



# **Cáritas Vocational School Day Care**

Nutrition and Support for Poor Families

— Arequipa, Peru —



Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

MATTHEW 18:5



# Executive Summary

## Description

To respond to the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic leaders in Peru urgently need our financial support to adapt their successful ministry to serving impoverished parents and children impacted by the virus. The Archdiocese of Arequipa has been unable to reopen the day care center parents relied on while participating in vocational training, but families still need help for their children to receive proper nourishment. With your support, this Catholic outreach can provide much-needed food and offer spiritual encouragement until the day care can reopen safely.

## Purpose

To ensure children receive proper nutrition and entire families remain hopeful as they build a path out of poverty during this difficult time.

## Location

Arequipa, a city in southern Peru that is dotted with shantytowns and urban slums.

## Cost

\$20,400

## Highlights

### NEED

- In recent years, destitute parents have moved to Arequipa from the rural countryside, hoping to find a way to support their children.
- Without job skills or an education, many new arrivals remain mired in poverty and live in urban slums and shantytowns without electricity, running water or sanitation services.
- The extreme poverty and past social patterns often lead to domestic violence and abuse of women, who lack alternatives to a more stable life.

### IMPACT

- Cáritas Vocational School enables destitute adults to emerge from poverty by helping them learn important job skills through vocational training.
- Catholic leaders added a day care so parents with young children could focus on training and not worry about their children.
- The day care has not yet reopened following the outbreak of COVID-19, but the ministry is responding to families' needs by delivering baskets of nutritious foods and regularly checking on families.



*This compassionate ministry supports Peggy and other children even while the day care is closed.*



## The Need: Children Vulnerable to Malnutrition



*Juan and his mother eagerly explore a food basket prepared by the ministry team.*

through the *Cáritas* Vocational School Day Care. Now, Cross Catholic Outreach wants to play its part by supporting that ministry and its creative approach to helping families in need.

The day care center is relying on Cross Catholic Outreach and American Catholics like you to help it fund the staff members needed to keep the program operational — and to sponsor the food distribution services it has set up to feed the hungry. The mission's goal is to deliver food and personal hygiene supplies to 185 destitute families and to have staff make regular phone calls to families to provide counseling and encouragement, as well as offer special assistance if critical problems arise that need immediate attention. Of course, the program's spiritual impact is important too, and the staff intend to stress the importance of prayer and help local families draw closer to God for comfort and direction.

**With your help, girls and boys like Juan can continue to receive loving support until the day when the Christ-centered day care program is reopened and neighborhood children can be joyfully welcomed back!**

Little ones like Juan Pedro Quispe Ink are suffering quietly in Peru because COVID-19's impact has lingered in his country, and his parents — like many others — continue to struggle economically. Social distancing and other attempts to control the virus have hurt the incomes of unskilled parents most, and their sons and daughters are often hungry as a result.

Three-year-old Juan's parents came to Arequipa just before the pandemic began in 2020, hoping to find a way to earn a living, support their son and escape a life of poverty. Instead, they couldn't find work as the economy shut down and the need for unskilled workers evaporated.

The impact of the pandemic has created a devastating ripple of consequences in the country, with quarantines and social distancing inhibiting the poor's access to medical care, social services and educational programs. Malnutrition and domestic violence have also increased as families have had to deal with the stresses of these added hardships.

As the crisis among the poor worsens, our Lord's heart must surely be breaking for his people — and his Spirit must be searching the world for those who will intervene on his behalf. Already, he has inspired the Catholics of Arequipa to create new ways of reaching out in love



## Give Generously

Please help us empower this compassionate Catholic ministry team as they reach out to poor children and local parents who continue to suffer because of COVID-19 and pandemic restrictions. While classes for adults at C aritas Vocational School are restarting, it is not yet safe enough to reopen the school’s day care — so we must find other ways to ensure the needs of local children are being addressed!

By contributing toward Cross Catholic Outreach’s goal, you will enable the Archdiocese of Arequipa to bring baskets of nutritious food to families who normally rely on the food the day care program once provided. The caring team also will be able to check on families, offer spiritual encouragement, and supply resources for children with developmental or medical needs. Together, our Catholic community can prevent malnutrition and discouragement as families struggle through this difficult time.



*Let your gift be a sign to impoverished families that God is with them and that he wants to support them in their hour of need!*

## 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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