

2024 Giving Opportunity for the
Province of St. Paul and Minneapolis Council of Catholic Women

It Only Takes \$10,938 to Build One Home!



Marleny and her daughters are grateful for their new concrete-block home, built next to their old makeshift home. For the first time, they have windows, a proper door that locks and a cement floor.

The 2024 Province Conference is Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye. Melissa Kaufenberg, with Cross Catholic will be one of our speakers sharing her personal faith journey and her work involved with Cross Catholic. Cross Catholic partners with the National Council of Catholic Women doing good work for those in need. Let's be generous and present Melissa with a generous gift at our conference in June!

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Gift from our parish :\$ _____ Parish: _____ from the _____ diocese.

My individual Gift: \$ _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

*Please complete this slip and send your check payable to **Cross Catholic** to:*

Chris Heiderscheidt
26098 190th St
Sleepy Eye MN 56085

Sending funds in this manner allows tracking towards our goal. All donations will go to Cross Catholic.

Thank you!



The Morales family places plastic tarps over the thatched roofs of their home and outdoor kitchen to reduce the rainwater that spills inside.

Unsafe Housing Traps Families in Poverty

Unsafe Housing Traps Families in Poverty The grueling challenges faced by the families featured in this appeal are tragically common in Guatemala. **In fact, nearly 60% of Guatemalans live in poverty, with two-thirds of the population living on less than \$2 a day.** (CIA World Factbook and World Food Programme)

But there is hope! Through the gift of sturdy homes, the Church provides a lifeline so suffering families in remote villages can gain the foundation they need to escape the hardships of extreme poverty plaguing their communities.

This is particularly important to families that live in isolated areas because they have no other place to turn for help. Even though Guatemala's economy is the largest in Central America, those economic benefits simply do not reach the country's remote regions where most people live. This makes the Church the only reliable source of help when families face desperate situations.

The daily challenges of such poverty include:

- **Reduced crop yields:** Over the past three years, extended dry seasons have reduced crop yields, severely impacting the livelihoods of subsistence farmers, who rely on rain-fed agriculture to feed their families.
- **Surging Inflation:** Higher costs make it harder for families to plant much-needed crops. As the cost of fertilizer skyrockets, families can't afford it, so their crop yields decrease.
- **Malnutrition:** 47% of children under 5 in Guatemala are malnourished, one of the world's highest rates. (The World Bank)
- **Stunting:** Poor nutrition has led to stunted growth in 47% of children under 5, and the rate of stunting reaches up to 70% in the poorest regions. (World Food Programme)

For families living in makeshift homes, overcoming poverty without outside intervention is nearly impossible. Parents spend their limited resources on shoring up decaying walls and roofs, but their children still lack a safe place to rest and study. As a result, it is common for young boys and girls to fall behind in class and eventually drop out of school altogether.

By supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to build safe homes for the poor in Guatemala, you will be giving these families the boost they need to create a safe living environment and participate in the life-transforming outreaches of our in-country ministry partner.

Together, let's empower impoverished Guatemalan families so they can Rise Up With Joy!