



Cholle Kindergarten

Uplifting Poor Children

— Cholle, Ethiopia —



He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouts of joy.

JOB 8:21



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 a quality, Catholic education for very poor children.

Purpose

To provide 260 needy children access to kindergarten and to share the love of the Lord with them by responding to their physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

Our Partner

Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit.

Location

Cholle, Ethiopia, a poor rural town about 5 hours from the capital city of Addis Ababa.

Cost

\$24,000 will provide tuition for 40 children and salaries for 17 teachers and other supportive staff at kindergarten.

Highlights

- Cholle is a poor, rural town in the Gololcha Mountains. Its residents make a very humble living through subsistence farming, selling goods at small shops, and other simple activities.
- Ninety-five percent of Ethiopian children are unable to attend kindergarten without outside financial support.
- The Consolata Fathers and the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit want their Catholic kindergarten to provide for the educational and spiritual needs of the local children. If supported, its three-year kindergarten program will prepare the area's poorest children for primary school, helping them break the cycle of poverty.
- Parents are asked to pay a token fee equivalent to \$2.8 U.S. per month to have their children in the program. This gives them dignity as parents by allowing them to be partially responsible for their children's education. While this is part of the program, those who cannot pay are not turned away.
- In addition to receiving traditional education, the children are trained in good hygiene practices, learn manners and morals, and are exposed to the love of Christ through daily prayer.
- Cross Catholic wants to support the desperately poor young children of Cholle, but we need your help to make that possible!





The Need: Placing Poor Children on a Path to a Better Life

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge... ~Proverbs 1:7

Most American children enjoy a free public education. They also have opportunities to participate in sports and music and art classes. Sadly, few Ethiopian boys and girls know those blessings, and a tragic number will never attend a quality school or take part in organized activities that bring out their talents and creativity.

To fully understand this difference in opportunities, you must learn about the very different world most children are born into. In developing countries, where subsistence farming and cattle herding drive the local economy, poverty is common and a life of hardships is the norm.

Rather than waking up in the morning excited about what a new school day will bring, many of these children face a different fate. Most wake to chores or are in the fields and pastures before dawn, ready to engage in demanding physical labor. In Ethiopia, even small children may be expected to help make ends meet by working agricultural projects, and they also spend hours a day collecting water from distant wells or some other remote water source.

There is simply no time or money available for education.

Girls in Ethiopia are especially vulnerable to missing out on the benefits of an education. Most are kept at home to do chores and are expected to marry very young. Sadly, the culture has led some parents to consider it a waste of resources to give girls a quality education since it's believed their studies will have no impact on the family's future.

Fortunately, there is hope. The Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit run a Catholic kindergarten for the needy children of Cholle. They know that if children begin their education early, they will be much more likely to complete it and escape their impoverished circumstances.



Ministry Description: Quality Education for Needy Young Souls

Let the little children come to me...

The Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, the Consolata Fathers and the teachers of the Cholle Kindergarten have made a commitment to serving the young children in their rural community for another year and beyond.

The scriptural foundation for their passion to educate can be found in Proverbs 22:6 — “Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.” And as local parents begin to see the value of sending both their sons and daughters to school at a young age, cultural change for the better will become more and more possible. The foundational skills acquired in kindergarten will only be the beginning for these children. With this early start to their education, children will be less likely to be discouraged from attending school later on.

With your financial support, the Cholle Kindergarten wants to offer a three-year program to prepare children for primary school. Local boys and girls become eligible to attend once they turn 4, and they will be encouraged to stay on until they enter a primary school at age 7.

To position this program in a way that will encourage self-sufficiency and maintain the dignity of parents, the tuition is set to the equivalent of \$2.8 U.S. month. This small fee allows parents to contribute to uniforms and books for their children and feel a sense of pride in that accomplishment.

In the classroom, young children will take on many traditional educational tasks, such as learning the alphabet, numbers, shapes and colors — all important preparations for primary school. In addition to this, the boys and girls will be taught proper hygiene and manners.

The children will also be introduced to Catholic moral values that will be enforced throughout the day. The teachers hope to carefully instill these principles into their students, giving the children a firm foundation on which to build their lives.

Since Cholle’s main goal is to promote the education of children the school will address the needs of parents as well by organizing activities for them that provide a collaborative relationship and teach them the value of an education. The school will make special efforts to encourage girls, knowing that change can translate into a life free from poverty and discrimination in the future. And because Ethiopia has many economic and religious divides, children will also be taught how to reconcile relationships and forgive those who have wronged them.

Please — help Cross Catholic Outreach equip and empower the children of rural Ethiopia with the tools and opportunities they need to break free from generational poverty. The foundational education and the wisdom of Catholic moral teaching you help provide will make an incredible difference in their lives!

Getting a Head Start

In Ethiopia, children who complete primary school are 90 percent more likely to go to secondary school. This means the more kids become educated, the more they want to learn. That’s why primary education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty!





Train Children in the Way They Should Go!

The Bible clearly expresses the importance of educating children in the ways of the Lord. “Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth” (Deut. 11:19-21).

This is a blessing all children deserve, rich or poor.

Ethiopian children need our help to achieve and succeed. By supporting them with the gift of a solid education, you can help set their educational journey in motion. Please help the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, the Consolata Fathers and the teachers of the Cholle Kindergarten realize their dream of supporting this change. Your gift will help pay the tuition of poor children who can't afford schooling, help the program retain talented teachers, and other supportive staff for this important school.

With this priceless gift of education, the potential of these precious children will blossom like never before!

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.

2700 N. Military Trail • Suite 300 • PO Box 273908 • Boca Raton, Florida 33427-3908

800-914-2420 • CrossCatholic.org

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