



# **ANCOP Housing**

## Answering the Cry of the Poor

— Sorsogon, Philippines —



Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11



## **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 build homes for families living in abhorrent, hazardous conditions.

## Purpose

To provide material and spiritual blessings to poor families, restoring their dignity and offering them hope for a better future.

## Partner

Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP) is the humanitarian arm of Couples for Christ (CFC), a Vatican-recognized lay organization that is devoted to “bringing Christ’s transforming love to the poor.”

## Location

Sorsogon, Philippines.

## Cost

**\$120,000** to build 22 houses.

## Highlights

- Impoverished families in Sorsogon have suffered the devastating consequences of urban poverty and repeated natural disasters. As they struggle to find permanent, affordable homes, most end up living in dangerous, leaking shacks that offer little protection from the region’s frequent storms.
- In addition to providing families with simple, sturdy homes, ANCOP works to bring about long-term community transformation through spiritual formation and proven social development programs.
- Beneficiaries will contribute by investing time and unskilled labor throughout the construction process. They will also participate in a 12-week Christian Life Program in order to strengthen their faith and establish a community built on Catholic values.
- Since 2006, Cross Catholic Outreach has helped ANCOP build hundreds of homes for needy families and funded operational support for their successful social development programs. Your support will extend this blessing to men, women and children who remain in crushing poverty and need to know the hope we have in Christ.



*Poor families in the Philippines often live in leaking, tumbledown shacks.*



## The Need

Years have passed since Typhoon Reming left its catastrophic mark on the Philippines, but many destitute families in Sorsogon are still reeling from its impact. For those who lost nearly everything, escaping extreme poverty has become nearly impossible because additional setbacks have prevented them from gaining any ground. Tropical storms, volcanic eruptions, and rising costs make it very difficult for families to afford basic necessities, let alone improve their dismal standard of living.

Left without any means of securing suitable homes, these poor parents often resign themselves to raising their children in one-room shacks pieced together with bits of wood, corrugated tin and plastic tarp. For those living in these precarious positions, every storm threatens destruction, and families become vulnerable to vermin and intruders. Depending on how bad a plot of land they occupy, these homes also put boys and girls in the position of playing in garbage-strewn streets or near open sewage trenches, and many are left with little hope of ever attaining a better life.

Under these demoralizing conditions, it is easy for men, women and children to succumb to despair, seeking solace or “opportunity” in crime, gambling or substance abuse.

***But it doesn't have to be this way!*** Through compassionate intervention and the support of local Catholic ministries, dejected families **can** escape this helplessness. They **can** break out of the brutal cycle of poverty that has kept them captive for generations.

We believe in addressing the integral human and spiritual needs of the poor through the Catholic Church, and we have proven this approach can revive neighborhoods and achieve sustainable success. Join us in this mission of mercy!

### Poverty in the Philippines

- 22% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- A majority of the poor reside in rural areas.

*Source: CIA WorldFactbook*



## Ministry Description

Determined to lift poor Filipino families out of abject poverty, Cross Catholic Outreach partners with Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP) — the Vatican-recognized humanitarian arm of Couples for Christ (CFC). ANCOP empowers the poor by working alongside them to build new homes and breathe new hope into their communities.

### New Homes

To begin the process of comprehensive transformation, ANCOP replaces dilapidated shanties with rows of safe, concrete houses. Once-filthy alleyways are also cleared of refuse and polluted water, allowing children to play in clean, organized streets. These improved neighborhoods not only increase residents' stability and peace of mind, but they instill a renewed sense of motivation and self-worth within their hearts.

### New Hope

While new homes provide families with a physical shelter, ANCOP's spiritual formation and social development programs offer residents the biblical foundation and fellowship they need to maintain their new material blessings for generations to come. Beneficiaries are required to participate in CFC's 12-week Christian Life Program in order to build their faith and foster values such as respect, compassion and regard for the environment. Upon completing the program, couples are invited to join CFC and meet with other members in the community for weekly prayer meetings. They also gain access to medical clinics, vocational training and government-sponsored livelihood seminars.



ANCOP's methods have proven successful in more than 100 countries around the world, but many families in the Philippines are still in need of their life-changing support. By linking arms with Cross Catholic Outreach, you can provide 22 struggling families with beautiful new homes.



“We are dealing with people who need spiritual and physical maintenance. The houses are the physical component. The spiritual component is to maintain [the people] with pastoral values teaching. The goal is to make these communities sustainable.”



**RUDY GASPILLO, PRESIDENT AT CFC ANCOP**



## Help Now!

As Pope Francis once told the U.S. Congress, “There is no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for the lack of housing” — and yet, many families in the Philippines have never known the security and dignity of living in adequate homes. Instead, their days have been characterized by hardships and uncertainty.

***That is why we are calling on concerned Catholics like you to join us in offering a human solution to this pressing issue. You can help us meet the needs of our poorest brothers and sisters in the Philippines.***

Your generosity will help build sturdy row houses for 22 families living in substandard conditions. Each home will include plumbing and electrical wiring, and beneficiaries will contribute unskilled labor in order to keep costs low and develop a stronger sense of responsibility for their new community.

With new homes, families will finally have a safe place to raise their children and work toward escaping the cycle of poverty. With spiritual formation and effective social support, hearts and minds will be transformed, and families will discover a living hope that fosters sustainable growth. Please — share the mercy of Christ with those in desperate need and help build a legacy of lasting change in Sorsogon.

***Together, let's build a brighter future for those families that need hope most!***

---

### 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**

 @CrossCatholic  @CrossCatholic  @CrossCatholic  /CrossCatholic  Blog.CrossCatholic.org