

THE LANGLEY Times

World Food Day event at LEC Canada's largest



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Organizers estimate several hundred people attended the largest World Food Day event in Canada at the Langley Events Centre on Thursday, Oct 16.

The 2014 event aimed to "encourage thoughtful and meaningful engagement about world hunger and poverty" with presentations by activists like Dave Toycen, President and CEO of World Vision Canada and performances by the African Children's Choir, founded by Langley resident Ray Barnett.

The free public event was hosted by Food For Famine Society, a Langley-based humanitarian organization that distributes a fortified peanut paste known as Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to poor countries, a product that contains necessary vitamins and nutrients to help malnourished children.

"World Food Day is always about engaging, empowering and inspiring everyone in the world to make a difference," said society founder Maria Martini.

World Food Day, which is celebrated every Oct. 16, is the creation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The 2014 World Food Day theme was family farming, "Feeding the world, caring for the Earth."

The FAO said it wants to raise the profile of family farming and small farms to focus world attention "on the significant role of family farming in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas."

The UN General Assembly has designated 2014 "International Year of Family Farming."

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