



# Daughters of Wisdom Educational Scholarships

Hope for Impoverished Children

— Manila, Philippines —



“Know that wisdom is such to your soul;  
if you find it, you will find a future, and your hope will not be cut off.”

PROVERBS 24:14



## **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 provides 15 impoverished children with scholarships, books, supplies, uniforms and transportation so they can attend school and go on to college or technical school.

### Purpose

To inspire children growing up in urban slums and empower them to reach their dreams.

### Our Partner

Daughters of Wisdom, an international religious community dedicated to serving the poor.

### Location

Manila, Philippines

### Cost

\$12,000

### Highlights

- Children in the crowded and disease-ridden slums of Manila grow up unaware of the talents and abilities God has given them. Their impoverished parents work low-paying, intermittent jobs, so they have no way to pay the costs of educating their children.
- Without an education, children continue a cycle of poverty that has trapped families for generations.
- The Lord has sent his servants — the Daughters of Wisdom — to create a ministry for poor families that includes supporting education for children all the way through college or technical school.
- Cross Catholic Outreach wants to help by funding the scholarship program's costs. This will help empower the sisters to provide urgently needed tutoring, nutritious meals and spiritual guidance.



*Daughters of Wisdom sisters visit a home in the slums of Manila.*

***Your generous gift will enable the sisters to serve these children as they blossom into young adults filled with faith and prepared for the future!***



*Impoverished families in Manila lack modern conveniences that make life easier.*

## The Need

Mired in the squalor of the Manila slums, the boys and girls living there have a hard time seeing themselves for what they truly are — children of great potential, beloved by God.

It is tragic, but the conditions most of these kids live in are that dehumanizing. They typically wake up each day in cramped, ramshackle houses constructed from discarded materials: scrap lumber, plastic sheets, rusty sheet metal and the like. These small homes are usually packed tightly together in tiny alleys.

The day-to-day life of these boys and girls is challenging too. Their parents are unskilled and uneducated, so most can only work low-paying, intermittent jobs — if they can find those. As a result, the slum children receive little nutritious food and may suffer from the illnesses hunger and weakness can bring.

The family structure can collapse under this pressure, leaving young boys and girls without even that support. Others become orphaned when parents die from disease. In those cases, the children may be shuffled from home to home at the whim of distant relatives.

Worst of all, these conditions and situations steal away all hope. They leave children and young adults feeling as if nothing can or will ever change, and that fear breeds desperation. Most know that if they remain illiterate and unskilled, they will enter adult life with few prospects for employment, trapped by poverty and ignorance.

The Church has seen this despair and is working to find solutions, so no child need fall prey to the endless cycle of poverty, fear and vulnerability. We must also come to their aid!

### **Not Enough To Eat**

From their work in the slums of Manila, the Daughters of Wisdom know children need much more than a scholarship to rise up out of poverty. Many children simply do not have enough to eat and have no hope of succeeding in school without proper nourishment. That's why a key component of the sisters' educational ministry is providing food for the children and young adults as well as providing for their medical needs. The sisters truly care for these children and give their all for them.



## Ministry Description

With your gift, the Daughters of Wisdom will be able to transform the lives of 15 impoverished students, replacing a bleak existence with a future filled with hope!



*Students gather for a small group reflection near a statue of Mary.*

Seven new students will experience this amazing blessing for the first time when they are welcomed in to replace those who have graduated. Each was personally selected by the sisters as being children with the greatest need. They live in challenging conditions now, but the mission is confident this gift will help improve their lives dramatically.

Your gift will also bless eight students who have been participating, but need this support to remain in the program. This group ranges in age from an eighth grader, such as Luis Mario, to a junior in college, like Jessica. Younger students attend a public school near their home, while young adults attend college or vocational school and train for a career that will pay a livable wage.

The support from Cross Catholic Outreach provides school tuition as well as uniforms, class supplies, books, transportation and even nourishing meals. In addition, the sisters' comprehensive program enables young people to overcome the emotional and psychological scars of poverty. Students participate in:

- Group sharing and workshops where they learn that they are valued sons and daughters of God.
- Group projects to celebrate birthdays and church feast days where they build a sense of community.
- Weekly community service projects where they discover the joy of serving others.
- Faith sharing and special Lent and Advent reflections where they nourish their growing faith.

You can't imagine the incredible difference these benefits have made in the lives of the children being served. Beyond addressing the material needs of these impoverished young people, the sisters are also providing Christ-centered spiritual guidance, the support that truly transforms lives because it restores dignity and brings hope.

### Changed Lives

Here in Manila, the abundant blessings of our loving God are clearly visible in the transformed lives of scholarship recipients who have successfully graduated from college or technical school. As children, they lived in slums and often didn't have enough food. Today, they work in careers they love, while giving back to their communities.

Liño has risen from being an uneducated child to become a high school teacher at a public school, while Nelan and Marilyn work as teachers with the sisters in another ministry. John gained the skills needed for a rewarding position with Mitsubishi Motors, while Eva and Claudine have become accountants.

With your support and the continued grace of God, the young people in the program today can follow their example and break free from a life of poverty!



## May God Bless You!

For too long, young lives have been broken by the squalor of the Manila slums. For too long, the boys and girls living there have seen their great potential squandered, and many have felt cut off from the love of God. Your generous gift will help them overcome these hardships and know the fullness of God's blessings. It will literally transform these impoverished children's lives!

Through your kindness, seven children will be welcomed into the Daughters of Wisdom's educational and spiritual ministry for the first time. Imagine all that awaits these young people as they begin a new journey of education, inspiration and faith!

Your gift will also ensure the progress of eight students currently in the program. The blessings they have received from the compassionate sisters will not end prematurely, and their plans of pursuing a higher education will remain on track. Most have already begun to develop a new vision for their future and have grown in their relationship with the Lord. Your act of mercy will confirm their faith and sustain their hope.

Each of these children grew up in despair and squalor. Now, they are looking to the light of Christ to illuminate their path as they journey forward. Help today and you will play an important role in breaking the bonds of poverty that have threatened to hold them back. Your support will enable the caring Daughters of Wisdom to walk with them, address their needs and provide Godly inspiration!

**For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.**

JEREMIAH 29:11

### 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.

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