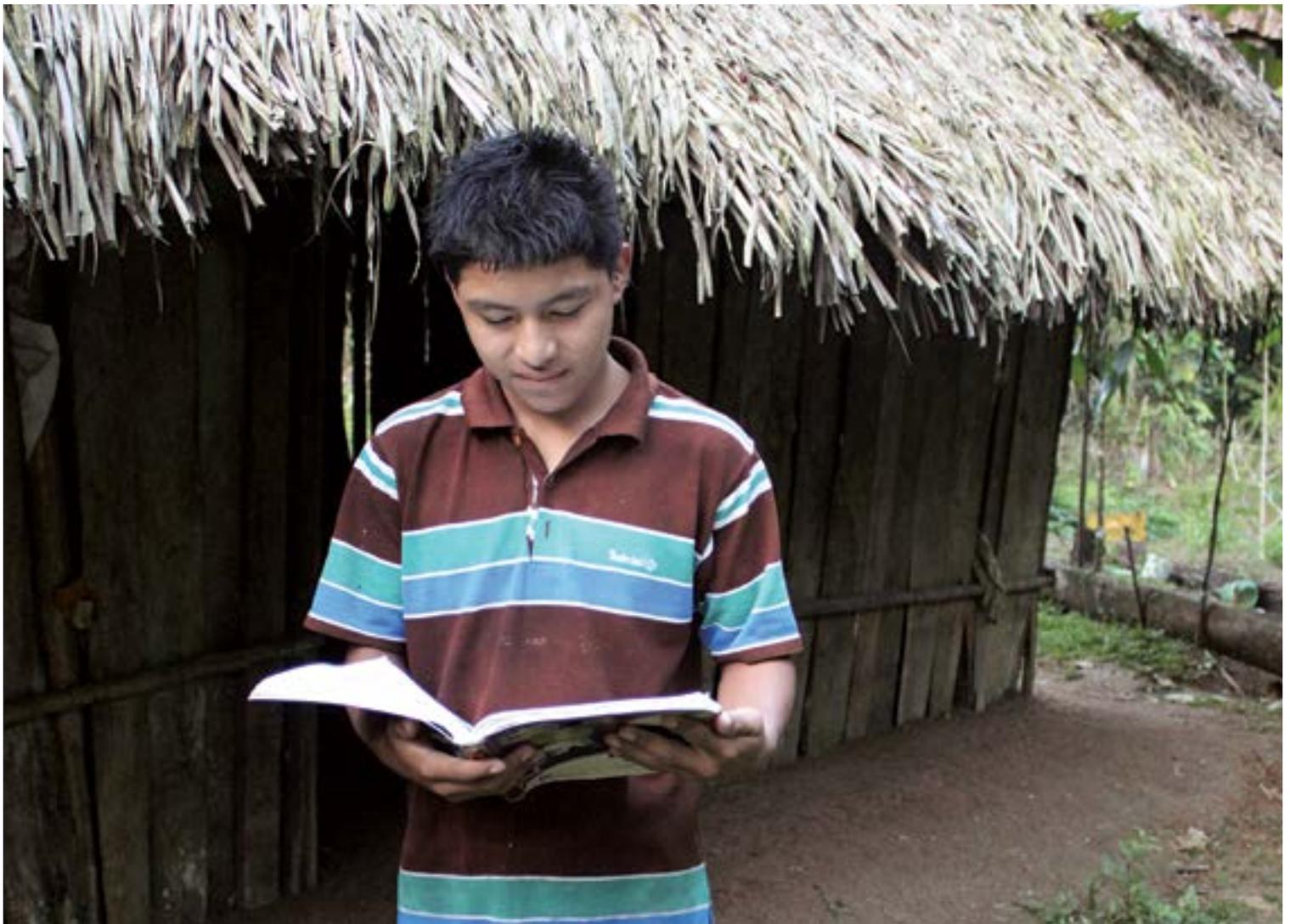




# Support for High School Students in the Toledo District

— Punta Gorda, Toledo District, Belize —



And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to you.

JAMES 1:4-5



## **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 school-associated fees, such as uniforms and books, for 30 needy high school students.

### Purpose

To empower disadvantaged high school students, helping them successfully graduate and break the cycle of poverty.

### Our Partner

The Pallottine Missionary Sisters.

### Location

Punta Gorda in the Toledo District of Belize.

### Cost

**\$2,220** will cover the cost of uniforms, tuition, school supplies, books and registration fees.



*Diplomas and awards for students graduating from Corazon Creek Technical High School.*

### Highlights

- Since their arrival in 1913, the Pallottine Sisters have been faithfully serving communities in Belize by spreading the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and providing education, medical care and life skills training to the poor.
- Their recent successes include support for 28 young students to continue with high school, enabling the students to one day support themselves and their families.
- This year, the sisters want to provide much-needed school supplies and cover registration fees for 30 high school students who need the support to continue their education and rise out of poverty.
- The sisters will assess each family's situation to determine the extent of their financial need.
- The students will have to pass their exams and submit satisfactory grades as a means of showing their school progress.
- All books will be returned to the Novitiate Nazareth at the end of the school year for future use by other needy students.
- The sisters will encourage spiritual, physical and emotional progress of the students and encourage them to give their service to the church, attend youth retreats and assist the elderly in their community.

**“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”**

**Matthew 25:35**



## The Need: Financial Assistance for Disadvantaged High School Students

“I live in a thatched house with five sisters and five brothers and it is hard for my father to pay my school fees because he is sick,” 16-year-old Benjamin Coc explained.

Though Benjamin is not sure what specialized employment he will pursue, he understands the importance of finishing high school and remains dedicated to his studies. In 2017, he was awarded a scholarship from the Pallottine Sisters and is working hard to show how much he appreciates the wonderful help he’s received. “Without their help, I don’t know if I could have continued on with school.”

For desperately disadvantaged students like Benjamin, attending and finishing high school can be extremely challenging. Those who live in the “the forgotten district” of Toledo, as he does, face even more hurdles. A shocking 79% of that area’s population lives below the poverty line and most rely on subsistence farming, surviving on a diet of rice, beans and corn when crop yields are good. Because of this, malnutrition impacts more than 40% of the district’s kids.

Attending school doesn’t come easy either. Most boys and girls from the area face a rigorous, lengthy trek to reach one of the high schools in larger cities, and the costs of an education create additional roadblocks. Poor parents recognize the value of an education, but the added expenses of uniforms, registration fees, books and other supplies are simply beyond their means. As a result, their children typically drop out of high school — and that keeps families trapped in a cycle of generational poverty.

Like many other parents in the forgotten district, Benjamin’s mother and father want a brighter future for their kids, but they see no clear path to success without outside assistance. They want to improve their sons’ and daughters’ opportunities — something more than subsistence farming for daily meals. But where do they turn for help?

We believe a solution is possible and that Catholic ministries can provide that solution. Please add your support and help Benjamin and his siblings realize their dreams of escaping poverty for a better life!



*Benjamin Coc*



## The Ministry: The Pallottine Sisters Lend Students a Helping Hand

The Toledo District stretches from low-lying coastal lands to the Maya Mountains. The civilization of the Mayans once flourished there, but today, poverty and dependency have established a stronghold in the area, and that tragic turn continues to be perpetuated by poor infrastructural development, a lack of leadership to guide

the youth and social stigmas facing the indigenous population. In the realm of education, teachers face additional daunting challenges, including a lack of resources and economic conditions that create multigrade classrooms.

The Pallottine Missionary Sisters came to the area with a calling to focus on evangelization and education of the poor, and in their more than 100 years of service, they have gained respect and admiration from the community. They were even celebrated with a commemorative stamp in their honor on the 100th anniversary of their service in Belize.

Cross Catholic Outreach has a long history of supporting the Sisters' various missions and routinely shares stories of their successes and

challenges with its donors in the U.S. We believe their thoughtful, loving approach to serving others should be celebrated — *and supported* — and we are working hard to provide them with the resources needed for their most recent outreach.

A majority of the Pallottine Sisters serving in Belize are retired educators, and they make it a priority to help the area's poorest families with textbooks, uniforms, tuition and other school-related needs. Sister Tush, the director of the scholarship program, makes sure everyone knows they are welcome.

When poor students come for assistance, the sisters meet with the student's family to assess their situation firsthand. Once a legitimate need has been verified, the students bring the sisters a book list and they purchase those they don't have in stock. Sr. Tush never gives them money directly. If they need their tuition or books paid for, she pays but sometimes leaves the price tag on the books so the students know someone else had to sacrifice for that money.

The Pallottine Sisters keep the students accountable by collecting information on their progress by checking on their report cards and whether they passed their exams. The purpose of this project is to help the students break out of poverty. For the sisters, that is the dream, because then they can help themselves.

Please support the Pallottine Sisters by giving generously to their educational outreach today. Your gift will sponsor uniforms, tuition, school supplies, books and registration fees to the children who need help most!





## Help Us Now!

Improving access to quality education plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of poverty that plagues poor families. In “the forgotten district” of Belize, where poverty has gained a stronghold, we can push back, offer opportunity and create positive change.

Thirty children from poor families are relying on the Pallottine Missionary Sisters to help them finish school — and the sisters are relying on us to empower that outreach! They cannot carry out this important ministry alone. The support of warmhearted Catholics like you is necessary for their plan to succeed.

At Cross Catholic Outreach, we consider it an honor and a privilege to partner with the Pallottine Missionary Sisters at the Novitiate Nazareth, and we hope you share our enthusiasm for their mission. Join us in giving students the tools to finish the school year and move on to the next grade or graduate. The stakes are high because our support can mean the difference between poverty and prosperity for a motivated student like Benjamin!



*High school students at graduation.*

**“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”**

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:7**

### **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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