



Orphans and Vulnerable Children

— Worldwide —



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.

JAMES 1:27



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

Through this project, you will equip Catholic ministries in developing countries to provide nurturing care for vulnerable children who have been orphaned, abused, neglected or abandoned.

Purpose

To serve as Christ's hands and feet, sharing God's love with precious children by meeting their immediate needs and preparing them for a brighter future.

Our Partners

Catholic children's homes and ministries that share our vision of Christ-centered outreach.

Location

Developing countries around the world.

Highlights

- In the world today, there are approximately 153 million orphans — children who have lost either one or both parents (UNICEF). There are also countless children living in abusive or neglectful situations.
- Hungry, hurting and alone, these little ones are at risk of slipping through society's cracks. Without proper care, many poor children take to life on the streets, where they often fall prey to dangerous influences and additional abuse.
- In developing countries around the world, priests, brothers, sisters and lay missionaries have devoted their lives to rescuing vulnerable children. They are expending every effort to provide these children with a better life; however, with limited funding and resources, their ministries face many challenges.
- Your generous gift will empower merciful Catholic missions, ensuring their ability to provide loving homes, nutritious meals and quality education, as well as counseling and Catholic spiritual formation, for children in need.
- By nurturing these children in mind, body and spirit, you will not only meet their immediate needs but also help them heal from emotional wounds and pursue the vibrant life that God has planned for them!





The Need



Throughout the Scriptures, our Heavenly Father’s compassionate heart for orphans is revealed in powerful ways. In Deuteronomy 10:18, he “executes justice for the orphan.” In Psalm 68:5, he is described as the “Father of orphans.” And in Isaiah 1:17, he commands his people to “seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan.”

Over and over again, God’s concern for these vulnerable children is emphasized, and he commissions his Church to share his love for these little ones by protecting them from harm and by helping them reach their full potential.

In today’s world, this mandate leads us to address the needs of 153 million orphans worldwide — children who have lost one or both parents to disease, famine, violence or various other tragedies. It should also inspire us to care for the many boys and girls who are part of families but still suffer from abuse or neglect. They too are lonely, hungry and hurting, and in many cases have no one to care for them.

Examples of this need can be found in developing countries around the globe. In Maputo, Mozambique, for example,

the HIV/AIDS pandemic has wreaked havoc on thousands of families, leaving many children sick and alone. In Cochabamba, Bolivia, extreme poverty creates dysfunction and despair for some families, leaving children vulnerable to abuse and abandonment. Elsewhere as in Ewuaso Kedong, Kenya, some young girls are still subjected to harmful ritualistic practices such as female genital mutilation and early child marriage.

We believe God wants all these hardships addressed — and he wants to use us as the instruments of those positive changes. We are to protect, comfort and nurture these vulnerable children, and restore hope in the process. In Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Catholic dioceses and ministries are in an excellent position to meet the needs of at-risk boys and girls in their communities. These servants of Christ simply need our financial support to accomplish their goals.

Seize this opportunity to empower them! Join Cross Catholic Outreach’s ongoing effort to provide food, shelter, medical care, education, counseling, and the blessed assurance of God’s love to the world’s orphans and vulnerable children in need. Serving together, we can break the grip of poverty on young lives and open new pathways to a brighter future.

Orphaned Children Worldwide

- The world has about 153 million orphans comprising children who have lost either one or both parents. Of these, about 15.1 million are double orphans — children who have lost both parents.
- Among the continents, Asia has the highest number of orphans (61 million). Africa has the second highest (52 million). Latin America and the Caribbean have the third highest (10 million).
- HIV/AIDS has orphaned 14.9 million children worldwide.
- Ninety-five percent of all orphans are over the age of 5.

Source: UNICEF, World Health Organization



Ministry Description

In James 1:27, we learn that “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans ... in their distress.” To answer that call, Cross Catholic Outreach partners with compassionate ministries that address the urgent needs of vulnerable children in developing countries all over the world.

Our ministry partners intimately understand the unique challenges at-risk boys and girls face, and they are passionate about sharing the healing love of Christ with them. With your help, they can transform the lives of vulnerable children by providing:

Loving Homes

Several of the ministries we support serve as homes, with round-the-clock caregivers who maintain a loving home for orphans and children removed from unhealthy living situations. With support from donors like you, these ministries can rescue children out of danger and prevent many from growing up on the streets. They can provide warm beds and give little ones the security of growing up in a nurturing Catholic environment.

Nutritious Meals

Many impoverished families, especially single-parent households, struggle to earn enough income to provide full, regular meals. Without proper nutrition, orphans and vulnerable children are at risk of both physical and cognitive stunting, as well as anemia and other various health issues. In order to help these children grow healthy and strong, we work to support children’s homes and feeding programs that provide hearty meals for hungry children. We also fund shipments of donated Vitafood, nutrient-enriched meal packs that are specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs of malnourished children.

Medical Care

Poor families in developing countries are often unable to access medical care, either because they cannot afford it or because their remote villages are simply too far from the nearest health facility. If a child has special needs, harmful stigmas and superstitions could also prevent him or her from receiving necessary care. By funding ministry to orphans and vulnerable children, you ensure that many will receive preventive care, physical therapy, basic surgeries and other lifesaving support.





Quality Education

Education is the key to setting young people free from poverty. It restores dignity to children and helps them achieve their goals later in life. Tragically, vulnerable children often miss out on this important advantage. Many of their parents struggle to provide food and other necessities, so they are rarely able to afford tuition, uniforms, books and other supplies. With your help, devoted Catholic ministries can send children to school, provide helpful tutoring and encourage students to pursue God's plans for their lives

Professional Counseling

Many of our partners work with children who have been traumatized by grief, abuse or neglect. Often, these children doubt their self-worth and question whether anyone cares for them. By providing professional counseling, compassionate ministries will be able to help these young people work through the wounds of their past. They will equip them with healthy coping strategies and set them on the path to mental and emotional healing. If the child has existing relatives, several ministries also offer parenting classes and will work to reunite families when it is in the child's best interest.

Catholic Spiritual Formation

Cross Catholic Outreach makes it a priority to support ministries that bless children with a strong program of spiritual formation. Our partners recognize that this gift is just as important as food and shelter, so they provide catechism, teach prayers, encourage regular Mass attendance, conduct meaningful Bible studies, celebrate feast days and engage in other meaningful spiritual activities. In this way, orphaned and neglected children come to know their Heavenly Father, who will never leave or forsake them.





At Creamos Home for Vulnerable Children in Cochabamba, Bolivia, Dr. Maria Teresa Losada and her staff provide a loving home for the city's most vulnerable children and work with the government to create healthy long-term solutions.

A Glance at Our Ministry Partners

Cross Catholic Outreach wants to bless orphans and vulnerable children by strengthening faithful ministries in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua and other developing nations as needs arise. Some of the ministries we support are:

Association Cross Mozambique | Mozambique

In Mozambique, thousands of children have lost either one or both parents to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and many are battling the virus themselves. Association Cross Mozambique is devoted to providing holistic support for these orphaned children, strengthening them with proper nutrition, medical care, scholarships and boarding homes for students.

Creamos Home for Vulnerable Children | Bolivia

In Cochabamba, Bolivia, Creamos Home for Vulnerable Children works to rescue infants and children under 5 from infanticide, abuse, abandonment and other difficult situations. This year, we are working with donors like you to help pay the home's staff and provide 30 children with shelter, food, clothing, medical care, proper hygiene and the procurement of legal documents to secure the children's rights as Bolivian citizens.

Marie Adelaide Girls' Rescue Center | Kenya

At Marie Adelaide Girls' Rescue Center, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary are striving to provide young ladies in Ewuaso Kedong, Kenya, with safe refuge from female genital mutilation and early, forced marriage, which are still considered traditional rites of passage among some Maasai tribes. With our help, the sisters can guarantee nutritious meals, basic health care, spiritual counseling, skills training and an education for 13 girls in need.

Cross Catholic Outreach is committed to supporting these lifesaving works of mercy — but we need your help! Your generous gift will provide precious little ones with everything they need to recover from the past and get their very best start in life.



Give Now

Cross Catholic Outreach believes the best way to address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children is to strengthen compassionate Catholic ministries serving in their communities. These local missions know the unique situations the children are facing, and they have developed sound plans to address those challenges.

All they need is our support to succeed.

Join us in empowering these Catholic ministries. With your help, they can reach out to defenseless boys and girls who have no other place to turn for support. With your gift, they can provide protection, food, shelter and hope for a better future.

Your gift will also show these children God loves them and wants to see them grow to their full potential.

Please — step forward now and affirm God's compassion for orphans and vulnerable children by empowering the Catholic missions committed to their care. Your donation will make it possible for those ministries to provide the meals, education, spiritual formation and loving support these children so desperately need.

Through your compassionate gift, you can set them on the path to hope and healing!

The helpless commit themselves to you; you have been the helper of the orphan.

PSALM 10:14

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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