



Rural Women's Farming

Creating Hope Through Home Agriculture

— Maïssade, Haiti —



“This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.”

Psalm 34:6



We are a Catholic ministry

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

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 teaches 195 impoverished women with children how to grow revenue-producing crops at their homes using sustainable methods.

Purpose

To provide much-needed income, stop malnutrition and strengthen a Catholic faith community.

Location

Maissaide, Haiti

Our Partners

Bureau de Nutrition et Développement, a non-profit Haitian organization which is working with a local Catholic community, St. André Chapel of Bassin Cave.



Cost

\$18,000 to pay for training, follow-up support and distribution of necessary tools, seeds and starter plants for 12 months.

Highlights

- Residents of Massaide are desperately poor, with the most severe hardships falling upon women and children. Malnutrition and disease are common.
- Home gardens offer an opportunity to raise vegetables all year, improving children's health and providing income from the sale of crops.
- Five church lay leaders are trained to be agricultural agents, training the women and assisting them throughout the year.
- Participants learn sustainable farming, including collecting rainwater in containers, composting food scraps to replenish soil and using animal waste for fertilizer.
- Families enjoy a nutritious diet and are able to earn money for their children's school fees by selling produce at markets.
- Your generous gift does more than feed 195 families. It breaks a cycle of poverty, raising income levels and enabling children to attend school and learn new skills.



The Need



New home gardens start small, but offer an abundance of hope for the future.

made family farming impossible ... until now. Bureau de Nutrition et Développement has trained Touissant and another church leader to lead the community in creating small-scale home gardens using sustainable growing techniques.

Touissant selected 195 eager women, all of whom are without advanced education and too poor to have any savings to invest in gardens. In addition, each has children at risk for hunger.

“This program will help our children, allow us to have money in our pockets and help us pay for school,” said one thankful mother.

The faithful women can easily see God’s hand in providing a way for them to pay the school fees for their children by selling excess crops at markets.

“God is everything for us,” another mother said.

Yes, the Lord is with these prayerful women and so is Cross Catholic Outreach. Please join us in becoming part of the Lord’s loving plan to rescue an impoverished people who live in harsh conditions. Together, we can be church to these fellow Catholics in need.

Touissant Carold knows Rural Women’s Farming delivers much more than tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic, and okra.

“This program gives hope,” said the 37-year-old lay leader of St. Andre Chapel.

Hope is desperately needed in this rural community where typhoid fever is common, one small medical clinic serves an entire region and finding food is a daily worry.

“We do not eat well at all,” the kindly church leader said.

A lack of sophisticated irrigation systems and alternating seasons of drought and flooding rains have

Always Thankful to God

The St. Andre community is poor in many ways, but not in faith. Each Sunday, the 195 participants in the home garden program meet to pray and share experiences. They also keep each other accountable — both in proper growing techniques and in living their Catholic faith. All but five are members of St. Andre, with the others selected due to extreme poverty. Basing the program at the chapel keeps the focus on God’s mercy, one participant said. “It is God’s choice to allow us to be in this program.”



Ministry Description

The success of this new project will not be determined today or even this year, for the goal is to eliminate poverty for generations to come. A successful home garden will yield crops year after year as income is invested back into future growing seasons.

The Bureau de Nutrition et Développement offers a detailed, four-step program for success:

1. Residents learn that large farms with irrigation are not necessary. Each family needs an area of roughly only 20 meters by 10 meters, and gardens are nurtured with water saved in plastic containers. Harvesting seeds and creating compost enables the farm to succeed in the next season.
2. Farming tools, seed and compost are distributed but reusing local materials is stressed so participants do not need outside assistance in coming years.
3. Participants are trained how to plant and tend crops and are educated in proper nutrition so they understand the foods they grow.
4. Agricultural agents are carefully selected for their trust in the community. They learn to conduct follow up training for a year to support spring and winter harvesting and to teach the participants to take products to market for sale.

The people of Maïssade are looking to become self-sufficient given the rising challenges they face. Prolonged droughts and changed rain patterns have damaged existing agriculture. The local population is rising dramatically, while accessing land for farming grows more difficult. Existing farm land is being overused, and crop yields are falling.

With the home gardens, families can respond by growing where they live. Women have been selected as participants because they are among the poorest in the community, but also because the small nature of the gardens allows the women to tend crops and care for their children at home. In many cases, the children are old enough to learning home gardening themselves, creating stronger family bonds.



The women of Maïssade are joyful over their new home gardens.



Help Now!

By acting now, you can show a suffering Catholic community that you believe in their dream of having enough food for their children.

Touissant Carold, the church lay leader who has been trained as an agricultural agent, is pouring his heart and soul into making this dream a reality.

“There is a need to create change,” he said. “We see the need to expand this program to the entire community so that more people can gain access to the knowledge and tools.”

It was his difficult task to select the 195 participants from out of all the desperately poor women who applied. All of them need a consistent, stable food supply.

Cross Catholic Outreach also has seen the suffering in this community so we are moving swiftly. But to ensure the success of these first 195 home gardens, we need the generous support of concerned American Catholics like you.

Together, we can support these first 195 home gardens for 12 months. And most importantly, we can bring God’s mercy to a hurting people and help this church community build a future of hope.

“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

1 John 3:17-18

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2021, 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.

2700 N. Military Trail • Suite 300 • PO Box 273908 • Boca Raton, Florida 33427-3908

800-914-2420 • CrossCatholic.org

@CrossCatholic @CrossCatholic @CrossCatholic /CrossCatholic Blog.CrossCatholic.org

Copyright Cross Catholic Outreach. Cost-effectively written, designed and printed in-house. [ds1707][Udv1707][Ukg1905][Ukg2009]