

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 0518



Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Casa Bernabé (House of Comfort)

Home for Orphaned and Abandoned Children

— Guatemala City, Guatemala —



“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:40



We are a ministry

that mobilizes the global 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.





Project Synopsis

Description

This project will bring God's compassion to children located in a desperately poor region of Guatemala, by expanding a school that successfully prepares orphans and abandoned children for lives as adult Christians.

Our Partner

Casa Bernabé was founded 35 years ago by compassionate American Christians to care for orphaned, abandoned or abused children.

Location

On the outskirts of Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Cost

\$22,000 will allow Casa Bernabé to cover the partial salary cost of Christ-centered faculty staff.



Students are on their way to class, while a few stop to talk with Edgar Salguero, director of the home and a former resident.

Highlights

- Casa Bernabé is a Christian ministry that takes in orphaned, abandoned and abused children up to the age of 14 and ministers to them until they are 18.
- Its outreach includes education, health care, nutrition, counseling and dynamic worship services in an on-campus church.
- Children learn that they are valued children of God, develop personal relationships with Jesus and are prepared to be adult Christians.
- Parents from surrounding areas are eager to send their own children to this school filled with the love of God, thus creating an urgent need for teachers.
- Cross International is committed to moving quickly to fill this need, so that the school has the resources to welcome these children into God's loving embrace.



Children in need of Jesus



Jamie went from being an abandoned child to a spirited performer in church and civic plays.



Classrooms at Casa Bernabé are filled with eager, hardworking students.

Jamie's* favorite Bible character is David, because that heroic man of God taught him to rely on the Lord when he faces the giants in his own life. The most daunting Goliath that Jamie faced was unleashed when he was abandoned by drug-addicted parents and had to face life without a source of unconditional love and support.

But like David, Jamie triumphed!

Now 14 years old, he has committed his life to Jesus and found peace in the loving home of Casa Bernabé. Just as David became known for his worship of God through dance and music, Jamie discovered similar talents and is drawn to pursue service to the Lord as an actor and musician, playing the piano, guitar and drums.

While we celebrate the fact that Jamie's life has been changed by God just like his hero David's was, we are also challenged by the story because we know many more children are still in need of the blessings he has enjoyed. Guatemala is a desperately poor country, where more than half the population struggles to survive below the poverty line. The children there need to learn about the saving power of Jesus. They deserve an opportunity to discover their God-given gifts.

Thankfully, the Casa Bernabé Center wants to rise to this challenge and extend its mission by transforming the lives of other hurting children like Jamie. They feel the Holy Spirit is behind this call, encouraging the center to expand and open the doors of its school to children from surrounding neighborhoods.

Imagine the effect this Christ-centered education could have on the impoverished communities served by the school! Its contemporary teaching methods have already led to higher test scores among the current students, and the inclusion of its strong Christian programs make Jesus a key part of everyone's experience there. Adding additional Christian teachers and expanding its outreach could increase the ministry's impact even more.

This is where Cross International comes in. Because little or no tuition is collected from the poverty-stricken families whose children attend, the support of American Christians is desperately needed to hire these teachers. Help us fund this important expense, so children can learn, hear the Gospel and feel the love of Christ made manifest. Together, let's spread the Good News!

Bringing Jesus' Love to All

Jesus is everywhere at Casa Bernabé. Children there are immersed in a life of God-focused education, prayer, Bible study, worship and youth group activities. "From the time they come here," says Board member Donie Hernandez, "there's somebody to take them in, pray for them, love on them." Excellent language, math and science classes create a successful school, but Casa Bernabé becomes a Christ-centered home through "prayer, hope and hugs."

* NAMES OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN CHANGED THROUGHOUT TO PROTECT THEIR IDENTITIES.



Daniela shares a happy moment with Donie Hernandez, Casa Bernabé board member.

Smile! God loves you!

When you see pint-sized Daniela* flash her broad, infectious grin, you are witnessing the power of God's grace — her troubled past has been washed away by our merciful Lord.

Gone is the troubled expression of the child abandoned by alcoholic and drug-addicted parents. Anxiety and fear have been replaced by the warmth of God's love. This 11-year-old has been so transformed by God's grace that she can no longer be characterized as simply a resident of Casa Bernabé. She is one of the ministry's most dynamic missionaries.

Daniela takes her shining smile on visits to see sick children at hospitals and uses it to encourage abandoned children at other orphanages. She also joins other young Christians from the center in giving testimonies about the healing power of God, sometimes demonstrating her newfound joy by acting in plays, performing as a clown and walking on stilts.

Donie Hernandez and other leaders of Casa Bernabé understand her glee. They also delight in the Lord and want to share His love and hope with more children. The Lord has placed it on their hearts to open the Casa Bernabé Christian School to neighborhood children who may not be orphans but still need the loving embrace of God.

Founded by American missionaries in 1982, Casa Bernabé has always focused on extending God's love to hurting children. The ministry started small, but it has grown steadily to include a gorgeous campus and caring staff members.

Though hundreds of children have been rescued from dire circumstances in those years, Casa Bernabé leaders now feel called to bring God's healing love to local children who aren't residents of the center, and we need your help to make this ambitious plan a reality. Many more children are still leading difficult, poverty-stricken lives, and they need to hear the message that Daniela so joyfully proclaims — ***“Smile, God loves you!”***

“...For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a “future... “

Jeremiah 29:11



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Help Now!

The Lord still works miracles, and he often uses His faithful to bring about those blessings. At Casa Bernabé, He has created a ministry that receives despairing, frightened children and offers them a home filled with love, peace and hope.

The Center and its Christian School is so filled with Christ's joy that children from surrounding neighborhoods actually want to attend its daily classes too. And parents, seeing how the Lord has transformed the lives of Jamie, Daniela and other young residents, are eager for their children to participate. This is an opportunity for evangelism and mercy we must not ignore!

Your generous support will allow the Casa Bernabé Christian School to accept these local children and bless them with the love of Christ through the inspiration of solid, Christian teachers. Please join us in this mission of mercy. Together, we can empower the dedicated servants at Casa Bernabé to spread the Good News so more young children — and their parents — will find Jesus!

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Mark 9:37

Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2019, the close of our ministry's new 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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