

MARY'S MEALS

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

2024 WRAP UP



A YEAR IN REVIEW

As we look back on this remarkable year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for everything our Youth Ambassadors have accomplished. From running global campaigns and hosting impactful events to using their unique talents and passions to raise awareness, they've shown the power of young people uniting for a cause.



Join us as we celebrate some of the highlights and incredible initiatives led by our Youth Ambassadors around the world. Together, they are lighting the way toward a brighter future.



DOING WHAT THEY LOVE

Our Youth Ambassadors are passionate about making a difference, and they've shown that the best way to inspire change is by doing what they love.

From sporting events to creating beautiful artwork, they are finding creative and meaningful ways to support Mary's Meals. Each ambassador brings their unique talents to the cause, raising awareness and support through activities that resonate with them and their communities.



Whether it's wearing our iconic blue T-shirt on daring adventures like kiteboarding, hosting sports challenges, or creating amazing social media content, our Youth Ambassadors are united by a shared mission: helping to reach the next child in need of a daily school meal.

Their passion and dedication continue to fuel our movement, proving that each person's unique skills and interests can have a powerful impact.

"You can use your drive to do good things and have a positive impact on others"

DENIS HOLUB, 16
GERMANY



QUARTERLY YOUTH GATHERINGS



Connecting and Growing

This year, our Quarterly Youth Gatherings have become an invaluable space for our Youth Ambassadors to come together online, connect across borders, and share their vision for how we can grow our movement to reach the next child.

These gatherings provide a regular opportunity to strengthen our global community, brainstorm new ideas, and celebrate our progress.

Each gathering has featured inspiring keynote speakers, including our founder, Magnus, who has shared his journey and insights into the impact of Mary's Meals. Our Youth Ambassadors have also joined project groups to dive deeper into specific topics, from brainstorming innovative fundraising ideas to practicing how to pitch Mary's Meals to new audiences.

These group sessions are where our Youth Ambassadors can exchange ideas and develop the skills they need to be even more effective in their roles.



These sessions have reinforced the passion and dedication that drives our movement, equipping Youth Ambassadors with the tools and inspiration they need to make a real difference.

Launching Our Leadership Committee

This year marked an exciting step forward for our Youth Ambassador Programme with the launch of our Leadership Committee. Young people from our National Affiliates around the world were selected to represent and lead Youth Ambassador activities in their countries. These dedicated young people bring passion and commitment to our mission, helping to inspire and engage more young people in the work of Mary's Meals.

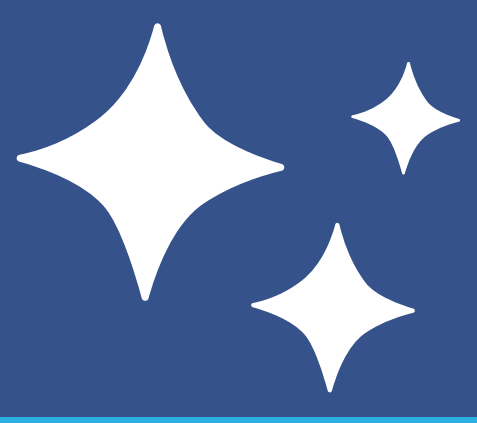


Our global Leadership Committee helps set the strategic direction of the entire Youth Ambassador Programme, collaborating on goals that guide our movement forward.

They also play a crucial role in building local Youth Ambassador structures in their regions, empowering others to take part in meaningful ways. From organising local events to brainstorming new ideas to grow the movement, our Leadership Committee members are working hard to grow our movement.



SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES



This year, school and university groups have been working tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for Mary's Meals on campuses around the world. These dedicated students have hosted events, engaged new supporters, and shared our mission with fellow students, bringing the story of Mary's Meals to university communities.

Our presence at several freshers' fairs this year was a key part of this outreach, allowing us to connect with hundreds of students interested in getting involved.

Many schools around the world have also participated in campaigns such as Move for Meals or World Porridge Day to support our mission.



YOUTH AMBASSADOR GLOBAL CHALLENGE



STANDOUT MOMENTS

AUSTRALIA

One of our Youth Ambassadors gathered friends for a walk around a local lake. As they walked, he shared stories of the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia and the impact it has had on children's access to education and food. This walk raised awareness and understanding about the challenges faced by children in Ethiopia.

A MONTH OF SOLIDARITY

In May, Youth Ambassadors from around the world took part in our Move for Meals challenge, coming together to raise awareness of the daily journeys children make to reach school and receive a nutritious meal. Through physical activities, these young people inspired others to support Mary's Meals in bringing food and education to some of the world's poorest children.

This spirit of Move for Meals continued throughout the year, with Youth Ambassadors participating in sporting events hosted by our affiliates. Both Slovakia and Croatia organised well-attended runs that raised awareness and funds for our cause, further highlighting the collective effort and dedication of our supporters.

SWITZERLAND

In Switzerland, a group of young people organised a table tennis tournament to support Mary's Meals. Each game was a reminder of the power of community and the joy that simple activities can bring.

AUSTRIA

Austria saw an inspiring feat of endurance as Youth Ambassadors banded together to run a marathon in support of Mary's Meals. With every mile, they demonstrated commitment and drive, supporting our mission to feed children in school.

MALAWI TRIP

Seeing the impact of Mary's Meals



In June, four of our Youth Ambassadors embarked on a journey to Malawi. Spending a week alongside the local Mary's Meals team and local Youth Ambassadors, they gained an invaluable, first-hand understanding of our work.

During their time in Malawi, they visited schools where Mary's Meals operates, witnessing the school feeding programs in action. Each meal served was a testament to the charity's mission: nourishing not only children's bodies but also their minds.

This experience brought our Youth Ambassadors closer to the children and communities Mary's Meals supports, highlighting the ripple effect that a single meal can have on a child's future.

For a personal reflection on this journey, read the blog written by one of our Youth Ambassadors, Martha, who shares her insights and experiences from this unforgettable trip.



MLADIFEST



A Gathering of Faith and Purpose

Each summer, Medjugorje—the birthplace of Mary’s Meals—hosts Mladifest, a vibrant Youth Festival that brings together tens of thousands from around the world. This year, just before the festival, we were delighted to host an in-person youth gathering with Youth Ambassadors from various countries. It was a great opportunity for these young people to connect, share their experiences, and renew their commitment to our mission.

We were especially grateful to be joined by Sister Medhin, who works with our partner in Ethiopia. She shared a powerful testimony about the challenges facing her country and the life-changing role of Mary’s Meals in providing hope and nourishment to children affected by these hardships. Her words reached not only our Youth

Ambassadors but also the wider Mladifest audience, inspiring countless others who attended the festival or joined online.

Several of our Youth Ambassadors also took to the stage to share their own experiences of working with Mary’s Meals. They spoke passionately about how they help deliver our mission, inspiring others to join our cause and make a difference in children’s lives.

For a deeper insight into this impactful gathering, read Calum MacFarlane-Barrow’s [blog](#) or watch our testimony [here](#).

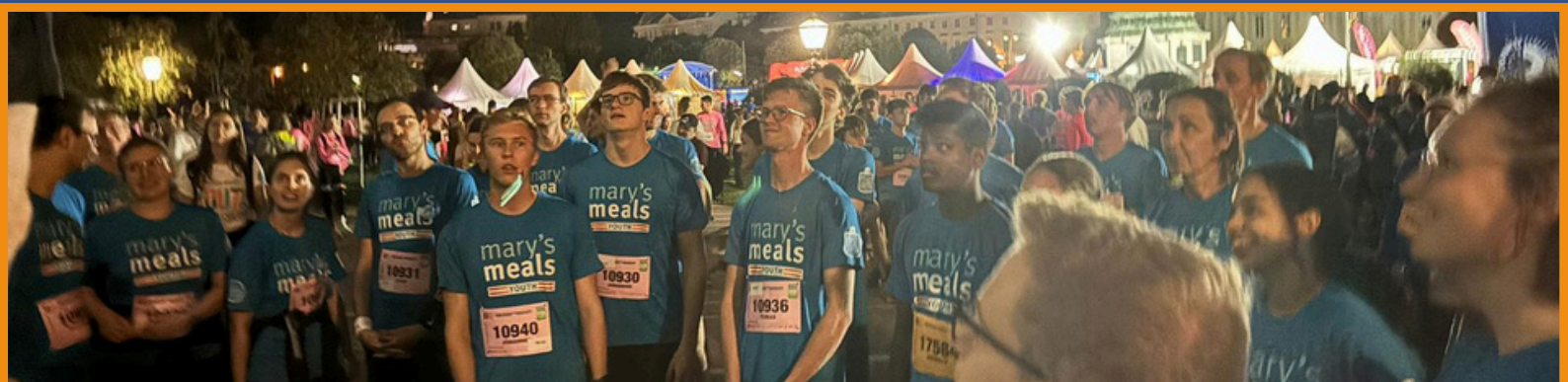
VIENNA NIGHT RUN



In Austria, our Youth Ambassadors took part in a memorable event—the Vienna Night Run, where they rallied a group of around 60 people to join them in running for Mary’s Meals. Wearing our iconic blue Mary’s Meals T-shirts, they not only lit up the night with their presence but also introduced new audiences to our mission, sharing the story of how a daily meal in school can transform a child’s future.

This incredible group effort raised enough funds to feed more than 170 children, making a real difference in young lives. The Vienna Night Run wasn’t just a race; it was an opportunity for our Youth Ambassadors to embody the spirit of Mary’s Meals, bringing hope and support to children in need, one step at a time.

The Vienna Night Run is a shining example of how our Youth Ambassadors inspire others to join us in the journey to end child hunger, uniting communities and spreading awareness along the way.



WORLD PORRIDGE DAY

A Global Celebration of Porridge and Purpose



Our Youth Ambassadors embraced this campaign wholeheartedly, spreading the message across social media and engaging their communities. With their creativity and commitment, our ambassadors turned this day into a true celebration of the power of food and education in transforming lives.



On October 10th, our Youth Ambassadors around the world came together to celebrate World Porridge Day.

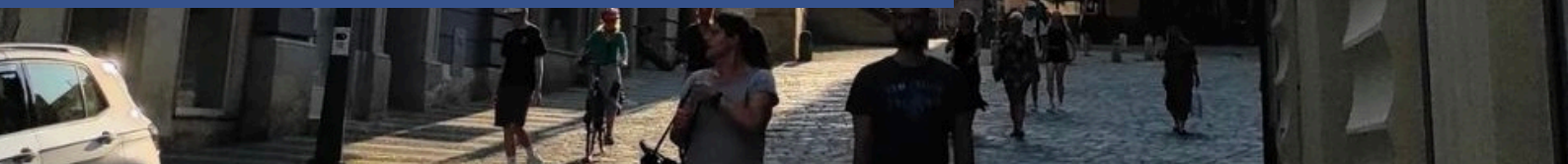
The campaign encouraged everyone to create and share a Porridge Smile and to include a message about how porridge can change lives, inspiring others to get involved.



From powerful messages to fun porridge-themed photos, World Porridge Day brought together a community united by hope and generosity. The campaign raised awareness and inspired new supporters to join us in our mission.

UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIP

Building connections amongst Youth Ambassadors



This year, two of our Youth Ambassadors from the Czech Republic embarked on an exciting journey, gaining hands-on experience and supporting our global mission. Through their university, they've been interning with MMCZ, dedicating their time and energy to expanding our reach and strengthening connections within our Youth Ambassador network.

As part of this internship, they've travelled across our National Affiliates, meeting Youth Ambassadors from different countries, sharing ideas, and learning from each other's experiences. This journey has been a unique opportunity for them to witness the impact of our movement worldwide and help to further develop our global community of young people passionate about Mary's Meals.



Countries Visited:

Czech Republic

Bosnia &
Herzegovina

Croatia

Slovakia

Austria

Germany

UK