



# SIMPLE ACT

*A quarterly report from Matter*

## A letter from the President



At Matter, we believe that simple acts of being resourceful can change the world. You'll find three stories that reinforce this belief as you read our quarterly update. Fifteen years ago Dennis and Megan Doyle began simply using what they had in their

two hands to serve our community. In 2015, we aren't just maintaining the vision they had, we are growing it.

Our team is focused on expanding access to health and food all over the world. In Minneapolis we come alongside those who are challenged by underemployment and homelessness to provide the healthy food they need to thrive. When places such as Liberia are stricken with crisis, we send relief meals to help those who are suffering through Ebola and lack the nutrition they need to survive.

In Kenya, Africa, 50,000 people live off of the city dump with almost no access to health care in a place called, Dandora. Women have been giving birth in a pile of

garbage. In partnership with the University of Notre Dame, we are equipping a hospital so mothers can be provided the comfort and dignity to have their babies on a bed, in a room. And, the chance of survival for the babies born is greatly increased.

None of this work could be accomplished without your generous support. Thousands of volunteers, donors, board members and staff collaborate to grow the vision of Matter. And I'm thrilled to share with you that the work is not in vain. Matter was named the fastest growing non profit in Minnesota in 2014. That momentum has carried over into this year and we are poised to reach more people who are living in scarcity.

With joy and deep thanks,

  
 Quenton Mary  
 President



**96%**  
 of every dollar goes straight to programs



FOOD



There is an officer with the Hennepin County Sherriff's Department who recently described one of the most difficult parts of his job to Matter: home evictions. He tells us that there are days when he must complete eight or nine evictions in a single day. He reports that many families know the drill. Children pack up all that they can into a pillowcase and wait to be taken to a shelter for the night. It was breaking this officer's heart to bear witness to this difficult moment in so many families' lives and to see them empty handed.

Matter has worked to partner with the Hennepin County Medical Center to create the MatterBox – a shelf-stable, healthy food box with meals for families and information on healthy eating. One of our many partners distributing these boxes is the Hennepin County Sherriff's Department, which equips squad cars with MatterBoxes.

Now the officer who struggled with evictions is not empty-handed. He can provide families with MatterBoxes, allowing them relief from one more hardship during a very difficult time. Simple acts can strengthen relationships. The Sheriff's Department and Matter have a common vision; to see communities thrive. Together, we will serve those living in scarcity so that this vision can be realized.



HEALTH



A nine year old girl in Uganda named Phinoa put on her best dress – a bright orange floral design to match her mood. She was going to get her wheelchair. Phinoa is disabled and lives in the rural village of Kikandwa in central Uganda, where a highly anticipated shipping container from Matter was set to arrive. Matter's expertise in supplying clinics with proper equipment allows us to advise medical facilities and procure these devices. Students from Drake University helped to build the Kikandwa Health Center after a sustainable development summer program and partnered with Matter to procure and ship everything the new facility needed, from exam tables to blood pressure cuffs. With a maternity and pediatric unit and a focus on preventative healthcare, the children of Kikandwa are now more likely than ever to survive and live healthy lives.

While the container from Matter was being unloaded, Phinoa was given a wheelchair, raising her mobility and quality of life. Through the support of our donors and volunteers, Matter is able to change the lives of those living in rural villages like Kikandwa around the world. Already in 2015 Matter has shipped 21 containers of medical equipment. Each container is worth an average of \$500,000. Together, we are able to change lives like Phinoa's through realizing the power of what is in our own two hands.



SERVICE



On March 23, Cargill and Matter teamed up for the 2nd Annual Food Madness competition. The event engaged 140 Cargill employees in a high energy, high impact, and competitive food packing extravaganza. For two hours, 12 teams competed in six, 10 minute, head-to-head packing heats to see which team could pack the most MatterBoxes. At the end of the event, over 23,000 meals had been packaged and the camaraderie was high within the Cargill teams. A highlight of the event was when partner agencies, including the Salvation Army and the Hennepin County Sheriff's department, came to not only share their thanks and vision for the program, but also pick up boxes to immediately distribute to those they serve.

One Cargill participant said, "It was so fun to work with other Cargill employees and Matter to pack meals for our local community. The music was fun and the teams were so full of spirit. It was awesome!" Across the board, the employees who participated in Food Madness 2015 felt that it was a rewarding, great event and are already looking forward to next year.

*We're on a mission to expand access to health and food, next door and around the world.*

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