

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECTS 0107, 0271 & 1167



Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Divine Shelter Schools (DSS)

Feed, Educate and Evangelize Poor Haitian Children

— Port-au-Prince and Rural Haiti —



“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

Matthew 18:5



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 help a network of 17 Christian schools nourish the bodies, minds and souls of more than 4,700 impoverished children.

Purpose

To spread the Gospel in word and deed by giving poor children the education and nutrition they need to excel.

Location

Port-au-Prince and rural Haiti.

Cost

\$33,685 per school is needed to cover 18 months of operating costs. In addition, **\$30,000** is needed to purchase local foods for all 17 schools, and **\$91,014** will fund the two-year cost of a summer feeding program.

Highlights

- The Divine Shelter Schools (DSS) reach poor Haitian children who might otherwise be deprived of an education and suffer severe malnourishment.
- Each school is affiliated with a local Christian church and combines an academic curriculum with Bible classes, prayer and Scripture memorization.
- Tuition is kept as low as a few dollars per month and is waived entirely for some of the poorest children.
- Cross International has partnered with DSS to ensure that the program is accessible to even the poorest families.
- Your gift to Cross International will keep DSS' doors open to thousands of needy children, so they can be nourished with meals, education and the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- Your support of daily school lunches, plus a crucial summer feeding program, means the students will have something to eat year-round.





The Need

You see them everywhere. Walking on rural dirt roads, coming out of mud-and-straw shacks, rushing along the sewage-sludged streets that line the Port-au-Prince slums — children in brightly colored school uniforms. Boys with shaved heads and girls with flamboyant braids carry backpacks between home and school, some traveling 2 miles or more each way for the privilege of attending classes.

Look closer, and you'll see that some of the uniforms are too small or are threadbare. Look closer still, and you'll notice other young faces in the shadows. Those are the children who couldn't go to school that day because their parents had no money to buy uniforms, textbooks or school supplies.

In Haiti, even the most impoverished parents understand the importance of sending their children to school, and they do everything in their power to educate their kids. An education, they know, is their child's only hope to escape poverty. Even still, many poor children never attend classes because their mothers and fathers are forced to choose between buying food or paying school fees. Ultimately, they must sacrifice their kids' future in order to survive day to day. Even Haiti's "free" public schools, which seem to offer a solution, don't address the need. Most are overcrowded, unreliable and substandard, and the costs of uniforms, textbooks and school supplies still fall on the parents. As a result, Haiti's poorest children remain deprived of an education and find themselves caught in the same cycle of poverty that has trapped their parents. They see no future beyond a life of hunger, squalor and want.

But there is a way out.

With your help, Cross International can give poor Haitian children a path out of the slums — and in the process also provide a biblical foundation for their lives. We have a ministry partner that is positioned to reach thousands of children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the provision of education and daily meals, ***but the work can only move forward so long as it receives support from caring Christians like you.***





Ministry Description

Divine Shelter Schools is a network of 17 Haitian Christian schools located throughout the Port-au-Prince area as well as in humble rural villages. These schools provide a low-cost education and free nutritious lunches that benefit children who might otherwise never learn to read or write because their families are too poor to afford school expenses.

Founded and staffed by Haitians, DSS is a truly local ministry that began with a vision to spread God's love. Each school is run by a director who is also the pastor of a local Baptist church. Their aim is to meet the demand for an affordable academic education while also enriching children's lives with the Gospel. The kids pray every day, have chapel, learn Bible stories and memorize key Scriptures.

Cross International is working closely with DSS to provide a quality, affordable education for the more than 4,700 students who attend its schools. The support from friends like you ensures that money is not a barrier to reading God's Word and building an academic foundation — even for those who can pay nothing at all.



Nutrition: A Key Ingredient

Nutritious daily lunches are critical to DSS' success. Many children come to school on empty stomachs and need hearty meals to help them do their best. Without these meals, many students would be running on crumbs, not knowing from one day to the next whether there will be anything to eat. In the most extreme circumstances, some Haitians eat "cookies" of mud and shortening to numb their hunger pangs.

In the past, it was discovered that the nutritional gains the students experienced during the academic year were being reversed during summer break. The children would go hungry until the start of the next school year, at which time they would arrive weak, tired and malnourished.

The answer to this problem is DSS' summer feeding program. Now, children can come to school during their break and get a daily meal and also benefit from some extra Bible studies and educational activities. This ensures that students' nutritional gains are carried over into subsequent academic years.



2017 Divine Shelter Schools Support

Your generous support is needed to provide the following funding for DSS, so poor Haitian children can receive a Christian education and nutritious meals.

Operations (18 months)	\$572,645
Cost per school	\$33,685
Local Foods (18 months)	\$30,000
(fish, macaroni paste, tomato paste, cooking oil)	
Cost per school	\$1,765
Summer Feeding Program	\$91,014
1st summer	\$45,507
2nd summer	\$45,507
Cross Project Management	\$69,366
Total	\$763,026

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38



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Help Now!

Through Divine Shelter Schools, Haitian Christians have a tremendous opportunity to reach the next generation, but such a large program cannot move forward without your support.

Please prayerfully consider joining Cross International in keeping the schools' doors open to the poor. Your generous gift will send meals, education and the Gospel to at-risk Haitian children who might otherwise be condemned to lifelong poverty. These kids are so eager to finish school and so desperate for the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

In Luke 4:18, Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me... to proclaim good news to the poor." Now is your chance to send that same life-giving message to a new generation. **Your gift can transform a child — body, mind and soul!**

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2018, 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.