



Dagama School for Physically Disabled Children

Showering Blessings on Vulnerable Youth

— Luanshya, Zambia —



“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW 18:10



Executive Summary

Description

This project will provide nutritious meals, physical therapy and mobility aids for impoverished boys and girls at Dagama School for Physically Disabled Children, a primary and secondary boarding school run by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi. Dagama School is Zambia's first school for disabled children and provides holistic care for boys and girls with cerebral palsy, post-polio syndrome, amputations, congenital deformities and trauma-related injuries.

Purpose

To empower vulnerable and disabled children through education, meals and medical assistance.

Location

Luanshya, Diocese of Ndola.

Cost

\$60,600 covers the cost of daily meals for children and staff, physical therapy services four days a week, and mobility aids such as wheelchairs and artificial limbs.

Highlights

NEED

- In Zambia, social stigmas surrounding disabilities make it extremely challenging for disabled children to receive an education. There are fewer than five schools for such children in the country.
- Without outside assistance, parents living in poverty cannot afford to provide their sons and daughters with much-needed therapies and mobility devices.
- Many poor families also struggle to meet their children's basic need for daily nutritious meals.

IMPACT

- With your help, the Franciscan sisters at Dagama School will ensure disabled children participate actively in spiritual activities.
- The school will provide **170 vulnerable children** with nutritious meals each day, helping them develop physically and intellectually.
- By providing physical therapy and mobility devices, you will bless children with the opportunity to become active members of their community.





With your help, young boys and girls like Nancy will reach a hope-filled future.

The Need

Eighteen-year-old Nancy Mailoni has big dreams of becoming a doctor to help disabled children in her community — and reaching that noble goal will not be an easy task. She also lives with the daily challenges of a serious disability, and the roadblocks she faces are emotional as well as physical.

That is because, in Zambia, it is commonly believed that disabled boys and girls are a curse and bring shame upon their families. To avoid this public humiliation, innocent children like Nancy spend long days hiding inside their homes — deprived of the opportunity to attend school, enjoy fellowship with other children and pursue their dreams.

To make matters worse, children with disabilities know that their physical disabilities have a negative perception among their families and community members. Kept at arm's length their entire lives, these children and teens grow up believing they are not worthy of receiving love and affection. The few interactions they have are often heartbreaking, as they can be victims of neglect or abuse from their own family members and neighbors.

Poverty is another hardship disabled children like Nancy must endure. Most Zambian families work as day laborers or subsistence farmers and struggle to put meals on the table, and as a result, their kids often go without the nutritious food their bodies need. Essential physical therapy and mobility devices, such as crutches and wheelchairs, are also far beyond these families' financial reach.

Shunned by society and trapped in poverty, it's no surprise that many disabled children feel powerless to change their terrible circumstances. Thankfully, they are not alone — for “the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Our Lord sees the hearts of Zambia's most vulnerable youth and wants to shower them with abundant blessings. The Franciscan sisters are eager to offer those blessings to children like Nancy — but they need your financial support to succeed!

Please join us in helping these compassionate sisters bless physically disabled children in Zambia!



Help Now!



When Jesus’ disciples tried turning children away from him, he insisted those precious boys and girls be allowed to approach him for a blessing, saying, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” (Matthew 19:14).

As faithful Christians, we are called to imitate our Lord’s tenderness toward children, and you can show that love today by supporting the Franciscan sisters’ Dagama School. Your gift will help the ministry extend Christ’s compassion to Zambia’s most vulnerable little ones, providing them with holistic care through a primary and secondary education. The children will also receive daily meals, physical therapy, orthopedic aids and a strong spiritual foundation.

These services are critical in helping disabled children come out of the shadows and into the light of Christ’s hope, where they can reach their full potential. Please — give generously to ensure this critical mission of mercy can continue to bless these precious boys and girls with the love, compassionate care and opportunities they deserve!

Give today to transform the lives of disabled children in Zambia!

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.



Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2024, 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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