Orphans and Vulnerable Children

— Worldwide —

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 68:5
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
This project will equip Catholic ministries in developing countries to rescue orphans and vulnerable children from unimaginable suffering and show them God’s love.

Purpose
To be Christ’s hands and feet of mercy to needy children, and give children hope for a better future.

Our Partners
Catholic orphanages and ministries that share our vision of Christ-centered outreach that nurtures the whole person, body and soul.

Location
Developing countries around the world.

Highlights
• In developing countries, children suffering from neglect, abandonment, abuse or the loss of their parents often end up fending for themselves or falling through the cracks of an inadequate social support system.
• Cross Catholic Outreach partners with local Catholic ministries that have a passion to rescue these children, provide for their needs, nurture their spiritual life and prepare them for a better future.
• By reaching these children while they are young, we can prevent the long-term negative effects of extreme deprivation.
• Your generous gift is needed to fund these lifesaving and transformative programs that hundreds of vulnerable children are depending on.
The Need

No child is invisible to our God — the “Father of orphans” — but it is up to us to see that His compassion and mercy are brought to those who need special care. When we act on behalf of the desperate child, we serve that child on our Lord’s behalf.

This role is expressed in Scripture too, where James 1:27 explains, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

To our mind, the orphans Scripture describes are not just the 140 million children around the world who have lost parents to AIDS, famine, war and other tragedies. They are also the countless boys and girls who suffer the fatherlessness represented by rejection, neglect and abuse. In fact, such children are doubly victimized because their plight is made all the worse by the fear that their parents do not love them.

In Guyana, 8-year-old Lisa and her two sisters bear the deep scars of a life of poverty mixed with terror. Their tiny bodies suggest hunger-related stunting, and they are unable, for safety reasons, to live with their mother, who is herself malnourished and a victim of domestic abuse. After Lisa was nearly raped by an uncle, the government removed the girls from their home.

In Mozambique, 11-year-old David faces a different kind of threat — HIV. Born with this incurable illness, he lives with his widowed mother, who is also HIV-positive and suffers from blindness due to severe cataracts. Because of his mother’s poor eyesight, David must help her walk and perform daily routine tasks. At one point, David’s own health deteriorated to the point that he was at death’s door, because he wasn’t getting the medicine and nutrition he desperately needed.

Although the life stories of these suffering children are heartbreaking, there is hope. God has been calling Catholics in developing countries around the world to reach out to orphans and vulnerable children with love, material aid and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By standing with them and empowering the outreaches they are trying to establish, we can have an incredible impact on the lives of children in need!
The Response

Cross Catholic Outreach partners with Catholic ministries around the world that are passionate about fulfilling the James 1:27 call to “care for orphans…in their distress.” These ministry partners are intimately acquainted with the needs of their communities, they are excited to tell children about Jesus’ love for them, and they have made many sacrifices to save vulnerable boys and girls from falling through society’s cracks.

For example, in Mozambique, a Catholic charity called ACM saved David’s life by helping him get medical care for his HIV infection, and now David is depending on ACM to provide for his nutritional and educational needs. And in Guyana, Lisa and her sisters have found safe shelter at St. Ann’s Home, where the Ursuline Sisters are providing a loving Catholic upbringing to orphans and vulnerable children and preparing them for a bright future. Thanks to ministries such as these, children like David and Lisa have a chance to live fulfilling, prosperous lives. But these critically needed programs can only keep their doors open so long as they receive support from compassionate Catholic benefactors like you. Cross Catholic Outreach has committed to raising that support, and we are hoping and praying that with your help, today’s orphans and vulnerable children will become tomorrow’s mighty men and women of God. For “God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong” (1 Corinthians 1:27).
Help Now!

God is grieved by the tears of orphans — and today, he is calling on us to wipe those tears away!

Please pray for these suffering children and join us in our worldwide mission to rescue orphans and vulnerable children from the clutches of poverty, neglect, abuse and despair. Your generous gift is needed to give these precious children the loving care they so desperately crave. Through your gift, they will be nurtured both physically and spiritually by compassionate Catholics who treasure them as sons and daughters of God, created in his image.

Don’t wait a day longer to answer the children’s cries! They need food, clothes, medicine and safe shelter, and they need to see that, despite their humble pasts, they are valued in God’s sight. By stepping forward with generous support, you will change lives!

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Mark 9:37

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2020, 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.