



Salesian Chicos de la Calle

Education for Impoverished Children

— Esmeraldas, Ecuador —



Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

MARK 10:14



Executive Summary

Description

Families in the coastal region of Ecuador live in extreme poverty, and the impact of COVID-19 has only added to their hardships. Work is difficult to find, so parents are finding it increasingly challenging to feed their children and buy the supplies needed for school. In a region filled with gangs and drugs, these struggling boys and girls are at risk. They can be lured away from their families by exploitive people or end up living on the streets. A Catholic ministry is eager to address these problems, but it needs our help to offer wholesome alternatives to local children being tempted into a life of drugs and crime. Your generous support will empower the Salesians of Don Bosco — Catholic priests dedicated to serving impoverished youth — and will enable them to offer important outreaches to the communities they serve. Ecuador Salesian Project - North Zone, for example, will be equipped to provide educational support, nourishing meals, engaging group activities and spiritual encouragement. These are critical services if children are to escape their hopelessness and grow strong in mind, body and spirit.

Purpose

To nurture and inspire children so they can recognize their God-given gifts, avoid a life on the streets and build a way out of poverty.

Location

Esmeraldas, Ecuador.

Cost

\$31,944

Highlights

NEED

- More than 25 percent of people in Ecuador live in poverty, according to the World Bank, with many congregated in urban squalor on the fringes of cities like Esmeraldas.
- Children grow up illiterate and malnourished because parents can't afford food or school expenses.
- Gangs prey on children who have no hope, drawing them into a life of addiction and crime.

IMPACT

- Ecuador Salesian Project - North Zone provides 510 impoverished children with daily tutoring and nutritional supplements so they can stay in school and succeed.
- For 80 boys and girls most at risk of malnutrition, the ministry offers health checks and prepares nutritious daily meals.
- Lively recreational activities and joyful faith formation lead children to develop personal goals and trust in God.



Nutritious meals keep students strong.



The Need: Children Without Hope



Health checks ensure children are growing and developing at the proper rates.

become ensnared in the evils that plague the slums. Surely, our Lord must want his Church to rise up and provide solutions!

Thankfully, the Church is aware of the challenges the poor in Ecuador face, and children living in Esmeraldas can now have a reason for hope. Your support of the Salesians of Don Bosco's Ecuador Salesian Project - North Zone program will finally give them access to the help they need.

Please help these poor children discover who they really are — beloved children of Christ with gifts, talents and a special place in God's eternal plan!

Tragically, many of the children living in the slums of Esmeraldas lack the most basic necessities — nutritious food and safe drinking water — and as parents work hard to address these needs, they must often sacrifice other things, including their child's education. They simply don't have a large enough income to pay for it all.

As a result, a day-by-day struggle for survival becomes their way of life, and this struggle robs their children of yet another critical thing — hope. Without hope, these boys and girls rarely discover their full potential or even recognize the wonderful gifts and talents the Lord has given them.

It isn't hard to understand how this spiral into despair can lead children into even more damaging and dangerous situations. Without caring teachers, they don't believe better opportunities await them. Without healthy group activities, they never learn self-confidence or explore the benefits of positive teamwork. Instead, they are drawn into gangs or drugs, which seem to offer power and an escape from their pain.

Surely, God must grieve to see these boys and girls robbed of the joys of a healthy childhood as they



Give Generously

Please help impoverished boys and girls discover a wonderful blessing — the joys of a childhood filled with hope!

Your gift will enable the ministry team of Ecuador Salesian Project - North Zone to offer at-risk boys and girls a nurturing environment where they can learn and grow. You will be giving them a gift capable of transforming their lives in profound ways. They can grow more confident as patient tutors help them advance in their studies. Their bodies will also grow stronger as they are provided with nourishing food. Above all, they will discover an alternative to the life of gangs and drugs so prevalent in their impoverished communities. Rather than fall prey to those negative influences, they can “just be children,” taking part in colorful marimba dance lines or thrilling soccer games. As they pray, receive the Eucharist and learn to trust in the Lord, they will experience incredible spiritual blessings too.



The spirit-filled Salesians of Don Bosco are eager reach out to children in need, but to accomplish their goals, they are relying on the financial support of American Catholics like you. **As you support them, you will give boys and girls living in urban squalor a renewed self-confidence, greater faith in God and new hope for the future!**

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Good Stewardship

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. These detailed accountability measures have earned us ongoing accreditation by the following organizations:



The Chronicle of Philanthropy
The nonprofit world's No. 1 news source

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, 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.

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