



# **St. Ann's Home**

## Scholarships for Abused and Abandoned Girls

— Georgetown, Guyana —



For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

PSALM 71:5



## **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 provide individually tailored scholarships for girls who have been neglected, abused or abandoned.

### Purpose

To make it possible for disadvantaged girls to receive a quality education and someday escape the cycle of poverty.

### Location

Georgetown, the capital city of Guyana.

### Cost

\$21,818 will help provide scholarships for 16 girls. It will also cover examination fees and purchase textbooks for all 26 girls living at St. Ann's Home.

### Highlights

- St. Ann's Home provides a safe and loving environment for vulnerable girls who need a place to live.
- The philosophy at St. Ann's is that education is the key to escaping poverty. Unfortunately, many of the girls have not attended school in the past and require special attention in order to catch up with their peers. For that reason, the Ursuline sisters who run the home try to send each girl to the school that best fits her academic and developmental needs.
- In addition to providing food, shelter and an education, St. Ann's provides solid Catholic spiritual formation. Girls develop rich relationships with Christ as they attend Mass, participate in daily prayers and prepare to receive the Sacraments.
- Cross Catholic Outreach is committed to supporting this life-transforming ministry by providing scholarships and setting the girls up for future success — *but we need your help!*





## The Need



To grow something healthy and strong requires the right resources and environment. Children are no exception. Like flowers that wither when the soil is barren and water is scarce, young boys and girls never flourish in unstable homes where love is withheld.

Unfortunately, those poor conditions are exactly what many impoverished children face, and as a result, many never blossom into stable, self-sufficient adults.

The situation is especially heartbreaking in Guyana, where the government has few resources with which to support its vulnerable populations. In that land of marshy jungles — where large portions of the country are only accessible by canoe — the anguished cries of too many abandoned and runaway children are going unheard and unanswered. Cases of abuse, malnutrition and teen pregnancy are extremely prevalent, and young people are struggling to find hope without anyone to protect or guide them.

Imagine your own children in that terrible position — feeling no one sees their pain, never knowing they have value and are precious to God. No boy or girl should have to endure such a life.

Thankfully, God's faithful servants in the Catholic Church are aware of these needs, and they have a plan to rescue suffering little ones from this unfathomable rejection and pain. At St. Ann's Home in Georgetown,

Guyana, the Ursuline sisters want to offer a safe environment where poor girls receive the support they need to rise from the dust and reach for a future far brighter than their past.

***Your prayers, compassion and generous support will give them the resources they need to succeed!***

### Quick Facts

- Approximately three-quarters of Guyana's people descend from slave or indentured servant populations, and more than 35 percent of the entire population lives below the poverty level.
- For every 1,000 live births in Guyana, 31 children die before reaching age 5. In the U.S., that number is seven children for every 1,000 live births.
- About 28 percent of females aged 15 to 24 are unemployed, as compared to the national average of 21 percent for that age group. Overall, Guyana has the third highest unemployment rate in South America.
- More than 80 percent of Guyanese natives with a tertiary education emigrate out of the country, creating a "brain drain" and hampering the nation's ability to develop.

*Sources: World Health Organization, CIA World Factbook*



## The Ministry

Girls arrive at St. Ann's Home after enduring lifelong pain, and many are initially uncertain as they adjust to the idea of living in an unfamiliar environment — but over time, as the Ursuline sisters and their devoted staff provide consistent love and support, these wounded children steadily begin to heal. With proper physical, emotional and spiritual support, the girls start to understand their worth. And with a proper education, they start to discover their potential.

Education can be the key to escaping poverty, and that reality is not lost on Sister Claudiet Jones, the nun who runs St. Ann's Home. As a teacher at the only Catholic school in Georgetown, Sr. Claudiet knows that children will have a much higher chance of achieving success and stability in adulthood *if* they can graduate — but that goal comes with a significant challenge. Many of the girls who arrive at St. Ann's have never consistently attended school, and poorly resourced public schools are not equipped to provide special attention for struggling students. Discouraged and unable to understand their lessons, girls will fall even further behind unless they receive remedial help.

For this reason, Sr. Claudiet tries to send each girl to a handpicked school that best fits her academic and developmental needs. Private schools cost more, but they can provide the invaluable support that helps deprived children catch up in their studies. A hired tutor also visits St. Ann's every weekday to work with the girls one on one and reinforce their lessons. With time, girls who once dreaded schoolwork can become eager students who feel capable of achieving incredible things!

Cross Catholic Outreach is committed to supporting the life-transforming work of St. Ann's Home — **but we cannot do it without your help.** By providing scholarships and educational materials for girls in need, you can enrich their minds, grow their confidence and rescue them from the withering grip of poverty!





## Help Now!

The sisters at St. Ann's Home want to help abused and abandoned girls blossom into strong, capable young women of God. They want to fortify them by providing a life-changing education. They also want to feed them, clothe them, shelter them and provide the Catholic formation that reveals the truth of their identity in Christ.

Through these combined blessings, they are confident that girls who were once abused and abandoned will find the hope they so desperately need. They will be loved, nurtured and grow spiritually every day. They will be able to attend Mass, participate in daily prayers and prepare to receive the Sacraments, thanks to the transformative ministry that St. Ann's can provide.

***To provide this blessed assurance, all the sisters need is help from you. Please — empower their selfless mission. Help them develop a powerful ministry capable of unlocking doors to education and changing the lives of these children forever.***



The girls St. Ann's Home wants to help have experienced more tragedy in life than any child should have to endure. Pain and rejection threaten to kill their hope, but you can restore their optimism and provide them with a chance to grow and thrive.

Please, sow a seed of compassion today. Help the sisters at St. Ann's Home produce a bountiful harvest — not only in the lives of these girls, but in every life they touch from this day forward. Your support will help these girls succeed long after their time at St. Ann's. It will equip them to stand on their own and move forward with confidence. ***May God bless you for helping transform their lives!***

**“Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”**

MARK 4:8

### Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, 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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