive Director of Global WE Initiatives Corp. with prior experience in the fields of law, writing, international relief and development, and improv acting.
- Ordained Deacon in the Anglican Diocese of Calgary (2003 – present). Serving at St. Michael's Anglican Church, Canmore AB.
- Married to Janet for the last 22 years; two children – Ben (16) and Jenna (12).

About Global WE Initiatives Corp.

Global WE Initiatives Corp. is Sean Krausert's company, which is implementing That Poverty Project. The company's mission is to globally advocate for and create awareness of a "WE" worldview through a variety of means and media. A WE worldview is all-inclusive and focuses on social justice issues, specifically the rights of all people, poverty alleviation, and breaking down artificial barriers that divide people.