



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

FH Honors the Legacy of Former CEO and President, Gary Edmonds

PHOENIX, AZ (July 8, 2019) – With great sadness and a heavy heart, Food for the Hungry (FH) mourns the passing of former CEO and President Gary Edmonds, who went to be with the Lord on Saturday afternoon after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

Gary leaves behind an eternal legacy of servant leadership, mentorship, and friendship to all who knew him. During his time at FH, from which he served as CEO and president from 2014 to 2019 and on the Board of Directors from 2010 to 2018, he profoundly shaped the organization's core values in the FH Heartbeat and its vision to graduate communities from extreme poverty worldwide. Those who worked with Gary recount his passionate advocacy for the vulnerable, dedication to empowering local leadership, and being a catalytic connector of people who believed in the power of relationship and partnership.

Gary had a long, fruitful career spanning almost 50 years as a global change agent fueled by his commitment to integrate the whole of the Gospel to the plight of the poor and marginalized. Gary pioneered bottom-up, inside-out transformational change processes that are just now being recognized by the international development community as sustainable solutions to systemic poverty. Prior to his involvement with FH, Gary also served as founder and president of Breakthrough Partners and held executive roles at Interdev, Churches Together, and the World Evangelical Alliance.

Gary also inspired countless others to run the Christian race well and live in service of others, both as a trained pastor with deep experience in church ministry and in his daily life. He served in various pastoral roles with Mariners Church in Southern California, as well as Crossroads Church in Geneva, Switzerland, where he spent over 18 years with his family. It was while in Europe in 1984 that he first crossed paths with FH, and through some church missions teams, served together in Uganda.

“As we experience sadness and share in the loss of our dear friend and mentor, we hold onto the hope found in Christ who conquered death,” said FH COO Ed Hatch. “I can hear my friend now, urging us on, fanning the gospel flame and rallying us to that singular call — the call of God on behalf of the poor and marginalized.”

When he started his role as CEO, Gary was passionate about expanding the breadth of FH's work to reach more people in poverty, partnering with local leadership to sustain change, and continue developing the organization's child-focused program model. Gary once gave an interview stating: "All sustainable change starts from within; when you apply the truth and the love of God to the plight of the poor, you can make substantive, sustainable differences. Not only must we strive to help those caught in abject poverty and perilous situations, but we must continue to do so without being defeated by pride or by fear."

This same hope continues to spur us on, and FH is forever changed because of the service of Gary Edmonds, and honored by his leadership and friendship. FH sends its sincerest condolences to the Edmonds family, mourning alongside them during this time, while celebrating a life well-lived in pursuit of Christ. Gary leaves behind his wife Tricia, four children, and seven grandchildren.

ABOUT FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY



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Food for the Hungry (FH) is a Christian humanitarian organization ending all forms of human poverty by providing life-changing development programs, disaster relief, and advocacy. Since 1971, FH has been going into the world's hardest places with an exit strategy: to respond to human suffering and graduate communities of extreme poverty into self-sustainability, all within a decade. By creating context-specific solutions in education, agriculture, health, livelihood, clean water, and disaster risk reduction, the nonprofit focuses on transformational development, investing in children as the key to lift entire communities out of poverty. With 98% of staff working in their country of origin, FH works side by side with local leaders, churches, and families to implement innovative solutions. The organization currently serves more than 14 million people in over 20 countries worldwide. For more information, follow @food4thehungry or visit www.fh.org.

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