



# Friendship Home

## Hope for Destitute Children

— Manila, Phillipines —



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



## **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 residential and community outreach center providing hope to impoverished children in urban slums.

## Purpose

To provide nourishing meals, inspiring educational support and Christ-centered spiritual formation so at-risk children can discover their God-given gifts.

## Our Partners

Friendship Home, a mission of the Amigonian Fathers and Brothers.

## Location

Malate (an impoverished area of metropolitan Manila) and Puerto Princesa City.

## Cost

**\$48,000** to cover the mission's expenses for a year.

## Highlights

- Friendship Home is a response by spirit-filled Catholics to the tragic reality of children growing up in squalor.
- It is both a residential home for children with nowhere to turn and a community outreach center for children from destitute families.
- The Catholic ministry provides educational support, nutritional programs, health care, recreational opportunities and — when needed — safe shelter.
- The brothers and priests emphasize prayer and spiritual formation for children and their families.
- Cross Catholic Outreach has committed to funding this life-changing ministry for the coming year, but we need your help!



*The Friendship Home provides opportunities for children to build self-confidence and friendships.*



*Families have little room to move in their one-room street-dwellings.*

## The Need

Our Lord certainly doesn't want his children living in cramped shacks on the squalid, filthy streets of Malate — but sadly, this has been the fate of Reyanne Cabia-an Ramos.

The 13-year-old girl and her family are crammed into a place so tiny and rundown that it would be misleading to think of it as even a basic home. In fact, it barely qualifies as a shelter from the elements. The one-room shack is one of many that line the streets. Thought of as street-dwellings, they are unsuitable for even the smallest family. It has no bathroom, and it sits near open sewers, a polluted canal and piles of street garbage. As a result, a stench hangs like a malignant fog over the place day and night.

To make matters worse, Reyanne's family is paying \$30 in rent each month for the privilege of living there, making it difficult for them to afford other necessities, including food for the children.

While \$30 for rent may not seem like a large expense, that is not the case. The economy in the developing world is far different from what most Americans would expect or experience. For example, Reyanne's mother has a job as a helper at a private school – but only earns \$2 a day. Others are even less fortunate. Those families literally live on the crime-ridden streets, huddling at night under tarps or behind scraps of wood for protection. Tragically, children can even be found facing these terrible situations on their own. Malate is home to a large number of street children who are orphaned or abandoned by their parents, and sadly, many turn to gangs for acceptance when no other options are available.

Fortunately for Reyanne, she has a mother who believes in her future and will work hard to provide her with security and opportunities to grow. The Church wants to play a role in this too — and you can support their efforts! **By empowering the Friendship Home, you can help give Reyanne and children like her a path out of poverty.**



## Ministry Description

The vision for the Friendship Home comes from the words of Jesus — “Which one of you, having 100 sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the 99 in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4).

Brother Luis Ortiz has been living out that parable since 1991, when he founded the Friendship Home. Only, he is not searching for lost sheep but for children who are lost in the hopeless wilderness of urban despair.

Society has been willing to ignore the children living in Manila’s slums, but Brother Luis and his fellow Amigonian Fathers and Brothers believe in the childrens’ potential. To break a cycle of illiteracy and poverty, Friendship Home incentivizes extremely poor children and youths, ages 8 to 21, to stay in school, earn their diploma and even go to college.

### **The ministry serves 100 students by:**

- Covering the prohibitive costs of uniforms and school supplies.
- Providing academic tutoring and homework assistance.
- Leading field trips.
- Providing a nutritious breakfast and lunch.
- Performing health screenings.
- Offering spiritual retreats and faith formation.
- Requiring students to participate in enrichment and accountability services.



*Brother Luis talks with children inside the Friendship Home.*

With such support, these children certainly are not lost sheep any longer. They are a Christian community. The older students tutor the younger students, and everyone must help cook, clean and maintain the facility.

Some of the boys — those in the most desperate circumstances — live on-site, while the rest are encouraged to pursue a healthy family life at home. Brother Luis engages the parents through home visits and adult Bible studies, so the nurturing environment of Friendship Home can be replicated beyond its doors.

Some students do so well that they qualify for full scholarships that are available at a local Catholic

college, De La Salle-College of St. Benilde. But even those who don’t pursue college have benefited by developing the skills, motivation and character to break free of the cycle of poverty.

With your generous gift, our brother and sister Catholics can continue to show children who are hidden away in Manila’s slums that they are never lost in the eyes of God.



## Help Now!

Brother Luis pours out his heart and soul each day so children can begin to believe in a brighter future. And they do. They believe in themselves, in a loving God and in a life beyond the slums.

Help Brother Luis keep this successful program moving forward. Your support will fund this life-changing outreach for the coming year, bringing help and hope to families who don't have the resources to properly feed or educate their children.

At this time, in their hour of need, the Lord will not ignore them — and neither should we. Cross Catholic Outreach wants to make a firm commitment to providing Brother Luis and his compassionate team with the resources they need to continue reaching out to the “lost sheep” of Malate, but we need your support.

Your gift will provide the green light Brother Luis needs to keep his outreach operating for another valuable year. It will also show the children and families who feel lost in the poverty-ridden slums that there is hope and a path to a different, brighter future. Join us in this work of mercy today!

**“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”**

MARK 9:37

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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, 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.

2700 N. Military Trail • Suite 300 • PO Box 273908 • Boca Raton, Florida 33427-3908

**800-914-2420 • CrossCatholic.org**

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