Tláhuac Home for Girls
A beacon of light in a dark community
— Mexico City, Mexico —

…the LORD turns my darkness into light.
2 Samuel 22:29b
We are a Catholic ministry that serves the poorest of the poor internationally by channeling aid through dioceses, parishes and Catholic missionaries, cost-effectively helping the poor break the cycle of poverty while advancing Catholic evangelization.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church’s spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.
Project Synopsis

Description
Provide three nutritious meals a day for students at Tláhuac Home for Girls.

Purpose
To help 65 impoverished little girls, ages 6-11, get a quality Catholic education and provide them with nutritious daily meals.

Location
The Tláhuac District, in Mexico City’s southeast corridor.

Cost
$19,800 will cover the costs of three nutritious meals a day for an entire school year.

Highlights
• Life in Mexico City’s Tláhuac District can be difficult for young girls with difficult home lives.
• Run by the Missionaries of Christ the King and St. Mary Guadalupe sisters, Tláhuac School for Girls is a beacon of light in an otherwise dark neighborhood.
• As a part-time boarding school, girls ages 6-11 live at Tláhuac Home during the school week and live with their parents or guardians on the weekends.
• Cross Catholic Outreach has committed to cover about half of the cost of food — to turn these girls’ darkness into light!
THE PROBLEM:

Mexico City’s Darkest Streets

Mexico City is one of the world’s most populated metropolitan areas — filled with tourists, traffic and rich history. Despite its cultural mystique and the elaborate architecture lining many streets, dangerous areas remain and many are rife with indescribable poverty. In the hustle and bustle of city life — it’s easy for the poorest of the poor to slip through the cracks, especially in the district of Tláhuac.

Located in the city’s southeastern corridor, Tláhuac has become known for its pockets of severe poverty, violent crime, domestic abuse, drug activity and disintegrating family structures. And for an innocent young girl with big dreams, the harshest Tláhuac neighborhoods can seem ready to devour hope for the bright future at a moment’s notice. Before her tenth birthday, many girls will see more abandonment, abuse and poverty than most US citizens see in their entire lives.

It is clear that without a quality education, proper nutrition and the hope Christ offers, the precious girls living in Tláhuac will end up falling into the hands of people who don’t have their best interests in mind.

But there is a light shining in these dark streets too — the Tláhuac Home for Girls. God has not forgotten these girls and neither have the Missionaries of Christ the King and St. Mary Guadalupe sisters who run this unique outreach. Reaching out with the love of Christ, the sisters minister to poverty-stricken girls during the week giving them a safe and loving place to learn and grow.

Joining their heroic efforts, Cross Catholic Outreach is partnering with the sisters to provide nutritious meals to these girls — but we need your help to make this possible.
Ministry Description

The first through sixth grade girls who live at the Tláhuac Home come from a variety of different, difficult situations, but share one thing — the burden of poverty. Tláhuac is a part-time boarding school, meaning that the girls live at the home during the school week and go home to be with their families on the weekends.

Run by the Missionaries of Christ the King and St. Mary Guadalupe sisters, Tláhuac is operated like a well-oiled machine. From the moment the girls arrive, they immediately begin a consistent daily routine, giving them the stability they so desperately need.

In addition, each child receives support through psychological counseling to aid in their recovery from traumatic situations they’ve experienced in life. Because all girls come from extreme poverty, this is the first time most have enjoyed regular, nutritious meals. For the girls at Tláhuac, it is part of how the Lord is turning their darkness into light.

Filling Stomachs

Because of their impoverished circumstances, some girls arrive at Tláhuac underweight and malnourished. To change this tragic fact, the Missionaries of Christ the King and St. Mary of Guadalupe sisters work to provide nutritious meals and a well-balanced diet to the girls at Tláhuac. Hardworking staff members measure each student’s height and weight when they first enroll in school. Throughout the school year, they track the girls’ and guardians’ progress and growth to make sure they are getting what they need.

The sisters are frugal with the resources God has given them, making the most of the food they have for the girls. Each day, they depend on the Lord and generous strangers to meet their needs.

To teach the value of a servant’s heart, each student participates in daily chores.

Trained by the sisters, the girls always thank God for the food he has given them.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5
A Special Time

The sisters know that battling physical malnutrition is not enough, they must also battle spiritual hunger. Before students arrive at Tláhuac, most knew nothing of a God who loves them unconditionally and sent his son to turn the darkness in their hearts into light.

But through daily Mass, prayer and spiritual formation, each child is learning she is a treasured daughter of her Heavenly Father. They are learning to make worshiping the Lord a daily practice, and as a result these 35 young ladies are particularly joyful. Whatever circumstances they come from, they are learning they can take their problems to the foot of the cross and fully rely on God in life’s most difficult situations.

“Train up a child....”

At Tláhuac, education is a priority. Each day, the girls get excellent instruction from the teachers and preparation for further schooling once they graduate from 6th grade. Each student also goes through Catechism classes, and participates in her first Communion. But because of the sisters’ commitment to preparing girls for the future, each student is equipped physically, spiritually and intellectually to break free from the bondage of poverty.
Be a light shining in the darkness!

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his followers that they should be a light shining in dark places: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). In one of Mexico City’s harshest neighborhoods, there is a light of hope piercing the darkness and changing the lives of precious little girls — but it is up to compassionate American Catholics to keep it burning bright for all to see.

Cross Catholic Outreach has committed to providing the funds needed to feed all 35 girls at Tláhuac Home for Girls for an entire year, so they can get the education they need to break free from the cycle of poverty. Won’t you reach out in love and support children in desperate need of your compassion? You’re not just filling hungry stomachs — you’re shining the light of Christ!

“I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.”

Isaiah 42:16

Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2019, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.