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SPECIAL NEEDS

Purchase, Installation, & Maintenance of Water Purifiers - Cost \$4,327.93

Funds are needed for the purchase and installation of 2 new water purifiers and for maintenance of 4 existing water purifiers.

Catechesis Instruction Materials - Cost \$1,500.

Funds are needed for Catechesis Instruction Materials for 100 children preparing to receive the Sacraments

MAXIMIZE YOUR GIVING

Shop on Amazon? Use **Amazon Smile** to donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases back to Help the Helpless at no additional cost to you:

1. Login to your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com
2. Select Help the Helpless as your charity of choice by typing in "Help the Helpless" or EIN# 41-1878721
3. Shop at smile.amazon.com every time you shop at Amazon

Does your employer have a **Matching Gift Program**? Ask your HR Department if your company will match your charitable contributions and potentially double your donations to Help the Helpless!

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Help the Helpless



Fall Newsletter

September 2022



**"DO GOOD AND BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS, GENEROUS IN GIVING
AND ALWAYS READY TO SHARE..."**

1 Timothy 6:18

A Message from Father Rafael

Dear friends and benefactors of HTH:

I have the joy of writing to you to express my gratitude once again. The Sisters of Ecuador write to me with their hearts full of joy to tell me about the wonders that the Lord works in those places where the souls thirst so much for God. Everything is thanks to the help that is offered to them. Undoubtedly, Help the Helpless plays a great part in this, making it possible for the Sisters and Brothers and their faithful collaborators to carry out a mission that is not only humanitarian but also apostolic.



One Sister was telling me enthusiastically how the Lord lets them see some fruit from their work. It is truly amazing to discover how the Lord is working in the souls of children, young people, families and even priests. The good that you are doing behind the scenes is priceless and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

For the Sisters and Brothers, it is a peace of mind, and also a challenge, to be able to count on monthly funds for school scholarships. There are no less than 300 sponsored children in the three communities where we are, 47 university students and 11 girls in a student residence, not to mention the sponsorship of 225 families. It takes a lot of effort to educate them to value what they are given and to be grateful in turn for what they received, but the Sisters do everything with great pleasure and generous

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A Message from Father Rafael

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dedication, knowing that God is the vinedresser who takes care of His vineyard which includes those who are in the mission, and all of you. All the good you do will not go without its reward. I am sure of this, because I know what moves you is your love for God and your neighbor.

Finally, I would like to ask you to pray for our apostolate so that it may bear much fruit. There are thousands of young people who took part in our summer activities. Many benefited from God's grace and have converted their lives for the good. I also want to thank you behalf of the entire Home of the Mother which celebrated its 40th anniversary of foundation in the Church on July 29th. Please pray that we may continue to fulfill the missions which the Lord and Our Mother have confided to us.

I continue to remember you in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which I celebrate daily with the community of Servant Sisters, and I bless you with all my heart.

Father Rafael Alonso Reymundo

News from the Sisters in Playa Prieta, Ecuador

Greetings Friends and Benefactors of Help the Helpless,

During the first months of this school year 2022-2023, we could summarize the experience of the Servant Sisters and Servant Brothers of the Home of the Mother in the Holy Family School in one word: ENJOYMENT. We cannot deny that these have been months of hard work, but is this not the main task of the missionary? Are we not called to wear ourselves out and exhaust ourselves, preparing the soil of souls so that God can sow, water and, in the end, reap the fruits of eternal life? And it is precisely when the Lord allows us to experience his work, that is what the missionary enjoys the most. In this humble school in Playa Prieta, we are seeing and enjoying it: "My heart rejoices in your salvation" (Psalm 13:5).

After two years of virtual classes, having the students in the classroom has been a breath of fresh air, both for the teachers and for the students themselves. Little by little, we have been able to sense the work of Our Mother in their souls. Many of the older children go to confession every week and are striving to live an authentic Christian life. The atmosphere at recess is one of joy and hopeful innocence. More and more students come on the weekends to participate in the formation meetings.

We have just two anecdotes to illustrate this: We celebrated here the great Solemnity of Corpus Christi. In the preceding days, both students and teachers spent time in and out of school hours to make everything as beautiful as possible for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Five classes prepared altars. The most notable was that of the seniors in high school: they spent hours dyeing sawdust to prepare a decorative carpet on which Jesus Eucharist could process through. We were thrilled to witness the procession with all the students of the school kneeling before the humility of God, while we heard the younger ones spontaneously shouting, "Long live, Jesus".

Only two weeks later, we had the great gift of celebrating another solemnity so dear to the Home of the Mother: the Perpetual Virginity of Mary Ever Virgin. We celebrated it a day in advance at the school with an early Rosary, including a procession, asking the Blessed Mother's blessing upon the place. The little ones clapped their hands and waved their blue banners in the air as they all sang, "Come and reign in our hearts". *(Continued on page 3)*



Students decorate a path for the Eucharistic procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi in Playa Prieta, Ecuador.

News from the Sisters in Playa Prieta, Ecuador



Students make a vow of chastity during the formation of a Chastity Club at the school in Playa Prieta.

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To end the event, 18 brave students knelt before Our Mother, the Most Pure One, to make a pledge of chastity, thus initiating the school's Chastity Club. They pledged to strive to live in God's grace and to keep the purity of their hearts and bodies in order to live the vocation God has in mind for them, either to marriage or to the consecrated life. Since there is no lack of the devil's wiles, particularly against purity, we request that you continue to pray for them, so that so much grace may not fall on deaf ears, and that they may know how to respond to the tangible predilection they enjoy.

In addition to our work in the school, the Home of the Mother has had the great privilege of carrying out a Eucharistic mission

in the village of Charapotó, forty-five minutes from Playa Prieta. Every afternoon from Monday to Friday the week preceding Corpus Christi, a group of Servant Brothers, Servant Sisters, lay people, and youth visited families in their homes, encouraging them to come closer to the Church and particularly to participate in the solemn Mass and procession of Corpus Christi. The Saturday before was dedicated to the apostolate of young people and children, with two simultaneous confirmation retreats and one communion retreat. Our main goal was for them to come to know Jesus in the Eucharist and to kindle a desire for holiness in their hearts. To end this mission, we participated in the Corpus Christi solemn Mass and the procession that followed. We were able to experience Jesus' desire to be with those who belong to Him, to bless their homes and to enter their hearts! Blessed be God who never stops searching for each one and who allows us to participate with Him in this search.

As always, we thank all our benefactors and count on your continued prayers for all the work of the Home of the Mother. God bless you!



A home being constructed for a family in need.

Updates from Chone, Ecuador

Dear Friends of Help the Helpless,

We would like to share with you that the school year has begun. Each sponsored child has received the necessary school supplies, uniform, and shoes in order to start classes. The parents and the children are very happy with the new uniforms and the shoes for the children.

We have started the construction work of a house for a family of 7, a couple and their three children—and grandparents who were previously living in a single room. When we gave the news that we would

be helping them with a home, they could not even believe the news was true! They are all collaborating with the construction work and are very grateful.

We would also like to inform you about our Multifunctional Center buildings - called "The Missionary Center." We are eagerly waiting for the municipality to approve plans in order to start building. An image comes to mind that we want to share with you: This year during the procession for Corpus Christi, the Blessed Sacrament passed right in front of our house. Three years ago, this procession passed us and our home didn't exist - it was only a piece of land full of grass and shrubs. In three years, Our Lord has converted this piece of land into a beautiful place for us. It is surprising to see the difference. Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, has once again passed in front of our property. For the glory of God and the salvation of souls we see the project of the Missionary Center progressing and advancing! Praise God and thanks to all of you for making this work a reality.



A student receives new shoes for school.

News from Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Help the Helpless family,

Our school year is underway! Thanks to your generosity we have been able to increase the number of scholarships awarded to our students. While many institutions have closed their doors because of the pandemic, our children have access to studies, and the parents of children who have received scholarships are very grateful. In June, we celebrated Corpus Christi, and it was beautiful to see the children at the foot of Jesus in the Eucharist. We were able to use a Monstrance that Help the Helpless donated to us years ago, and since it is so big, it was a beautiful sight.



The soup kitchens continue to feed hundreds of children each day.

The number of families needing sponsorship is increasing. Now is a key moment - there is a political revolt in the country and the trucks with food cannot enter Guayaquil. Many families in this situation can only eat thanks to the food baskets. We are also continuing with the construction of houses. This project is precious, because it gives dignity to the families, who live in almost animal-like conditions. Then a whole process begins, often very slow, to help them to assume a more dignified lifestyle.

The soup kitchens continue to work incredibly, the children are full of joy, and they are gaining weight! Many of the children have begun catechesis and because through the soup kitchen they have come to know God and desire greater closeness to him. Many children have been baptized. Thanks also to your donations we were able to assist one of the children at the soup

kitchen with emergency medical treatment after her finger was shattered. Both her parents are in jail. Your support has allowed us to care for her by paying for her medication and avoid amputation of her finger. May the Lord bless you for so much generosity and so much good that you allow us to do.

The Servant Sisters in Guayaquil

A Note from India

Dear Loving Friends and Benefactors,

We are so grateful to you! With the grace of our Lord Jesus and the invisible blessings of our Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier, the St. Mary's institutions are running smoothly. The members in the St. Mary's family are safe and healthy. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

The classes for the 2022-23 academic year began in June. The children are actively participating in all their academic activities. Regular morning Mass has also begun, and the children are showing more interest in attending Mass. This year we organized a Soft Skill Training and Orientation Program for St. Mary's Teachers and Students to help overcome the challenges from not being in traditional school for two years due to the pandemic. The program was very useful to both students and teachers and we have had great feedback.

I would like to share the success story of one of our 2006 alumni from the Handicapped school. His name is Mr. Balamurugan. After his schooling he joined a music college and completed a Master of Philosophy in Music. Presently he is working on a Doctorate in Music while teaching Music and violin. He came back and spoke to the students, telling them "your handicap is only a physical defect, but our merciful Lord Jesus has given innate talent to everyone. So don't discourage yourself and achieve as much as you can!" He is an inspiration to all the students here at St. Mary's School.



Alumni Mr. Balamurugan ('06) performs for students and staff at St. Mary's School.

Thank you so much to all you benefactors of Help The Helpless for your endless support and prayers. Please pray for us, we are always praying for you.

I. MariaSelvam, Administrator

OUR MISSION

To raise funds and support the works of St. Mary's School and Orphanage for the handicapped, deaf, poor and abandoned children in southern India and for the missionary work of the Home of the Mother Catholic Order in Ecuador.

The children and families we serve are provided with clothing, food, education, shelter and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Offering love, motivation and educational opportunities, we seek to help children thrive and become self-sufficient young adults, and we support the elderly with dignity and needed assistance.

Help the Helpless



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A Message from Father Robert Altier

Dear Benefactors,

Praised be Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Board of Directors of Help the Helpless, I thank you for your great generosity. As the economy shrinks and finances become more difficult, I never cease to be amazed at the great charity of our benefactors. Charity is the greatest of all the virtues, as St. Paul tells us in his



second Letter to the Corinthians. Ultimately, charity is giving without seeking anything in return. Knowing that the beautiful people who are the recipients of your charity are unable to repay you in any way demonstrates the selflessness of your actions.

In both India and Ecuador, wonderful things have been done for children and families that will help them on the way to self-sufficiency. Nothing is more important than a good education to provide a solid foundation for these young people to build upon. However, without a roof over their heads and food to eat, the education would have been impossible because the children would be out either working or trying to get some money to help their family. Thanks to your generosity, these families have greater security and stability so their children can receive a quality education and continue to help their families move forward.

Our Lord told us that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love neighbor. By serving the "least of My brethren," you are serving the Lord. In your goodness, you are loving God and neighbor simultaneously. In the passage where our Lord refers to the least of His brethren, he also addresses those who helped them, calling them "blessed by My Father." We trust in God's blessing for you and your loved ones.

Fr. Robert J. Altier
President of Help the Helpless



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SPECIAL FEATURE: Increased Violence in Chone

Recently the Sisters from the Home of the Mother Order, who live and work in Ecuador, shared with us a brief account of the current situation in Chone. We share it below with you, our friends and supporters, to help you better understand what daily life is like for the children and families in Ecuador.

From the Sisters:

“Here in Chone there are two principal criminal band, and they are fighting between each other. There has been a wave of violence and murders in the city. The other day we were in a procession with a statue of the Blessed Virgin when a gang member showed up with his gun and killed a member of the other gang right before us in the middle of the street. There are places and areas in the neighborhoods of Chone where people who do not live there cannot enter.

One of the neighborhoods in Chone, The Camilo Giler, is regarded by many as the most dangerous area of Chone. Drugs and violence are palpable when you go to this neighborhood, and you can see these things even when passing through the sector in broad daylight. Thanks be to God the gangs respect the religious, so when we go to deliver the food baskets, they do not steal them, nor do they come to us imposing their desires. Not even the people of Chone, who know everything that happens in this neighborhood, dare to enter. The danger is aggravated at a time when the level of violence has risen sharply throughout the country. In Chone people are killed every day for different reasons. Many of the murders are for gangs or drug trafficking, or to steal money. People are threatened and robbed daily with guns, and if the person being robbed resists, they are killed.

The benefactors of Help the Helpless support many families who live in or near this sector of Chone. One family we assist, a young couple and their three young children, live in a one room home and are in dire need of a home reconstruction - but we are unable to help. Due to the present dangers, no workers are willing to go and work in the neighborhood. Further, in a small town like Chone, where everyone knows everything about everyone else, when someone fixes their house or builds in this neighborhood, the others think that this person or family must have money. This puts the family in grave danger. People close to us have been threatened by neighbors and gangs for that reason.

God Bless you all, and please pray for these people so that the message of Love that our Lord teaches us may reach in their souls.”

We at Help the Helpless ask for your prayers for the Sisters, priests, brothers, volunteers, and the children and families we support in Ecuador. Your prayers are powerful and some of the best support you can give to those who live and work in such desperate conditions. While the poverty and corruption in Ecuador are often overwhelming, the mercy and goodness of God overflows in areas like Chone because of you! We humbly ask for your continued financial support of the children and families of Chone during this time of unprecedented violence. Your donations help us continue to provide critical food, medicine, assistance with housing, and life-changing education to the poorest and most vulnerable in Ecuador. May God bless you and your loved ones for your great generosity!

The Volunteers and Staff at Help the Helpless

