



# St. Ann's Home

A refuge for abused and abandoned girls

— Georgetown, Guyana —



If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

PSALM 27:10



## **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.



## Executive Summary

### Description

The Ursuline Sisters provide a loving, nurturing home and a stable environment for abused and neglected girls.

### Location

Georgetown, the capital city of Guyana.

### Cost

**\$26,400**, or about **\$1,257 per girl**, helps meet the daily needs of the **21** girls at St. Ann's Home.

### Highlights

- St. Ann's Home in Georgetown, Guyana, provides shelter and love for girls who have been orphaned, neglected or abandoned by their families.
- At St. Ann's Home, the Ursuline Sisters ensure that the girls are nurtured, well-fed and protected from the dangers of the streets.
- With your help, Cross Catholic Outreach will provide for the daily needs of the girls at St. Ann's Home, so they can continue to thrive in a nurturing, loving environment.



And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

HEBREWS 10:24



## The Need

### A Tainted Fairytale

Guyana's landscape is a gorgeous mix of rainforest, mountainous waterfalls and beautiful beaches. With various ethnic influences, largely Afro-Guyanese and Indo-Guyanese, the South American country's cultural fusion and visual appeal paint a pretty picture far from the country's poverty-ridden reality.

Despairingly, about one-third of the Guyanese population lives below the poverty line. The country's economic woes aggravate political tensions, contribute to the spread of HIV and perpetuate the world's highest emigration rate. As educated and skilled professionals flee the country, the population left behind lacks the leadership and the opportunities that might improve their lives. This state of despair, which frequently leads to substance abuse and suicide, is especially evident among indigenous groups surviving on the margins of society.

The most innocent victims of Guyana's poverty are the children. Among them are the abandoned, abused and neglected girls brought to the doorstep of St. Ann's Home. While American girls dream of princesses and fairytale weddings, these girls have dreamed of having food to eat and a safe place to stay. Some have been dumped in the streets, others removed by police from physically or sexually abusive parents. In one case, a child was deserted in an airport when her guardian left the country.

Forsaken or mistreated by those responsible for building their self-esteem and shaping their hearts and minds, the girls arrive broken and afraid. But with your help, the Ursuline Sisters at St. Ann's will accomplish their loving mission of transformation: "When these girls leave, they will be responsible Christian citizens who will contribute to society, care for others and break the cycle of abuse that they were accustomed to."





## Project Description

### Gracious Advocates

Established in 1851, and now one of only 23 total orphanages in Guyana, St. Ann's Home is a refuge where the Ursuline Sisters exude Christ's grace and shower his love over each child in their care. Like fairy godmothers, these women of faith intervene in dark times to bring about a miraculous change.

At St. Ann's Home, the sisters strive to provide a nurturing and stable environment where at-risk girls can grow spiritually, physically, academically and socially. Currently, the sisters house 21 girls ages 4-18 who have come from throughout the country. Cross Catholic Outreach provides operating funds for the home to maintain a well-rounded upbringing for the girls until they reach adulthood.

There is no corner cut in this holistic program. The home touches every facet of a well-rounded life. Four nutritious meals per day ensure their physical health. Academic support ensures the girls have a chance at a future that is free from poverty. Social activities and skill development in the home instill valuable life management skills, including cooking and sewing classes for self-sustainability, and daily chores reinforce a strong work ethic.

As the sisters build these broken vessels back up with divine encouragement and support, they also take responsibility in grounding the girls in faith and filling their spirits. The children attend weekly Mass, pray regularly, and end each night with spiritual instruction and the Rosary.



**She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.**

PROVERBS 31:20



## Help Now!

For many of the girls living at St. Ann's, this is the only real home they have ever known. Here, they are loved, protected and nurtured. They are given a whole new family in the Catholic faith: a Heavenly Father, a Blessed Mother and a worldwide community of friends like you.

It takes a lot of work, sacrifice and patience to meet the needs of 21 disadvantaged girls under one roof, and it cannot be done without the help of other compassionate Catholics. This ministry is a group effort; it takes a village!

By joining with Cross Catholic Outreach, you can help us provide for the daily needs of neglected, abused and orphaned girls at St. Ann's Home. Through your generous gift, the girls will never be deprived of basic necessities such as food to eat, clean clothes to wear, warm beds to sleep in and a safe place to live.

Cross Catholic is committed to making a positive, long-lasting impact in the lives of at-risk girls, but we can't do it alone. Their future depends on your support. Give a gift today, so these precious young girls can live in safety and dream big!

**Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.**

PROVERBS 31:25

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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.

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