



Espwa Housing

Provide Safe Homes for Poor Families

— Les Cayes, Haiti —



Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

ISAIAH 58:7



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 the construction of at least 10 sturdy homes for poor families in the community.

Purpose

To provide safe, reliable shelter for homeless families in Haiti, giving them the opportunity to live hopeful and productive lives.

Location

The rural area near Les Cayes in southern Haiti.

Cost

\$72,000 will supply the building materials needed to construct at least 10 new family homes and repair existing houses.

Highlights

- Cross Catholic Outreach partners with Pwoje Espwa to reduce homelessness in Haiti.
- Haiti is plagued by illiteracy, low graduation rates and limited jobs. Many families can't afford to pay rent, causing them to accept terrible living conditions or turn to a life on the streets.
- If Pwoje Espwa's housing program is not supported, rural families will continue to suffer in unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Homelessness robs families of stability, and parents have little hope to provide for their loved ones and escape generational poverty.
- Your contribution will help Espwa's housing ministry build one- or two-bedroom, sturdy, concrete homes with solid zinc roofs, strong enough to withstand inclement weather.
- Parents who receive new homes will be in a great position to address other priorities, such as providing meals and education for their children.





The Need

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, and life there is a daily struggle. The level of illiteracy is high, malnutrition is rampant, and steady, well-paying jobs are almost impossible to find. Most Americans seeing the poor's living conditions firsthand would call them tragic — if not horrific.

Housing is a particularly serious problem. Those poor families who are not homeless typically live in dilapidated shacks or makeshift shanties made from mud, sticks and scraps of metal. Others rent small rooms or share a crowded part of another family's flimsy house. It is not uncommon for 10 people to cram into a one-room, crumbling hut to sleep on a dirt floor. And because rusty roofs leak, children often suffer from illnesses — adding yet another hardship for families with no way to pay for medical treatment.

For these struggling families, a simple storm can have the impact of a hurricane. One strong gust of wind can bring an entire house to the ground. And unfortunately, in Haiti's tropical climate, actual hurricanes are always a possibility. In Haiti's South Department, for example, many families lost their cobbled-together houses in Hurricane Matthew's aftermath.

“When the hurricane hit, our house collapsed,” Durena Leger, a survivor of Hurricane Matthew recalled. “We went to a neighbor's house. It collapsed. Then we went to another neighbor's house, and it collapsed too.”

As they battle this seemingly never-ending barrage of threats, Haitian mothers and fathers pray for something more for their children. They know a sturdy house could serve as a foundation upon which to build a better life, but they see no path to that improvement. That's why Cross Catholic Outreach is teaming up with Pwoje Espwa in Haiti's South Department to provide safe shelter to poor families. We know the incredible impact a home can have, and we are determined to spread hope in struggling Haitian communities. Please — help us share Christ's love by providing a sturdy house to those who need one most!



Ministry Description

Pwoje Espwa is a well-established ministry providing food, shelter, education, medical care and the love of Christ to thousands of poor families in the Les Cayes, Haiti, region. Espwa's housing ministry has been particularly successful, moving families from dilapidated shacks to safe housing year after year.

Benefiting families are selected through an application process to ensure those with the most need are being served. Preference is given to families with children, or families with children living at Espwa's orphanage — since a new house gives them the opportunity to reunify and strengthen their familial bonds.

Espwa builds one- or two-bedroom, sturdy, concrete homes with solid zinc roofs, strong enough to withstand inclement weather. Some families are not in need of a completely new house, but their house needs immediate repairs that they wouldn't

be able to afford otherwise. In either case, participating families are required to help with the construction process, contributing sweat equity to develop a sense of personal ownership and pride.

Home recipients are introduced to the hope of Christ through compassionate Catholic supporters who open their hearts to those in need. Families in need are welcomed into a safe, dry home and come to understand there is a God who cares about their needs — physically and spiritually. With each new home, families receive a renewed sense of dignity and self-worth — empowering them to break the generational cycle of poverty. Will you join us in this important work?

BEFORE



AFTER





Your Compassion Will Answer Prayer!

Join Cross Catholic Outreach in empowering the wonderful work of Pwoje Espwa in Haiti's South Department!

With your financial support, Pwoje Espwa can build safe and sturdy homes for 10 or more poor families in desperate need. The blessing of safe housing will benefit these precious people for years to come, giving them a new start, renewed hope, and the stability they need to thrive.

Please, help us answer the prayers of families currently living in destitution. End their worries about having a leaky roof over their heads. Spare their children the dangers and illnesses that living in unsafe housing produces. The new home you help provide will represent much more than a set of sturdy walls and a roof. It will be provided by a Catholic mission and bolster a family's faith in God.



What an incredible gift to give. A gift of God-given dignity. A gift that sparks new dreams. A gift that strengthens faith — leaving an eternal impact on the poor! In taking to heart Jesus' call to care for the "least of these" in our world, you will be helping once suffering families achieve their dream of safe shelter for their children.

Please — act now!

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

MATTHEW 25:40

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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