



# Impaputo Daycare Center

Support for Vulnerable Children and Their Families

— Impaputo, Mozambique —



They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;  
and those who love me will be loved by my Father,  
and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

JOHN 14:21



## **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 fund a Catholic daycare, kindergarten and after-school tutoring center that provides food and hope to orphans and vulnerable children.

### Purpose

To support, educate and lift up a desperate community, beginning with children affected by HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases.

### Location

Impaputo, a rural village near the border of eSwatini, formally known as Swaziland, located in Mozambique's Maputo province.



*The Center provides meals for poor children who might otherwise go hungry.*

### Ministry Partner

The Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood.

### Cost

**\$24,960** will help support the Center for a year, funding meals for children and their families, hygiene products, staff salaries and transportation for students and older, ill adults.

### Highlights

- In the remote village of Impaputo, the HIV/AIDS crisis has left a devastating trail of orphans and sick, vulnerable villagers.
- Most families in Impaputo rely on subsistence farming for survival, and they have been deeply affected by the continuing drought.
- The Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood are working to answer these families' cries by running a daycare center that addresses the nutritional, educational, medical and spiritual needs of their children.
- Young children at the center attend kindergarten and participate in activities, such as embroidery and traditional dance, while older children come after school for tutoring. The sisters also want to provide vocational classes to prepare older students for the workforce.
- The Center assists vulnerable children and their families by providing daily meals, hygiene supplies and transportation for various needs.
- Cross Catholic Outreach has partnered with the Missionary Sisters to meet the physical and spiritual needs of Impaputo's desperate villagers, but we can only do this through your generosity.



## The Need

The impoverished nation of Mozambique is struggling with a devastating crisis — caring for 1.5 million people with HIV. As one of the countries hardest hit hardest by Africa’s AIDS pandemic, Mozambique sees 54,000 people die annually of the disease, while countless others suffer from related illnesses such as tuberculosis. In addition to the trail of orphans and sick villagers the crisis has created, a severe drought has left most families in the region in dire poverty, as they are unable to farm from lack of rainfall.

Traditionally, orphans in the Mozambican village of Impaputo might be taken in by members of their extended family or even neighbors, but the sheer number of parents lost to AIDS has stretched the resources of family members to the limit. Relatives have taken in as many as 10 children at a time, and still the need persists. Most of these compassionate caregivers — usually grandparents — are also very poor, struggling to find their own daily bread and meet their own urgent needs.

Amid these crises, many children end up fending for themselves on the streets. They are forced to drop out of school and become beggars or child laborers just to earn enough money to feed themselves.

But God never forgets his children, young or old, rich or poor. He has sent his faithful servants, the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood, to minister to the needs of these desperate people. The sisters have used their limited resources to open a daycare center that tends to the physical and spiritual needs of children and their families affected by the AIDS pandemic. These courageous sisters are bringing Christ’s beautiful message of love and salvation to a devastated village. But in order to continue their work, they are counting on the generosity of benevolent Catholics like you. Otherwise, the villagers will continue to suffer in an endless cycle of pain and poverty.



### Crisis in Mozambique

- An estimated **2.2 million people** are living with HIV/AIDS.
- **54,000** people die from HIV/AIDS each year.
- **0 – 14-year-olds** make up an estimated **44.52%** of the population.
- **More than 2 million** children are malnourished.
- **22% of children** have to work to support their families.
- **46% of the population** falls below the poverty line.

*Many children have been left orphaned by the HIV/AIDS crisis and have nowhere to go.*



“I had to drop out [of school] because my mommy died. I had to do all the jobs that my mama was doing to feed us. I have to do the gardening, I have to fetch the firewood, I have to fetch water, I have to go with my brother to carry the reeds so that we can sell them and buy food.”

**A YOUNG ORPHAN GIRL IN MOZAMBIQUE**





## Ministry Description

Because of their poverty, young people in this region often fall prey to malnourishment, illness, premature pregnancy, alcoholism, and drug addiction. They are also lured into dangerous sects. The Sisters of the Precious Blood want to defend the young against these threats and secure their hopes for the future. Concerned by the plight of Mozambique's orphans and vulnerable children, the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood have followed through on their motto, "pray and work," by creating the Impaputo Daycare Center.

The Center is a place where desperate children can enjoy a hot meal, get educational support, receive help with basic needs such as hygiene products, and receive spiritual edification. The Center provides daycare and kindergarten for young children, after-school tutoring for older children and even vocational training in gardening and animal husbandry to prepare these disadvantaged children for a better future. With the addition of fun activities such as traditional dance, embroidery and educational games, this is a chance for children to develop well-rounded minds and a positive outlook.

Meals at the Center include breakfast, lunch and a snack, which, for many, is the only food they will have all day. As part of their initiative to support the whole community of Impaputo, the sisters also pass out baskets with rice, sugar, laundry soap, beans and peanuts to needy families twice a month. By providing simple meals and supplies, the sisters give much-needed stability to overwhelmed parents and guardians.

The sisters also believe it is important to teach the children how to maintain proper hygiene, such as washing their hands before meals and keeping their clothing clean. To do this, they provide soap and a laundry facility — things normally unavailable to impoverished households. These simple measures prevent a plethora of communicable diseases. A health worker from a local clinic also comes to monitor each child's health and well-being to ensure they are receiving proper nutrition.

Finally, to satisfy their spiritual needs, the sisters provide catechism classes, reinforce Catholic moral values, teach the children how to pray, and encourage their participation in the holy Sacraments.

This experience can set Mozambique's children on the right path to ultimately escape the cycle of poverty. Won't you help us make this experience possible for more children in dire need?



*The Center helps to keep poor children off the streets.*



## Answer God's Call to Save the Poor Children!

The AIDS pandemic has devastated thousands upon thousands of families in Mozambique, and its most innocent victims are children. Cross Catholic Outreach has partnered with the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood to reach these children with hope for a brighter future, but we can only succeed with your help.

Only by working together can we rebuild the lives of children and families devastated by AIDS and other disasters, like drought. By supporting our efforts, you can ensure the Impaputo Daycare Center remains part of the solution. You can help the sisters keep the Center open and strengthen it.

The Bible tells us, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

The sisters have answered God's call to take care of these precious children, and our support is essential to make that possible. When you support our efforts to help pay operational expenses for the Center, including funding meals, hygiene products and transportation, you are helping countless orphans and vulnerable children and villagers with God's hands on earth. Won't you join Cross Catholic Outreach in answering God's call to care for "the least of these" today? Working together, we will make a difference!

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### 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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