



St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center

— Kitale, Kenya —



“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

MATTHEW 18:5



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 will provide safe shelter and education for children living in poverty-stricken conditions.

Purpose

To protect children from the dangers of homelessness while empowering them to escape the cycle of poverty.

Location

Kitale in western Kenya.

Ministry Partner

The Diocese of Kitale.

Cost

\$66,000 will help cover critical operational costs of the St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center, benefiting orphans and vulnerable children.

Highlights

- Street children and children at-risk of a life on the streets are brought to the St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center, where they receive nonformal education from trained teachers.
- During the non-formal education the children live on-site during the week, while receiving classes to catch up with their peers. The children visit their families on the weekends and during school breaks.
- Catholic formation is an important part of the program at St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center; children attend Mass regularly and learn Bible stories.
- Support from the center includes tuition, school supplies, food, medical care and religious education.
- The ultimate goal of the program is for the children to reintegrate into their families and become productive members of society.
- The center relies on Cross Catholic Outreach to help cover operational costs for the non-formal education.





The Need



This is a typical slum dwelling for Turkana families in Kitale.

The Turkana people live in a desert-like section of Northern Kenya. In this semi-arid and inhospitable environment, the tribe survives by herding goats and camels, and in recent years, they have faced unprecedented challenges. This region is known for long dry seasons and when exceptionally bad droughts hit the area it can bring many families to the brink of starvation. As their livestock dies from lack of food and water, many have to take action — or face death themselves.

Each year, after the dry season is over, many of these Turkana families move to Kitale, in western Kenya. There, the displaced people form camps in order to survive. Even though they have escaped great hardships, this relocation produces serious problems of its own. Most of the men and women are only familiar with livestock and lack traditional educations or vocational training. As a result, they struggle to get basic necessities and feed themselves or their children. These poverty-stricken communities are plagued by poor sanitation, drug and alcohol abuse, and chronic illnesses like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. These families were forced to live in small huts made from anything they could find: sticks, mud, tarps and scraps of trash.

If no one intervenes, what will become of these poor, desperate families? Will the children be condemned to repeat the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that they were born into?

Local Catholic leaders have asked those terrible questions too, and they are eager to work on solutions. They want to offer options that will plot a different path for the children growing up in these communities. Most aren't currently enrolled in school because their parents can't afford the cost of school fees, books, uniforms and daily lunch. Instead of studying, these boys and girls spend their days begging for scraps of food to fill their empty stomachs.

With your help, we can show these boys and girls the same compassion Christ showed us. We can help the Church in Kenya change the trajectory of their lives!



Ministry Description



The Diocese of Kitale has a passion for helping Turkana children, so its leaders founded the St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center to serve them and relieve their many hardships. The goal of the ministry is to rescue children from the streets and help them become responsible, educated adults who can one day lead their families out of poverty and be positive influences in their community.

The center follows a model of rescue, rehabilitation and then reintegration. Social workers from the center go into the communities regularly to identify children who are most at risk. For optimal success, the workers try to start children in the program before they reach the age of 8, since early intervention is the most effective approach. Once children are identified, they are brought to the

center where they're provided with nutritious food and shelter; then the rehabilitation process begins.

Since most rescued children arrive at the center behind in school, they start nonformal education from in-house teachers at St. John Bosco. This helps them catch-up to their peers and prepares them for enrollment at a formal school. After about two years with the in-house teachers, children continue to live on-site while attending a day school.

During the week, children stay at the beautiful five-acre residential facility; and on the weekends and during school breaks, they stay with their parents or guardian. This is an important step in St. John Bosco's process, they want children to be reintegrated with their families. By the time these children graduate from school, they are living full time with their parents or closest family member, and the center's social workers continue to work with them and monitor their progress.

After completing secondary school, St. John Bosco children are placed in vocational training programs or college preparatory schools based on their God-given talents. The guidance counselors at the center match students' abilities and skills with a suitable career path. Graduates of the program have gone on to teacher training colleges, medical careers, or professions including auto mechanics, electronics, cooking, sewing and hairstyling.

At St. John Bosco, the staff hopes to plant seeds of faith into the heart of each child who walks through the doors. Children attend Mass regularly and participate in a weekly devotion where they sing worship songs, pray and learn Bible stories. Twice a school year, a seminarian or catechist visits the center to conduct Christian Religious Education. Because of the emphasis on spiritual formation, many children choose to receive the sacraments of baptism, First Communion and confirmation.



You Can Help Rescue Poor Children!

The St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center wants to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate children in Kitale's camps, but they can't do it without financial support from friends like you.

With your help, Cross Catholic Outreach can fund critical operating costs of the center, including efforts to supply nutritious food, expand education opportunities, and offer medical care and counseling. Your gift will do more than meet these needs, because it will also represent a strategic investment in the lives and futures of a generation of children. When you support this important cause, lives will be changed, hearts will be uplifted, and future generations of Kenyan children will be delivered from poverty.

Jesus said, "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). With your help, we can welcome children to the feet of Jesus and put them on the path to a brighter future filled with hope and promise. Please — join us in this important work!

**Learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed.**

ISAIAH 1:17A

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, 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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