



Vitafood Meals for the Hungry

— El Salvador —



Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

JOHN 6:35



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 send nutrient-rich Vitafood meals to Fundacion Una Mano Amiga for the feeding of the hungry through a network of schools, elderly homes, church ministries, medical clinics and hospitals.

Purpose

To address serious hunger problems among the poor, strengthen local Catholic missions, and demonstrate Christ's love for the powerless and vulnerable.

Location

El Salvador, a Central American country known as one of the world's most dangerous places.

Cost

Our goal is to send about 2.4 million meals to El Salvador at a cost of \$135,000. Every dollar sends 18 meals!

Highlights

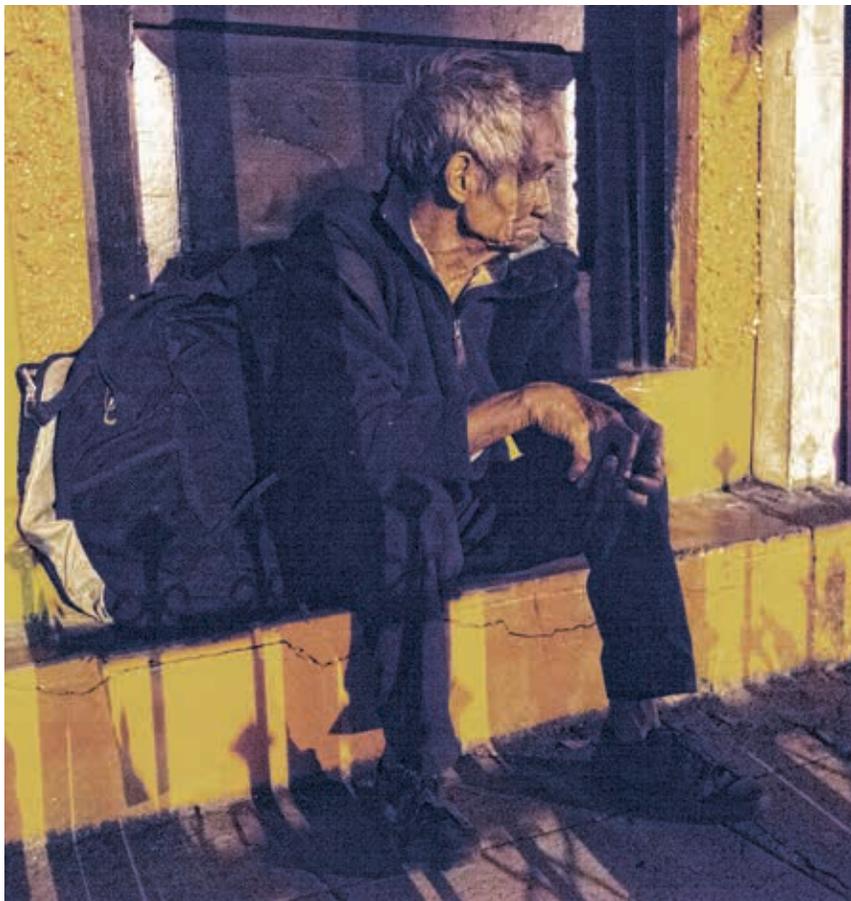
- Cross Catholic Outreach has been given access to millions of nutrient-rich meals — we just need the funds to ship them to feed the hungry!
- These fortified rice meals, called Vitafood, are loaded with vitamins and minerals and are specifically designed to energize, strengthen and improve the health of malnourished children and families.
- The meals are sealed in airtight packets to maximize shelf life and fit as many as possible in shipping containers.
- Your generous gift will help send Vitafood meals to Fundacion Una Mano Amiga, a Cross Catholic Outreach ministry partner with a distribution network of over 100 entities all throughout the country.
- These meals will prevent hunger while supporting schools, elderly homes and other programs reaching El Salvador's most vulnerable.
- Please give today to end the hunger pangs of Christ's poor and fan the flames of hope in El Salvador!



You can equip the Church to feed poor Salvadoran children.



The Need



Many of El Salvador's elderly end up on the streets, not knowing where their next meal will come from.

Jesus made it clear — he loves children dearly. When he walked the earth, he called them to himself, praised their faith, and, in Matthew 18:6, spoke condemnation on anyone who might cause one of them to stumble. What, then, would he say if he saw how some of them are forced to live on the streets of El Salvador?

Surely he would call on his disciples to come forward, address their needs and restore their hope.

In El Salvador, there's much work for the Lord's disciples to do. In that densely populated Central American country, far too many children grow up without necessities or the opportunity to escape that poverty. Surrounded by drugs, crime and violence, young boys are often forced to join gangs or be killed. Girls face a future of exploitation. Gang members are known to offer a tragic choice — become “a girlfriend,” be raped or risk death.

Caught in the crossfire of two notorious rival gangs — MS-13 and 18th Street — a tragic number of these vulnerable kids see no way out. Two out of three never attend high school, and even those who do achieve some form of education face an uphill battle to find work. In El Salvador, the economy is weak and job growth is hindered by violence and corruption.

El Salvador's hunger problem might not make headlines as readily as a gang war, but it is just as real. Roughly 11% of children under age 5 suffers from stunted growth, while elderly men and women with no one to care for them end up on the streets, not knowing where their next meal will come from (UNICEF).

Our Lord sees the hunger of El Salvador's poor, and he wants them to know his love. He wants them to experience his tender mercy through the caring hearts of friends like you. That's why we're asking for your help today. We can help change this desperate situation, but only with your help.

El Salvador at a Glance

- El Salvador is the smallest and one of the **most densely populated** country in Central America.
- 29% of Salvadorans fall below the national poverty line.
- **14%** of Salvadoran children under age 5 suffer stunted growth.
- At about 52 murders per 100,000 inhabitants, El Salvador has one of the highest homicide rates in the world.
- Crime and violence reduce job opportunities, leaving many families unable to find formal employment.
- Sources: UNICEF, World Bank.



Ministry Description

The Response: Vitafood

To combat El Salvador's hunger crisis, Cross Catholic Outreach has a simple but effective plan: Vitafood.

This fortified rice product, specifically designed to energize, strengthen and improve the health of malnourished children and families, can be packed in large shipping containers and cost-effectively sent to Catholic schools, orphanages and other local partners serving the poorest of the poor. A single container can make a big impact, keeping crucial feeding programs running or providing immediate relief when disasters strike.

Vitafood is an extremely flexible resource. It comes in several different varieties and can be prepared with additional spices or ingredients to suit local tastes. No matter how it is prepared, its nutritional value remains the same, providing the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber, fat and carbohydrates that a child's hungry body needs. This tried-and-tested formula is suitable for more than just severely malnourished children. These meals are also important to the health and physical well-being of children and adults who are healthy but at risk of becoming malnourished.

What's more, because Vitafood meals are donated to us by respected faith-based organizations, we only need to cover the cost to ship the meals to the hungry. This means that **for every dollar you give, about 18 nutritious meals can be sent to El Salvador!**

What is Vitafood?

- Vitafood is a fortified rice product loaded with vitamins and minerals and scientifically designed to energize, strengthen and improve the health of malnourished children and families.
- Because the Vitafood meals are donated to us, we only need to cover the cost to ship them to the hungry.

Your generosity will help make that happen!



How do the Meals Get into the Hands of People Who Need Them?

Vitafood is packed into 40-foot containers, placed on a cargo ship and sent to international ports. Once the shipment arrives at its destination, our staff relies on a global network of trusted partners to get these products into the hands of priests, nuns, Catholic schools and orphanages who pass them on to needy families in impoverished communities.



Our El Salvador Partner

Our Vitafood distribution network in El Salvador is managed by a dedicated and capable ministry partner called Fundacion Una Mano Amiga.

This ministry was originally founded about a decade ago to reach young people and families affected by the country's increasing violence. But as founder Jose Carlos Marrochi began to work, he was overwhelmed by the full depth of the need, which extended to issues ranging from hunger to medical care to inadequate housing. Eager to serve those in need, Jose turned to Cross Catholic Outreach for material support.

Today, with support from Cross Catholic Outreach, Fundacion Una Mano Amiga distributes aid to a countrywide network of over 100 partners that depend on its help. This includes, for example, Comedor Mama Margarita, a feeding center run by the Salesians to help the homeless of San Salvador.

The center provides breakfast and lunch every day to 40 seniors, along with spiritual nourishment in the form of 30-minute devotional/Bible study times before each feeding.

These outreaches can impact lives in profound ways, but the need for nourishment is enormous. **Your gift toward Cross Catholic Outreach's Vitafood program will ensure that Fundacion Una Mano Amiga and its compassionate partners are able to satisfy the hunger of the poor.**



This school depends on Cross Catholic Outreach's Vitafood meals distributed through Fundacion Una Mano Amiga.



Hearts for the Poor

“When I distribute the aid to the people many of the them respond with tears of gratitude and share with me that they prayed for assistance that morning, because that is all they could do. I do not tell them that this (Vitafood) is from Fundacion Una Mano Amiga, or Cross or FMSC. I tell them that this is from my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and He loves you.”

~ Jose Carlos Marrochi, founder of Fundacion Una Mano Amiga.

Vitafood Distribution in El Salvador

 **FOUR** Medical Clinics and Hospitals

 **TWELVE** Church Ministries

 **NINE** Schools / Children's Centers

 **EIGHT** Elderly Homes



With your support, millions of meals will reach the hungry!

Help Now!

Cross Catholic Outreach is eager to satisfy the hunger of El Salvador's most vulnerable populations. We want at-risk children to receive the nutrition they need. We want the elderly and the poor facing a medical crisis to be comforted and cared for. Millions of meals are available for distribution to missions serving these people, but we need donations to fund the shipment of this food.

That's where you come in!

Your generous gift will send nutrient-rich Vitafood to Fundacion Una Mano Amiga so that schoolchildren, the elderly and other people in vulnerable circumstances can get relief from hunger. That includes the homeless being served at the Salesians' Comedor Mama Margarita, as well as children and adults suffering from cerebral palsy and in need of care provided by HOPAC, another Fundacion Una Mano Amiga partner.

The need for intervention in El Salvador is great, but God's mercy is greater — and the Spirit of Christ compels each one of us to carry that mercy to the vulnerable. **Please help us reach our \$135,000 goal so that an incredible 2.4 million meals can be sent to the children and families who need them most.**

Please — be an answer to prayer! Provide food for the hungry in Christ's name!

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

PROVERBS 22:9

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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