



Diocese of Mandeville Micro-business

Long-Term Help for the Poor

— Jamaica —



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

HEBREWS 13:16



Executive Summary

Description

Hindered by a lack of job skills and an economy that provides few opportunities for gainful employment, the poor living in rural Jamaica often struggle to earn a living. What little they make barely covers more than the cost of food, so few families are able to send their children to school, and this setback usually traps another generation in poverty. Catholic leaders in the Mandeville Diocese don't believe temporary handouts are a reasonable solution, so they are pursuing longer-term self-help strategies to help local families. Among their practical approaches, they want to provide struggling families with chicks and the supplies to raise the young birds so they can be sold in markets and to local businesses. With the profits from the initial sales, families are then able to buy more chicks, building a business that will sustain them for years to come. Instead of chicks, some families are provided with goats, pigs or cows. Others who have learned a trade but can't afford to purchase the tools needed to perform their work are supplied with sewing machines, manual lawn mowers or electrical tools. Having tested the strategy and found it successful, Bishop Persaud now wants to expand the outreach — and he is counting on you to help him. With your support, he can respond to the economic hardships common in rural Jamaican communities and enable those families to lift themselves out of poverty.

Purpose

To empower families by helping them start micro-business that will restore their dignity and allow them to earn income for food, educational and medical expenses, and more.

Location

The Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica.

Cost

\$36,000

Highlights

NEED

- Economic hardships trap families in poverty, but the support of new and established micro-businesses can free participants from poverty and break the cycle of poverty.
- Families can survive by farming, cultivating livestock and engaging in vending activities, but they typically don't have the startup investment needed to get these simple endeavors up and running.
- Startup materials needed include livestock and feed, sewing machines, farming or gardening tools, seeds, stock for a small vending business, baking equipment, and cooking supplies.

IMPACT

- Recipients become self-reliant, providing income for themselves, their families and eventually their communities.
- Those involved in this mission work will also be blessed by a church community led by Sister Hellen Kisolo, from the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi. She conducts regular support meetings, where participants talk about their challenges and offer praise to God for this opportunity.





The Need: Poverty in Paradise



Cecelie with her son.

a daily struggle. She receives a small stipend from the government welfare program, but it has not been enough to ensure the children are properly fed and educated and receive adequate medical care.

Thousands of poor families in Jamaica share Cecelie's challenges, and those who do not live near tourist-supported areas of the country often struggle most. These rural families typically live in simple one-room houses and often lack sufficient food, clean water and other necessities.

Relying on God's provision, the Diocese of Mandeville wants to do more to help families like these, so it is working on outreaches that create long-term change for families. Through their micro-business program, Cecelie received a supply of chickens to raise and sell. She selflessly gave her first profits from the venture to her daughter for food and living expenses to use as she pursues an education. This, she hopes, will eventually help lift her entire family out of poverty. Cecelie now feels more hopeful and optimistic about her future because she has a steady source of income.

As you can see, the diocese's micro-business program has the power to transform lives, but it can only be offered to local families through the compassionate contributions of donors like you.

The Lord knows there is more to Jamaica than clear, blue water and soft, sandy beaches. His keen eyes see the poverty hidden in the countryside, and he feels the hopelessness of the poor. As he listens to the prayers of the needy for relief, his spirit moves us to take action.

The early apostles understood this, and the Bible reveals the way they felt Christians should approach such situations. For example, in James 2:15-16 we read: "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?" James understood that feelings of sympathy must be followed with practical solutions.

Consider the hardships faced by Cecelie, a single mother struggling to raise her three children and a disabled grandchild. The roof of their dwelling leaks when it rains, and putting food on the table became



Help Now!

Please help us empower the the Diocese of Mandeville so it can continue — and expand — this wonderful outreach to poverty-stricken parents. In doing so, you will show the poor how much both you and God care!

By contributing toward Cross Catholic Outreach’s goal, you will enable families to create a business that will make them self-sufficient for the first time. Each family will receive the chicks, feed and vitamins they need to start their business, as well as the training and prayer support to make it flourish. As you take this step of helping in faith, we believe the Lord will multiply the impact of our sacrifice, blessing impoverished Jamaican families in a profound way.



With your help, the Diocese of Mandeville’s entrepreneurship program will bring hope and God’s mercies to the poorest of the poor!

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Good Stewardship

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. These detailed accountability measures have earned us ongoing accreditation by the following organizations:



The Chronicle of Philanthropy
The nonprofit world's No. 1 news source

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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