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*The Puskas Foundation works with charities in Africa, Asia, and Haiti to effect sustainable change. Guided by the teachings and example of our Lord Jesus Christ they stand to uphold the dignity of the most vulnerable members of impoverished communities worldwide, the women and children. They fund charitable programs that directly benefit these individuals, addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term development goals.*

### SPECIAL NEEDS

#### Ecuador—School Supplies — \$3,840

Since the Ecuadorian school year begins in April, we are providing the Sisters with donations for school books, backpacks, supplies, and uniforms. This will cover supplies and uniforms for 40 children.

#### Ecuador—Tables and Chairs for Soup Kitchen — \$2,800

The after-school program at the soup kitchen lacks many necessary furnishings, including tables and chairs. Because of the number of children, we are raising funds for the Sisters to purchase the items they need to continue the program.

#### India— New Minivan — \$8,407

The minivan that St. Mary's was using as a school bus has broken down, leaving many children without a safe and reliable way to get to school.

### CONTACT US



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[helpthehelpless.org](http://helpthehelpless.org)

# Help the Helpless



Easter Newsletter

April 2025



## A Message from Fr. Robert Altier

Dear Benefactors,

As we come to the most holy time of the year, we are drawn to recognize the immense value of each person God has made in His image and likeness. We celebrate the great mystery of the Incarnation and birth of our Lord at Christmas, but as we approach Holy Week and Easter, we are reminded of the reason for the Incarnation. Jesus came into this world to suffer and die so we could be saved and be heirs with Him to eternal life. It is humbling to realize that we are so valuable in God's eyes that He would freely do this for us. Many people struggle to see and accept their dignity; we need to learn to see things from God's perspective. We live in a world that does not recognize the dignity of human persons, and many people have been treated in a way that violates their dignity. Consequently, it is easy to think they do not have dignity or that their dignity is less than others. We know this is false, and we at Help the Helpless are so grateful that you are able to recognize not only your own dignity but the dignity of the beautiful people we are so privileged to serve.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Help the Helpless, I extend to you our most sincere gratitude for your continued generosity, especially in the face of economic struggles. Only in Heaven will you be able to know how much good you have done for so many people in true need. May God reward you abundantly for your kindness and charity! Praying for you and your family to receive the greatest graces of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection,

God bless you,  
Fr. Robert J. Altier  
Founder, Help the Helpless

## News from Chone, Ecuador

Dear Friends and Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

We are called to be children of the light, that light which is given to us by the Risen Christ. We witnessed this light so clearly in the life of our sister, Clare Crockett.\* She allowed herself to be filled by this light, and now her life illuminates others and leads them to the One she loved so much. We could think of no better way to honor her sacrifice than by naming our new Missionary Center after her. This Center has been a work in progress for so many years, but thanks to your generous donations, we were able to finally open it and host our first retreats there this winter. About 80 girls attended, and we felt the love of Sr. Clare truly enfold us. We taught them about her life and death with songs, adoration, meetings, crafts, and good discussion about what it means to truly live for the Lord.

This has been a grace for these girls. Many mothers reached out to us after the retreats ended and told us how joyful their daughters were upon returning home. Indeed, one girl got home and immediately showed her mother the film of Sister Clare. They watched it together until the end. These young girls are such an example to us of what the Lord can do in a well-disposed soul. We ask the Lord that we may bring his light to all those who approach us so that they may also see the light that illuminated and transformed Sr. Clare.

We send you our love and blessings,  
The Sisters from Chone



\*Blessed Sister Clare Maria Crockett tragically passed at the age of 34 in the earthquake which devastated Ecuador in 2016. She died alongside 3 young novices who were trapped with her in the school when it collapsed. Sr. Clare is now in the first stage of canonization. **Pray for us, Blessed Sister Clare Crockett!**  
[www.sisterclare.com](http://www.sisterclare.com)

## News from Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dearest Friends and Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

We rejoice to be able to share with you the joy of Jesus' Resurrection! It is the news that filled the disciples with joy and amazement; it is the news that resounds today, filling our hearts with joy. In this Jubilee Year, the Year of Hope, our hope is more than ever placed in the Lord. It is He who conquers death and opens for us the gates of eternal life. Evil no longer has the last word. In the end, the Light will shine for those who belong to God and accept His Mercy. They will be relieved and consoled of all their sorrows; they will live happily ever after and will love Love for all eternity.

There are many beautiful souls who suffer in this world. These are the victims of evil that we see every day: young people struggling with drug addiction, families living in fear of assault or extortion by the gangs, parents who are forced to leave their home and flee to protect their children. We see it all. There are so many neglected children, raised by parents who do not know how to love them; so many people exploited in their work, cheated by a system of corruption; so many sick people who are not given the necessary help....

And yet, in our community in Guayaquil where the hardship is rampant, we still celebrate the feast of Easter with joy and hope. We rejoice in every manifestation of the Lord's victory over death. His triumph is not yet visible to all, but it is being realized in the hidden, in the small. You, with your collaboration and generosity, participate in this manifestation of the Lord's victory and love.

We would like to share with you a moving story, a great sorrow which befell our community but which led to a true miracle of grace. One of the former students at our school, Jeremy Olvera, was brutally murdered by the gangs last month. His family was torn apart with grief. His parents did not know where to turn, and his sister was about to leave home and revenge his death with more violence. They found their way to us, and we counseled them in their extreme grief. After much prayer and many tears, they found it in their hearts to forgive their son's murderers. Rather than letting the grief tear them apart, they used it as a way to bind them even stronger together. They allowed the mercy of God to wash over them in their pain. We celebrated Jeremy's funeral in our chapel in Montserrat, and we prayed for the repose of his soul and for peace of mind for his family. Please pray for them, also.

We have one more story to share, a story of hope and celebration. We are so proud that we will be taking a group of young women on a pilgrimage to Europe to visit the most holy sites. They worked and saved for over two years to be able to glorify our Lord through this journey. We will plan to visit Rome, Lourdes, Fatima, Our Lady's House, and many other places. It is a wonderful thing to be able to support these women in their pursuit of the Lord. They have worked so hard to attain this dream, and we are so blessed to see the joy it brings them. It is especially fitting that they are able to achieve this during 2025, the Jubilee Year! All praise to the Lord. May He allow us to continue to see signs of hope and miracles of grace such as these. We will continue to share with you what the Lord allows us to experience.

A strong embrace in the Lord,  
Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother in Guayaquil

# SPECIAL INSERT: MANAGING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT




Let Help the Helpless help you **make the most out of online giving!**

We've listened to your most commonly asked questions about managing your account, and we've compiled a list of a couple of helpful **tips and tricks** below.

## Q: How do I update my payment information for my recurring donations?

### 1. Log In to Your Account:


Go to [helpthehelpless.org](http://helpthehelpless.org)

Click the profile button  at the top right corner of the homepage. Enter your registered email and password. If you haven't created an account yet, click "**Sign Up Now!**" and follow the instructions. You may need to verify your email with a code.


### 2. Access Your Account Settings:

Once logged in, click on the **profile button** again.  
Select **My Giving** from the dropdown menu.

### 3. Update Payment Information:

Scroll down to **Recurring Gifts** and click on the hamburger menu  on the right hand side for the recurring donations you wish to update.

In the window that opens, find **Payment Method**

Click on the plus sign  to add a new method of payment.

### 4. Save Changes:

Once your payment details are updated, make sure to **save** the changes. Click the save button at the bottom of the **Secure Payment Information** page, and then click the **Save Gift** button in the bottom left hand corner of the **Recurring Gift** popup window. If desired, you can also edit the date of your recurring payment and/or the frequency (monthly, quarterly, annually).

### 5. Confirmation:

You should receive a confirmation **email** indicating that your payment information has been updated successfully.

## Q: How do I send a letter to my sponsored child or family?

### 1. Log In to Your Account:

See steps above for assistance in **logging in**.

Once logged in, click on the **profile button**

Select **Write my Child/Family** from the dropdown menu.

### 2. Fill out the Submission Form



Input the date, your name, and the name of the sponsored child/family you are writing to.

You also have the option to upload a **picture** if you choose.

Scan here to  
**access your  
account!**





## MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT, CONTINUED

### Q: Sending a Letter to Your Sponsored Child/Family (continued)

#### 3. Upload and Submit

Upload **picture** if applicable.  
Click **submit**.

*Further questions or comments?*

*Give us a call at (877) 762-8857 or reach us via email at [info@helpthehelpless.com](mailto:info@helpthehelpless.com).*

*We appreciate and value your feedback!*

### News from **St. Mary's School, India**

Dear Esteemed Friends and Benefactors,

Warm greetings and heartfelt Easter wishes to all of you! I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for your ongoing prayers and unwavering support of St. Mary's. Your kindness and generosity mean so much to us, and we genuinely feel blessed to have you as part of our St. Mary's family. I am truly delighted to share that, with the grace of our Lord Almighty and the blessings of the late Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, founder of St. Mary's School, the children at St. Mary's are thriving and in good health. Our commitment to providing the best possible education for our students is unwavering, and your support plays a crucial role in our journey.

By the time you read this, our students will have taken their public examinations. They are right now working diligently to reach their academic goals, and your continued support and prayers serve as a source of strength and encouragement during this important time. Thank you for being such an integral part of our St. Mary's activities; your compassion and dedication truly make a difference in the lives of our St. Mary's children.

We came together to celebrate the Annual Day of St. Mary's School on February 22, and it was truly a heart-warming occasion. Throughout the past school year, we organized various academic and athletic competitions. The Annual Day ceremony allowed us to recognize and celebrate all of the winners of these competitions. It was a momentous occasion, filled with pride and joy. It was wonderful to see the joy on the faces of those who excelled academically and also those who shone in sports at both the state and district levels. Our students also shared their creativity and talents in a variety of cultural programs, creating an atmosphere of happiness and celebration. The warmth and enthusiasm throughout the Annual Day made it a memorable experience for everyone involved.

On December 3, we celebrated the feast of our patron saint, St. Xavier, along with World Disabled Day. We were welcomed and honored to have the new bishop of the Kumbakonam Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. A. Jeevanandam, D.D.S.T.D., in attendance at our event. He was a friend of the late Fr. Antony, and he spoke very movingly about his life and shared many fond memories. He also spoke about how deeply impressed he was by the remarkable talents of the children at St. Mary's, both in academics and sports, and he offered generous praise for their achievements. His encouraging words filled us with renewed enthusiasm and motivation, inspiring us to keep pushing forward in our efforts.

*This article is continued on page five.*

Pictured Right: students and teachers at the Annual Day Celebration





Pictured Above: Celebration of Christmas Mass at St. Mary's

*Continued from page 4:*

We had an early Christmas celebration on December 21st. The event was filled with happiness, gift giving, and some entertainment. All the children received Christmas gifts from the teachers, and the teachers received gifts from the administration. Everyone enjoyed the festivities. The festival was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together, have fun, and spread holiday cheer. We cherish each happy moment and remember all the benefactors for their generous contributions to St. Mary's.

We are always grateful for the opportunity to help those in need, and we pray for our benefactors' endless support and prayers. We love you all. I wish you all a Happy Easter!

Thanking you warmly,  
I. MariaSelvam  
*Administrator, St. Mary's School*

## A Testimony from a Volunteer in Ecuador

Dear Benefactors,

I am a volunteer who sees every day that the Lord's blessing falls on those who give with joy. Through this testimony, I want to let you know of the gratitude of the people who benefit from your donations. As a volunteer for the Home of the Mother, I bring aid to the families that Help the Helpless sponsors. I deliver medicines to those in need, construction materials for those who need to rebuild their homes, and baskets with food, hygiene, and/or cleaning products. These are all things we purchase with your donations, according to the needs of each family. Thanks to you, I can be part of this mission, and although I am the one who is giving, I have found that I am also the one who is receiving. And what I am receiving is joy. Truly this Bible verse is fulfilled in my life: "There is more joy in giving than in receiving." (Acts 20:35) Now I live happily with the knowledge that I am only a simple instrument in God's hands and that the greatest gift is seeing what He does in souls.

I am very touched to see how God's providence always provides help in the hour of greatest need. On many occasions, people have told me that I delivered their basket exactly on the day when they had run out of food to eat. This is just one of the beautiful things that the Lord has allowed me to experience while volunteering with the Sisters. I can only tell you with immense joy: thank you! I am so grateful for all the good that your generosity does. Thanks to you, mothers, fathers, and children, old and young alike are reminded of the Lord's love and grace. All this fills me with a deep and lasting joy. Serving fills my soul, and I have seen some real miracles in the people I have visited. My ministry to them is not just physical, but it is also more importantly spiritual. For instance, I try to make sure they have received the Sacraments, or, if I see they are sick, I ask them if they want to receive a priest so that they can make a confession and receive the Anointing of the Sick.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you what this work means to me. On my behalf and the behalf of all the families you sponsor, I thank you for all that you do for our people. May the Lord and our heavenly Mother take care of you and return your immense generosity.

Ricardo Aldair  
*This testimony was shared with us by the Sisters in Chone*



A sponsored family with the monthly basket



## News from Portoviejo, Ecuador

Dear Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen! We take this opportunity to wish you a happy Easter; may the Risen Lord bless your hearts and your families with the strength of His love. We pray that He may pour out His mercy upon all your needs. The Sisters of the community of Portoviejo are very grateful for the work we are able to carry out, thanks to your material and spiritual help. We continue to take small steps to insert ourselves into the community of the laypeople in Portoviejo. Because we are a new community, we are trying to focus especially on the evangelization of the youth. Right now, the schools are on break, but we will resume after Easter. This will be the busiest time for our work with the children. We will host camps and pilgrimages for the purpose of formation and teaching. We are especially excited for our upcoming Marian pilgrimage with some of the girls from the university. Unfortunately, we have recently learned that the university has opened a new center to provide students with contraceptives, and so we are currently preparing a project with the help of some university students to create a pro-life week at the university. We are also working with the students to be able to carry out mission trips in different rural communities after the semester starts up again in April.

### Three students from the Sisters' school



For those who are currently sponsoring children in Portoviejo, we thank you. We continue to use a portion of their scholarship to provide transportation for them to come to our schools, because most do not have easy access to our location from where they live in the rural communities. Thank you very much for the donations you send us to support this process. We are also planning to provide these communities with aid for this upcoming school year: by buying books, uniforms, other materials, etc.\*

Once again, you have our thanks for all you do. May Our Lord reward all your efforts and bless you with love. You are always present in our prayers.

With the blessing of the Lord,  
The Community of the Servants of the Home of the Mother in Portoviejo

\* To give: [www.helpthehelpless.org/project/ecuador-school-supplies](http://www.helpthehelpless.org/project/ecuador-school-supplies)

## A Message From Fr. Rafael



Dear Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

I write this letter of thanks to all those who make up this great work of charity that is Help the Helpless. Some may have greater responsibilities than others in this enterprise, but each one of you contributes what he is able according to his situation. If the love of Christ is a great beach, you offer your grain of sand up to Him, and He in turn allows your generosity to benefit your brothers and sisters in need.

Remember, nothing that is given with love is little. In Mother Teresa's words: "It is not how much you give, but how much love you put into what you give." You, by the grace of God, give of your freedom and your time to make this life more dignified and more bearable for others. This will bring you immense happiness—if not in this life, then the next—when you hear the voice of our Lord saying to you, "Blessed of my Father, come, enter into the joy of your Lord."

The Sisters in Ecuador keep me informed of the activities they are carrying out and the ways in which they are handling the donations that Help the Helpless sends every month. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and for your trust in the Home of the Mother to carry out the work we do with the funds you provide. The Lord has truly placed everything we need in our hands to be able to evangelize these souls, especially through our order's three missions. These are the defense of the Holy Eucharist, the defense of the honor of Our Mother, especially in the privilege of her virginity, and the conquest of all youth for Jesus Christ. I want to thank you for your constant help, which makes it possible to carry out these social and evangelical works. It would not be possible without you. You are the arm that God uses to be able to embrace His children, and we are the hand.

In this season, let us meditate on how the mystery of the cross accompanies every man, from those who have much to those who have nothing. We each have a cross to bear from Our Lord, because by the cross, our souls are purified. And when we make the choice to unite our suffering to Christ's, we are redeemed in His glory. I encourage you to look during this Easter season to Christ who died and rose again for love of each one of us. Looking at Him and loving Him must become the central activity of your lives. This is what I wish with all my heart, and I remember you in the Eucharistic celebration and in my prayers. I also ask you to remember me in yours.

With my priestly blessing,  
Fr. Rafael Alonso Reymundo  
Founder and President, Home of the Mother