Save Lives and Bring Healing
Restoring Health and Hope Through Catholic Medical Missions

According to the World Bank Group, half the world does not have access to essential medical services, either because people cannot afford those services or because they cannot reach them. Often, the world’s poorest families live in remote, rural communities located far from established hospitals and clinics. These families also lack access to other essential resources such as clean water, adequate food and safe housing — all of which weakens their immune systems. Under these circumstances, even minor infections and illnesses can evolve into life-or-death health crises if they are not treated on time.

You can be part of the solution to this problem by helping Cross Catholic Outreach equip merciful medical missions with the resources they need to heal bodies and souls in Jesus’ name. Stand with us today, and empower Catholic medical missions such as:

- Shipping medicines and equipment to support mobile medical clinics in rural Haiti.
- Providing treatment and long-term care for sufferers of Hansen’s disease (also known as leprosy) in Vietnam.
- Supporting therapeutic feeding and rehabilitation for children with disabilities in Ethiopia.

Read on to learn more about the powerful impact you can make by fueling medical missions through Cross Catholic Outreach.
How You Can Send Healing Through Cross Catholic Outreach

The Catholic Church has long prioritized medical ministries, and it serves as the largest nongovernment provider of health services in the world. Compassionate Catholic leaders believe they can only alleviate global poverty by also addressing the life-threatening health crises that so frequently afflict the poor — but many of their ministries lack the funding, medications and equipment they need to serve their communities.

When you donate to care for the sick through Cross Catholic Outreach, you provide support for the following:

1. **HOSPITALS, CLINICS AND MEDICAL STAFF.** Financial support is critical because it allows our in-country ministry partners to operate and improve their vital health facilities, pay essential staff, and reach remote communities with mobile clinics and health trainings.

2. **MEDICINES, SUPPLIES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.** Even when a poor community has access to a clinic or outpost, those facilities often lack the medicines and equipment to provide proper treatment. Cross Catholic Outreach helps by shipping these medical resources to our in-country distribution partners, who then deliver them to grateful Catholic hospitals, clinics, outposts and other medical ministries serving the poor.

Last year, Cross Catholic Outreach was able to provide 95 grants for medical outreaches in 16 countries, and we shipped about $298.2 million worth of medicines and medical supplies — all thanks to friends like you. Working together as the hands and feet of Christ, we are confident that we can extend the gifts of hope and healing to bless even more lives this year.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

- At least **HALF THE WORLD** does not have access to essential medical services.
- **94%** of women who die during pregnancy and childbirth live in developing countries.
- Health expenses push nearly 100 million people into **EXTREME POVERTY** every year.
- The poor are **3X** less likely to receive medical care than wealthier people are.
- Every **TWO MINUTES**, a child dies from malaria.

Sources: WHO, UNICEF, CDC
Located at the southwestern end of the Tiburon Peninsula, the Grand'Anse department of Haiti is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters — and, in turn, extreme poverty. Many families live in remote, rural communities that do not have access to basic infrastructure such as roads and electricity — much less adequate health facilities. By the time a patient reaches a hospital or clinic, the situation is sometimes beyond medical help.

“Many people have difficulties due to the geographical distance and do not have the chance to be treated,” Dr. Douger Jean Robert told us.

A Mother’s Difficult Journey

Wildine Zepherin, 38, is all too familiar with the challenge of seeking medical attention in Grand’Anse. She is the primary caregiver for her elderly mother and young son in the community of Enot.

When any person in Wildine’s community falls ill, they must travel to the city of Chambellan, which lies on the other side of a river. There is no bridge, so Wildine and her neighbors must wade through the water, carrying their children in their arms. If it has rained recently and the river is too high, they cannot reach the hospital at all. Even when they can, the cost of medical services is simply too steep for many poor families to afford.

“I ask God to give me direction,” Wildine said, “to protect my child, my family and me.”

Providing a Source of Hope

Thankfully, organizations such as Grand’Anse Health and Development Association (GAHDA) are striving to provide a solution for people like Wildine. GAHDA aims to strengthen Haitian communities by providing free, accessible health care; supporting skills development for Haitian health professionals; and empowering families with health education, animal husbandry programs and more.

Cross Catholic Outreach has worked with GAHDA to reach suffering communities with much-needed medicines and supplies. Following the 7.2-magnitude earthquake in 2021, for example, we airlifted 3,200 pounds of relief supplies, which GAHDA helped distribute to at least 17 rural health clinics. Such supplies were a godsend for sick and injured families — but more aid is needed. Without additional medicines, supplies and other resources, organizations such as GAHDA simply cannot address the overwhelming amount of need in their regions.
**Give Generously**

When you donate to support Catholic medical missions, you reach the world's sick and vulnerable families with both quality medical care and the loving compassion of Christ Jesus.

Your generous giving will bless ministries such as GAHDA with the funding and resources to treat wounds, cure diseases and bind up the broken-hearted through compassionate care. Please help us shine the light of hope and healing in Haiti and around the world today!

*Save lives and bring healing through Catholic medical missions.*

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**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.

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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, 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.

*Scan this code to give online.*

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