



Food for Life

Catholic Aid to the Destitute

— Georgetown, Guyana —



“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.”

LUKE 6:21



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.



A mother and daughter tend to the outside of an unstable shack. Tragically, this flimsy shelter is their home.

Project Synopsis

Description

This project empowers The Diocese of Georgetown, enabling it to provide a monthly food distributions to impoverished people in its area.

Purpose

To show God's love by preventing malnutrition among destitute families, disabled adults and the elderly.

Our Partner

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Location

Georgetown, Guyana.

Cost

\$31,200 to provide food and cooking supplies each month to 80 families — that's enough to feed 280 people for an entire year!

Highlights

- While many people live in extreme poverty in Guyana, it is the elderly and disabled who need Church support most.
- Parishioners of Immaculate Conception feel called to reach out in love to the destitute, and they have developed an excellent plan for distributing food. Your support will allow them to purchase the food and cooking supplies required for the outreach.
- The Food Hamper Distribution Program — also known as Food for Life — is poised to provide much-needed food supplies to those in greatest need.
- With your support, parish volunteers will be able to coordinate monthly distributions and make deliveries to the disabled and elderly who are unable to come to the parish.

Your generous gift enables caring Catholics to be the hands and feet of Jesus, offering encouragement and prayers in addition to much-needed food.



The Need



Regina Carrearo sees the Lord's hand in her receiving the food she needs to survive.

Regina Carrearo has lived in extreme poverty since her husband died eight years ago. Her home is a rickety shack with no electricity, and she often feels cut off from the rest of the community.

“Because I don’t have nobody, I lean on God,” the 73-year-old widow said.

And she is grateful the Lord has stayed by her side, and she sees a sign of his love in the faith-filled local Catholics who want to provide her with food and cooking supplies each month. Your support of the Food for Life will make that possible. Without it, Regina will not have enough to eat.

Tragically, she is not the only elderly Guyana resident in need of this love and support. Others live in extreme poverty too, and the program’s Catholic staff members are eager to address

those needs as well. In fact, they have already identified 80 individuals and families living in hunger and in serious need of nourishing food. Their priority is to serve three specific groups:

- **The elderly and disabled.** Most in this group live off meager government support and reside in shanties with no modern conveniences and little food. Regina struggles to survive on \$90 a month.
- **Impoverished families.** These are parents and children living in crowded urban slums. Most are crammed into one room with several people sharing a single bed. Because they are unskilled and uneducated, these parents work intermittent jobs for as little as 50 cents a day and are struggling to feed their children.
- **Rural farmers.** Without adequate tools and supplies, they eke out a subsistence-level existence. When the weather isn’t good and crop yields are down, these farmers suffer even more. The supplies of food are a lifeline, particularly when their small farms aren’t productive.

While the parishioners of Immaculate Conception have been called by our Lord to respond to these neighbors in great need, they can succeed only with your help!



Regina's grandsons play outside her home.



Ministry Description

Colleen Williams was overwhelmed when Food for Life volunteers stopped by her old, decrepit shack to offer encouragement. Why, she asked, do the parishioners of Immaculate Conception care so much about her family?

Richard and Rebecca, the parish volunteers, had a simple answer: They loved her and her sons. And so does God. Colleen broke down in tears.

Colleen has since told us that the food distributions will come at just the right time each month for her family. Without them, she admitted, she and her sons would likely run out of food.

Colleen works as a cleaner for a government office but doesn't have enough money to feed her sons or repair her house. Life has been hard since she got a court order to have her husband removed from the home after he became addicted to drugs and started abusing her.

"I have to keep steadfast with God," the joy-filled mother said. "You have to stay steadfast. No matter how far I fall, I rise up."

The humble parishioners of Immaculate Conception gladly accept the calling to feed their brothers and sisters, but they need our support. Even with discounts from distributors and donations from local merchants, they do not have the resources for such a large food distribution.

To provide food to Colleen and 79 other impoverished families identified as those in greatest need, Cross Catholic Outreach will need to help the parish cover food costs for the coming year. Your generous gift will make that possible. It will enable the compassionate local Catholics to reach out in love to their neighbors in need.



Colleen Williams shares a laugh with Richard, a Food for Life volunteer, who paid a visit to the humble home where she raises two sons.



A typical food distribution.

Quality Foods Nourish Body and Soul

The poor of Georgetown will benefit immensely from the simple but nourishing foods they will receive in their Food for Life hamper. The program will supply rice, flour, powdered milk, tuna, chicken, peas, corn, peanut butter and oil.

The parishioners running the program are eager to pour their hearts into this ministry and are already working to identify the recipients most in need and arranging distributions. Those who have already delivered food to the disabled and homebound feel blessed to be able to meet this urgent need.



May God Bless You!

The parishioners of Immaculate Conception are responding to the call of God in their lives, but they need our help! Your gift will enable them to feed 280 impoverished people each month and share an equally important gift — a tangible expression of God’s love.

Every time the recipients and volunteers come together at church for the food distribution, they will feel the loving presence of God. They look forward to rejoicing in prayer and song as givers and receivers are drawn together through a shared reliance on God. The same outpouring of God’s love will be expressed when ministry members visit with the homebound, raising their spirits and supporting them in a time of great need.

This outpouring of God’s love is critical to the poor, the lonely and the discouraged, but it can be accomplished only with our support! With your gift, you become one with your brother and sister Catholics and share in a ministry that brings God’s mercy to people living in extreme poverty.

“Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.”

PROVERBS 22:9

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

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

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