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PROPOSAL

Cross Catholic OUTREACH

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

One Body in Christ

A Special Appeal From Our President, Michele Sagarino

— Worldwide —

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In Jamaica, Bishop John Persaud recovers a teddy bear from the wreckage of a preschool destroyed by Hurricane Melissa.

CrossCatholic.org/urgent-needs

Accompanied by Michele Sagarino, Kerry Ann responded with emotion as roofing materials arrived at her severely damaged home.

A Message From Michele Sagarino, President of Cross Catholic Outreach

Wrecked homes. Lost livestock. A destroyed school.

When I visited Jamaica following Hurricane Melissa, I certainly experienced heartache. My heart grieved for families living in homes without roofs. Some had lost all their chickens and goats and were surviving without income. Soggy teddy bears sat in the ruins of a preschool, never to be in children's hands again.

I was deeply saddened but not shocked. Most impoverished communities don't have the resources to protect themselves from such violent storms, and the October 2025 hurricane struck with wind speeds of 185 mph, tied for the strongest hurricane on record in the Atlantic Ocean.

But as I spoke with families, I saw something surprising emerge from their pain and suffering — hope. Hurricane survivors were deeply touched that so much love was flowing into their homes — and into their hearts. Neighbors helped each other. The east side of Jamaica brought urgently needed food to the west. And most incredibly, people from afar were helping survivors rebuild their lives.

I'll always remember the joy on Kerry Ann's face when roofing materials provided by the supporters of Cross Catholic Outreach arrived at her home. Tears spilled down her cheeks as she realized she could now protect her four children, especially her little baby, after fearfully living in a home where the roof had been ripped apart.

"Thank you so much," Kerry Ann said to our donors. "I have suffered so much. May your food basket never run dry. One day, my young daughter is going to say, 'How did you get this roof?' Do you know what I'm going to say? I'm going to tell her that the Lord gave us this."

Yes, the Lord gives us so much. He strengthens his followers with faith, hope and love so we can answer the pleas of Kerry Ann and so many others in urgent need throughout our world. As we come together as one body in Christ, he equips us to deliver material and spiritual blessings that transform lives.

Please join us! Your gift today ensures our ministry partners can bring God's mercy to more families when disaster strikes.

Your Gift Turns Despair Into Joy

Hurricane Melissa brought terror — and chaos — into the lives of Jamaicans, especially poor families living in makeshift homes.

"This one came with the force of 10 devils on her back," said Bishop John Persaud of the Diocese of Mandeville in Jamaica, our long-standing partner.

Kerry Ann will never forget the terror of that day. Her tiny tin house offered little protection for her three young children and newborn baby. Kerry Ann was so scared that she hid them under a mattress and tied a belt and some shoelaces to the violently shaking roof panels, hoping to hold them down.

Then she prayed: "No, Lord, not now. My children need me."

The roof blew away, but the family survived by running to a nearby home for protection.

Still, in the face of disaster, the people of God remained strong. Local Catholic ministries, supported by our generous friends, are rushing to aid Kerry Ann and other impoverished families whose lives were torn apart by the hurricane.

"I am filled with joy. We won't get wet inside the house anymore," Kerry Ann said as a diocesan team delivered new roofing materials to her home. With high-quality panels to cover her home, she won't have to rely on flimsy makeshift repairs.

More joy is coming her way too! The Diocese of Mandeville is adding this loving mother to its microbusiness program so she can start a home-based business buying and reselling clothes. Soon, Kerry Ann will have a sustainable source of income to buy food for her children. The ministry team also hopes to provide her with a sturdy concrete-block home once its focus shifts from relief repair to home construction.

This outpouring of love is only possible because of generous gifts to our urgent needs fund. **Your gift will bring healing and hope to families in crisis.**

Kerry Ann holds her baby in front of her vulnerable home. The roof had been blown away and covered with materials she could find nearby.

Church Ministries Restore Hope to Hurricane Survivors

Following Hurricane Melissa, our trusted ministry partners in Jamaica jumped into action. "We will build back better and even stronger," said Hope Salmon, a manager who oversees recovery efforts for the Diocese of Mandeville. "Our partnership with Cross Catholic [Outreach] allows people to rebuild their lives."

Here is how our partners are empowering families in Jamaica.

Michele shares a joyful moment with Diane Rose, who received 50 chicks that will help her restart her home-based farming business that was wiped out by the hurricane.

Diocese of Mandeville

- **Safe Shelter:** The diocese is on its way to helping 200 families repair their homes. This includes providing high-quality coated metal roofing panels and related materials, such as wood and fasteners.
- **Microbusiness Support:** The diocese restocked nearly 50 families who had lost farm animals or supplies for their home-based retail businesses. These families once again have a sustainable source of income.
- **Nourishing Food:** Vitafood, nourishing meal packs often assembled by U.S. parishes and Knights of Columbus chapters, are being distributed in Jamaica for the first time.

St. Theresa Kindergarten

Our ongoing support has enabled St. Theresa Kindergarten to continue serving preschool children. Friends like you help us fund teacher salaries, enabling the school to charge low fees and serve impoverished families. The compassionate care and instruction prepare young children for primary school and keep them safe while their parents earn much-needed family income.

Hurricane Melissa reduced the school's buildings to rubble, so lessons are being taught in temporary classrooms at the church. The diocese is developing plans to rebuild the school and replace the church roof, which is now covered by tarps. Our shipments of Vitafood have also been a welcome addition to school lunches during this trying period.

Hope Teaching Health Clinic

The ministry of the Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor is more important than ever following the hurricane's devastation. Our donors provide resources that enable these sisters from Asia to form a community in Jamaica and serve the poor. As community needs have increased, our support has helped the sisters expand their ministry and repair their damaged convent.

Among their outreaches is the Hope Teaching Health Clinic, which provides low-cost or free care to people of all ages. The sisters are now providing Vitafood meal packs to each patient to help keep them strong, and we are also providing shipments of urgently needed patient care products.

Meeting Urgent Needs Around the World

In addition to responding to hurricanes and other crisis situations, our faithful ministry partners address the urgent needs caused by extreme poverty. Here are two families rejoicing now that they are equipped to overcome immense challenges.

Nutritious Food Brings Good Health — and Smiles

Ariana's bright smile says it all — the nourishing food provided by our friends is keeping her and her brothers healthy, happy and full of hope.

Her family's life used to be much different. Sickness, sadness and despair were common before the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu initiated regular deliveries of Vitafood to their remote village in Guatemala.

With Vitafood, mealtimes become joyous events for Ariana and her family.

"Thank God, my children really love this rice meal. Sometimes, it's all we have," said the children's mother, Olivia.

She is amazed at how the children have responded. They have gained weight and have the energy to thrive in school. Although she and her husband, Euelio, are now providing three meals a day, it's still a struggle at times. Euelio earns just $13 a day laboring in local farm fields when he can find work.

"Without these meals, sometimes we would have to find another way to eat," he said.

A New Well Transforms a Child's Future

Clean water — and great joy — are now flowing in the remote Kenyan village of Lushangonyi. Generous gifts from our friends enabled our ministry partner to respond to the urgent need of local families by drilling a well that reaches clean water deep underground.

It is one of 197 community water systems installed by our partners last year to relieve the thirst of nearly 600,000 people. Good Samaritan Water Sanitation Services, led by Father Fabian Hevi, installed this well as part of the local parish's outreach.

"When we saw this project reach our village and our church, we said, 'Thanks to God,'" said Agnes, a mother now rejoicing that her young daughter, Aurora, will not endure a lifetime of hardships as she has. Since she was a young girl, Agnes spent two hours or more each day gathering drinking water from a distant river that is often murky and contaminated with animal feces.

Aurora will never know the burden of carrying large containers of dirty water from a distant river. The water she carries is fresh and clean, filled at her village's new water kiosk.

Your Gift Answers Prayers

Hurricane Melissa blew the roof off Winifred's home and killed the backyard livestock that had fed her family, but it could not sweep away her trust in the Lord.

"I am relying on prayers and my neighbors," said the elderly grandmother who provides for two young grandchildren and an adult son with a severe mental disability.

Our ministry partners certainly hear her cries and those of many others as they rise from remote villages and destitute urban neighborhoods worldwide. We know that our supporters in U.S. parishes hear those cries too.

Generous gifts from our friends enable priests, religious sisters and Catholic lay leaders to bring lasting change to suffering families. **Since 2001, Cross Catholic Outreach has provided more than $4.8 billion in aid to families in more than 90 countries.**

Soon, Winifred will be among those blessed by this kindness. Because of our generous donors, the Diocese of Mandeville has the resources to provide Winifred with another round of baby chicks and chicken feed so she can restart her livestock business. This selfless, hardworking woman will have a sustainable source of income to provide meals for her family and something she can't afford right now — diapers for her beloved son, who can say only his favorite word, "Momma."

Such blessings are possible only because friends like you unite with our ministry partners to live out our commitment to the Catholic principle of integral human development. As one body in Christ, we empower suffering families with blessings for the body, mind and soul so they can thrive.

We have seen the joy these blessings have brought to hurricane survivors in Jamaica, to hungry families in Guatemala, and to those seeking clean water in Africa. With your support, we will continue to transform lives like theirs all over the world!

A rainbow appears as Michele offers comfort and hope to Winifred, who is struggling to recover from Hurricane Melissa.

Benjamin's home offers little protection, but your support can help keep him safe.

Answer the Cries of the Poor

If we listen, we will hear the cries of the poor — like those of Benjamin. This young Guatemalan boy lives in a loving family, but his home offers little protection. He never knows whether a snake or scorpion is lurking under his bed. He fears dark clouds because storms shake his home's flimsy roof and bring a flood of water inside.

Pope Leo XIV asks that we open our hearts to those like Benjamin who contend with the perils of extreme poverty each day.

"In hearing the cry of the poor, we are asked to enter into the heart of God, who is always concerned for the needs of his children, especially those in greatest need," His Holiness said.

Our ministry partners worldwide hear these cries and are responding with the heart of God. Catholic leaders are ready to empower Benjamin's family with a sturdy new home and other families with clean water, nutritious food, inspiring education and many other blessings.

But these life-transforming programs can only reach impoverished communities with our support. Please give generously so God's tender mercies can flow to those afflicted by poverty, scarcity and disaster.

Together as one body of Christ, we can answer the cries of the poor.

Restore Their Hope Today!

$23,904 can help build new, safe homes for two families in need.

$19,159 can help bring safe drinking water to 782 people.

$11,952 can help build a new, safe home for a family in need.

$5,000 can provide 71,429 meals to hungry children and families.

Or donate whatever amount the Lord places on your heart. It will be greatly appreciated!

Cross Catholic OUTREACH

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

How We Serve

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving in developing countries. In addition to this being the most cost-effective way of helping our brothers and sisters in need, empowering these existing ministries also allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and leadership role in poor communities.

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, 2027, 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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