



FOR CHILDREN WHO WISH  
FOR **JUST ONE GIFT**

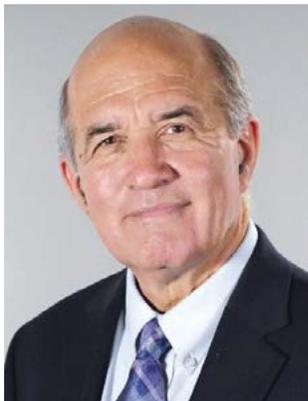
# Staff Bios

## CONTACT:

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## **Jim Cavnar** President, Cross Catholic Outreach



In 2001, Jim Cavnar and a small group of colleagues launched Cross Catholic Outreach to support parishes and ministries that directly serve the world's poor in their own communities. Under Jim's leadership, Cross Catholic Outreach grew from a fledgling enterprise to a Vatican-endorsed charity working in dozens of countries. Cross Catholic Outreach fights poverty more effectively by channeling hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and relief supplies through this grassroots network.

Previously, Jim served as executive director of a Christian relief and development ministry called Food for the Poor for eight years, helping build it into the fastest-growing major charity in the U.S.

After graduating from Notre Dame with a degree in theology, Jim worked in campus ministry at the Catholic parish at the University of Michigan and then helped found and lead an ecumenical lay community in Ann Arbor of 3,000 members, promoting evangelization and spiritual renewal nationally and internationally. Out of it grew Servant Ministries, an international mission organization and publishing company he helped develop and lead for 20 years.

**boxofjoy.org**

*Box of Joy is a ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach.*



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### **Michele Sagarino**

**Vice President for Development, Cross Catholic Outreach**



After graduating from the University of Maryland, Michele answered a calling to begin service for various charitable organizations, including Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Gateway Community Outreach and Food for the Poor. In 2004, she began working with Cross Catholic Outreach, and today, as vice president for development, Michele leads a team of 135 people. Together, this team mobilizes U.S. Catholics to fund food, shelter, water, Catholic education and spiritual development for children and families in developing countries. Her philosophy is to pursue long-term relationships with benefactors, serving as the link between their hearts and what God is calling them to do for the poor.

### **Sandi Pino**

**Sr. Director of Parish & Community Services Department, Cross Catholic Outreach**



During her tenure at Cross Catholic, Sandi has represented the organization at conferences, parishes, schools and community events. She has presented the mission of Cross Catholic during various television and radio opportunities. Sandi especially enjoys accompanying Catholic parish and school groups on mission trips to countries such as Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Haiti. Her past professional experience spans over 30 years and allowed her to gain expertise in business, fundraising and development, staffing, personnel management, sales, and budgeting.



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## **Tessie O'Dea**

**Relationship Development Manager of Parish & Community Services Department,  
Cross Catholic Outreach**



Tessie O'Dea started at Cross Catholic Outreach in July 2016 and serves as the relationship development manager for the Parish and Community Services Department. Tessie came to Cross after 19 years of parish ministry work at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church and School in Boca Raton, Florida.

She was born in Cuba and lived there until the age of 13, when she was able to immigrate to the U.S. with her family. After earning a bachelor's degree in medical technology, she moved to Washington, D.C., and worked in the transplant departments of both Georgetown University and the National Institutes of Health.

Tessie's love for the Lord and of service for others soon brought her to Cross Catholic Outreach. She shares the organization's vision: If all Christians around the world unite, we can overcome material and spiritual poverty. Most importantly, she believes that we, as Catholic people of faith, have the responsibility and ability to empower and mobilize each other, our families, and our faith congregations and communities to make this a reality.

When she is not traveling internationally with mission groups, Tessie shares the mission of Cross Catholic Outreach with Catholic churches, schools, groups and individuals who, like her, want to change the world for the better, spread the Catholic faith and transform the lives of the poorest of the poor around the world. She has been married to Tom for 29 years and has three grown sons, one of whom serves as a U.S. Marine.

To learn more, visit [boxofjoy.org](http://boxofjoy.org).

For interviews, contact Kevin Wandra at 404-788-1276 or [kwandra@carmelcommunications.com](mailto:kwandra@carmelcommunications.com).

Learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach at [CrossCatholic.org](http://CrossCatholic.org).

Based in Florida, Cross Catholic Outreach is an official Catholic nonprofit 501(c)(3) relief and development organization that, since its founding in 2001, has given more than \$1 billion in aid to help "the poorest of the poor" in more than three dozen developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and other parts of the world. For more information about Cross Catholic Outreach, visit [CrossCatholic.org](http://CrossCatholic.org) or call 800-914-2420.



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