

African famine

# Charity has local roots

A local campaign will help feed the starving in the Horn of Africa.

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Langley residents have an easy way to reach out and help feed a child in Africa.

Langley's non-profit society, Food For Famine, is working to provide Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) packets that can be shipped overseas.

Thousands of children in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia are suffering the effects of extreme malnutrition as a result of drought conditions in areas where rain has not fallen in any significant amount for two years.

Groups like World Vision are on the ground trying to save lives. Food For Famine has teamed with World Vision to get food to where it's needed.

"As Canadians, we often forget how lucky we are to live in one of the most beautiful and bountiful countries in the world," said Mary Martini, founder of the Food For Famine Society. "For thousands of children who are fleeing the drought and political instability in southern Somalia to refugee camps elsewhere in the region, RUTF can mean the dif-



Photo contributed

Two years of drought in the Horn of Africa has created a humanitarian crisis. People can help local efforts to get food to the starving.

ference between life and death."

The society is looking to fill a 40-foot container and inviting the public to help cover the costs. A full transport container holds food for 1,600 people.

The packets are a peanut-based mixture that includes nutrients and moisture. They don't require cooling or heating. On average, three packets a day for six weeks will revive a child, getting him or her back to normal nutritive levels.

Langley City Mayor Peter Fassbender is on the board of World Vision Canada and said the organization is grateful for the help from Food For Famine.

"In addition to what Food For Famine Society is doing everyone should know that the government of Canada is matching all charitable donations made to organizations like the FFF Society and World Vision for the Horn of Africa relief efforts," Fassbender emphasized.

"This has the effect of doubling the impact of every donation on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The deadline for the government of Canada matching funds is Sept. 16, 2011."

For information on the Food For Famine Society and to make a donation to this effort for the Horn of Africa, visit [www.foodforfamine.org](http://www.foodforfamine.org).