



2022 FOOD FOR THE POOR HEALTHCARE BENEVOLENT PROGRAM



The Caribbean and Latin America

Project Goal

Enable access to lifesaving healthcare services for individuals in medical need living across the Caribbean and Latin America.

Project Description

The **2022 Food For The Poor Healthcare Benevolent Program** is a master project aimed at helping people without resources in the countries we serve attain medical services otherwise not available to them.

Each year, there will be a new master program and all remaining funds from the previous year will flow into it.

The completion date of this project may be extended for issues related to weather, natural disasters or civil unrest to the extent that such events exceed normal conditions and impede the project's progress.

Total Project Costs: \$287,500.00

An Overview of the Caribbean and Latin America

Poor families throughout the Caribbean and Latin America continue to suffer in the wake of economic and natural disasters in the Caribbean basin.

Crushing rates of inflation and unemployment exacerbate the already depressed economies of countries like El Salvador, Jamaica, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Honduras, naming only a fraction of those served by Food For The Poor (FFTP). If you add to this the widespread economic, social and political effects COVID-19 has brought about in the region, the foreseeable outcomes could be ruinous.

Families cannot afford education for their children and are burdened with the downward spiraling effects of low-paying jobs and unemployment. The high illiteracy rate throughout the impoverished Caribbean and Latin American countries only serves to perpetuate their abysmal economic conditions and low standard of living.

Poor people in these countries are often forced to live in dilapidated shacks or under flimsy tents made of salvaged materials like tarps, plastic, discarded zinc sheets and random pieces of wood. These rudimentary dwellings have dirt floors and provide little protection from the weather. With no indoor plumbing, sanitation or potable water, occupants must resort to unhygienic practices, rendering them and their children susceptible to dangerous infections and illnesses. Diseases such as intestinal worms or cholera flourish in communities living among contaminated environments and polluted water sources.

In these countries, where so many can barely afford to eat, medical care is often inaccessible. The sick, especially those with life-threatening conditions, simply need help to receive healthcare treatment and purchase medication.

The following are highlights of some of the countries that we serve:

- Approximately 23.4%¹ of the population in the Dominican Republic was living in poverty in 2020, representing over a quarter million people (270,000). FFTP has been working in this country since 2000, lending a helping hand to people without resources.

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/dominicanrepublic/overview#1>

- El Salvador is one of the poorest and most densely populated nations in the Western Hemisphere. The country's large population and limited amount of land has stretched its natural resources to a breaking point, resulting in housing shortages. An estimated 22.3%² in 2019 lived in poverty. Since 1996, FFTP has been diligently working among the poor in El Salvador providing aid to those most in need.
- The largest country in Central America, Guatemala is home to nearly 18 million people. An estimated 47% of the population lived in poverty in 2020³ and the country has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. FFTP began its lifesaving work in Guatemala in 1986.
- Nicaragua is an impoverished Central American country with 6.6 million inhabitants. Approximately 14.6%⁴ of the population lived below the poverty line in 2021. Due to its precarious and limited access to the health system, water, sanitation and housing, Nicaragua is in dire need of help. FFTP has been working in the country since 1998.
- Honduras, one of the poorest countries among Spanish-speaking Western Hemisphere nations, was expected to show an increase in the number of people living under the poverty line to 55.4% in 2020⁵. A high percentage of Honduran children suffer from malnutrition, stunted growth and anemia. FFTP started serving Honduras's poor in 1999.
- Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean. Although inequality is lower than in most countries in the area, Jamaica's poverty rate was at 19% in 2017⁶. Crime and violence levels remain high, emphasizing the need to address the issue of youth unemployment, education and social cohesion. FFTP has been working in Jamaica since its founding in 1982.

We prayerfully ask for your support in helping those most vulnerable in Latin America and the Caribbean, not only in the countries showcased above but among all we serve. With your aid, many ailing individuals will receive medical attention that could potentially save their lives this year. Please join us as we support individuals on their healing journey of recovery.

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/elsalvador/overview#1>

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/guatemala/overview#1>

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nicaragua/overview#1>

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/honduras/overview#1>

⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/jamaica/overview#1>

This map indicates all the countries that FFTP serves.



***“For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command:
‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”***

Galatians 5:14

2022 Food For The Poor Benevolent Program

The 2022 Food For The Poor Benevolent Program is a continuation of FFTP's annual fund aimed at serving the poorest of the poor who desperately need healthcare assistance. When so many people across the globe are in need, it may seem daunting to try to help everyone, but we can aim to serve one individual at a time. Your generous support can make a world of difference for each person it touches.

For many encountering life-altering health events, FFTP will be there to support them by stepping in to ensure quality medical services are provided for their needs. With your donation, we will be able to respond to requests to cover those critical healthcare procedures for people who otherwise would not be able to afford them. Your compassionate gift will have the ability to impact many lives across the Caribbean and Latin America.

The stories featured here belong under the scope of this program and represent the kind of cases that the master Benevolent Program covers. These incredible acts of generosity from our faithful donors resulted in many successful outcomes for people with nowhere to turn.

We thank you for contributing to the Benevolent Program with your love and donations for this year. Those with no resources and in desperate medical need have little to no options, and you will be providing them with a hopeful road to recovery. Your generous actions will be rewarded here on earth and leave an impact for years to come.

Heartwarming Stories

We would like to showcase some of the heartwarming stories that developed throughout the past year. We can do so much good in the name of God!

Sweetheart Marcela from Guatemala

Marcela was born with ectopia cordis, a rare condition where an infant's heart is located partially or totally outside the chest cavity. Every day Marcela survived was a miracle, as 90% of babies born with this ailment are either stillborn or die within three days of birth.

The surgery needed to correct her condition required a qualified doctor with the specific expertise to perform that kind of thoracic surgery. The parents' only feasible option was to bring their daughter to the United States, but the cost of the procedure was next to impossible for them to cover.

This is where FFTP came in. Through the Boston Children's Hospital's discounted rate and generous gifts from donors like you, Marcela's successful first surgery took place September 15, 2021. She was also fitted with a brace to protect her exposed heart. Marcela has been consistently gaining strength and is now due for her second surgery.

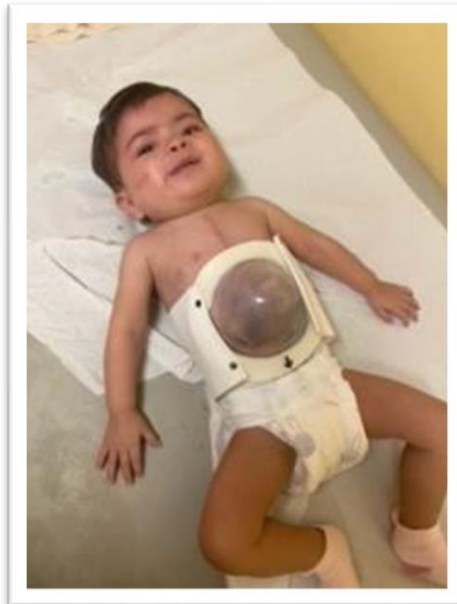
Thanks to the incredibly selfless gifts from our donors, Marcela, a precious baby girl from Guatemala, has a great chance to live a full life. Here she is with her heart beating outside her body.



Below, Marcela gets ready for her first operation at Boston Children's Hospital in September 2021.



Marcela was fitted with a brace to protect her exposed heart and is due for a second operation as soon as she fully recuperates.



Marcela's life has touched doctors, hospital staff, FFTP and donors alike. You can read more about her story at this link:

<https://www.championsforthe poor.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=546>

Marcela has returned to Guatemala until her next surgery at Boston Children's Hospital.



Marcela's mother, Isabel, wanted to share her experience on her daughter's health journey: "I feel very touched by the support of so many people, because Marcela touched so many hearts. For us, it was impossible, but for God it was totally possible."

"Thank you, Food For The Poor. All my life, I will be grateful to you. Thank you for having a heart for Marcela. I know there have been many people working to bring Marcela here [as well as Boston Children's Hospital] ...

"A big hug from the Paredes family. Marcela is doing very well, and her recovery has been successful, thanks to the Lord Jesus," Isabel said.



Little Aiden from Jamaica

Aiden was born premature at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Jamaica, suffering from loss of vision in both eyes due to detached retinas and cataracts. Although he underwent an operation to freeze the damaged cells in his eyes, the retinas could not be repaired because the hospital did not have the right equipment. Aiden was also born with no hearing in both ears.

Kerrian, Aiden's mother, urgently sought for the medical assistance he needed, as the cost of surgery and treatment was beyond her means. She shared, "I know it's a lot of money, but his eyes are the window to the world ... He has never seen my face, and that hurts. Please, somebody just help me to give my son a chance."

As always, FFTP big-hearted donors stepped up and supplied the funding necessary for Aiden's first surgeries and ongoing incidental expenses for his scheduled medical assessments.

Although technically blind, Aiden receives support to teach him how to navigate his vision impairment. He has progressed nicely and continues to develop coping abilities. He also received two cochlear implants at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami and can now hear. He recently started saying his first words, to the delight of his mother, FFTP and the medical team.

Despite his vision impairment, Aiden has become an active, happy child. He has learned how to swim, loves dancing and music, and enjoys jumping up and down on his trampoline (which is equipped with a safety enclosure and handrail). With your help, there is nothing stopping this child from leading a rewarding life.

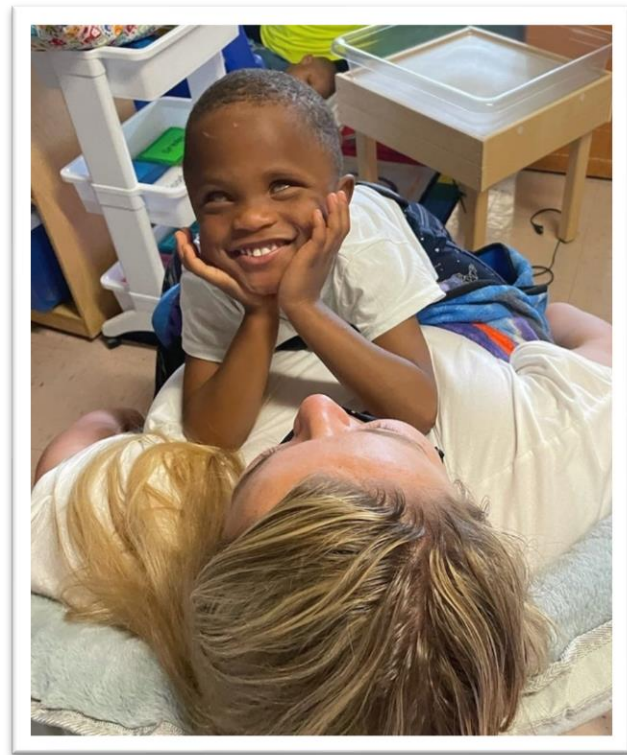
Thank you, faithful donors, for accompanying Aaiden through his medical journey, helping ease Kerrian's financial burden and providing resources so that this child receives the support needed to have a fruitful life.



Kerrian, a committed mother, thanks FFTP donors from the bottom of her heart for helping her through the trials and triumphs of Aaiden's young life.



Today, Aiden is a happy child, playing the piano and enjoying school, always with a huge smile on his face.



Spunky Capree from Jamaica

Capree was first introduced to FFTP in June 2015. She was just seven months old and needed a life-saving heart operation. This past September, the youngster from Jamaica commemorated her fifth “heartiversary” for the nine-hour open-heart and pacemaker surgery at Boston Children’s Hospital.

Capree’s mother, Shonick, reflected on her daughter’s journey, “So many kids have lost their battle with a congenital heart defect but because of you, our wonderful donors and amazing team at Food For The Poor, Capree was given a fighting chance. We can never repay any of you for your contribution.”



Capree will celebrate her eighth birthday this coming November, thanks to her lifesaving nine-hour open-heart and pacemaker surgery at Boston Children’s Hospital, which our donors generously supported.

Eight-Year-Old Angela from Colombia

Angela, an eight-year-old girl from Bogotá, Colombia, received her surgery to correct her severe idiopathic scoliosis⁷, this past December, culminating a long process of assessments, a halo-gravitational⁸ surgical procedure and long hospital stays. This is not the end of Angela's medical road, but she is well on her way to recovery.

Throughout her journey, FFTP has been right by her side, visiting her at the hospital and making sure she received all the medical attention she needed to relieve her pain, give her a better quality of life, and the opportunity to go to school with other children.

The following link will take you to a video of Angela saying hi after her November 6, 2021, procedure: <https://youtu.be/BtwKwAiScEA>.

December 2, 2021, FFTP's project manager met Angela for the first time in person. The following is a blog documenting the encounter: <http://www.blogforthe poor.org/meeting-angela/>.

A smiling Angela post halo-gravitational procedure, resting on her hospital bed and looking hopeful for the future.



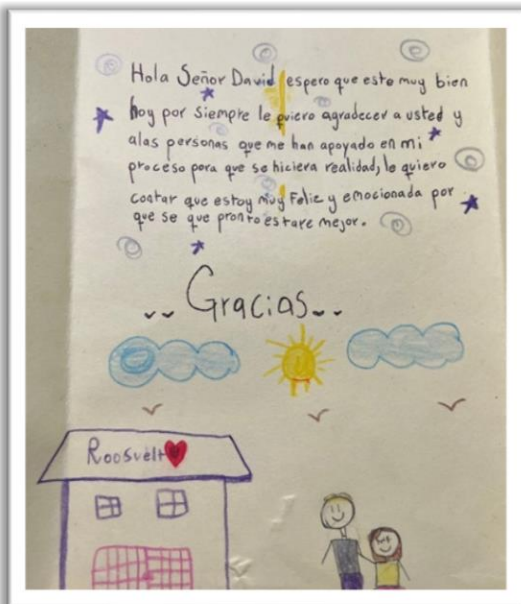
⁷ Scoliosis surgery aims to prevent the spinal curve from worsening. It can be done by fusing the spine, by inserting metal rods alongside the spine to correct the curve until it can be fused or by inserting screws that pull the spine into alignment without fusion.

⁸ Halo-gravity traction is a medical procedure that gently stretches and straightens a severely compressed or curved spine. This is accomplished by surgically inserting small pins attached to a halo ring into a child's skull, and then lifting the halo ring with increasingly heavier weights via a pulley system.

The FFTP and Order of Malta teams, as well as hospital staff, Angela and Angela's mother, were happy to meet and exchange updates about Angela.



A lovely card from Angela thanks FFTP for its support: "I want to forever thank you and the people who have supported me to make my process become a reality. I want to tell you I am very happy and excited because I know that soon I'll be better. Thank you."



Budget

QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	TOTAL
1	Sum	Benevolent Program Needs for 2022	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
		Total Direct Costs		\$250,000.00

Indirect Costs Corporate, Network & Field Operation	
In-country project management expenses	\$12,500.00
Food For The Poor fulfillment, project management and monitoring expenses	\$25,000.00
Total Indirect Costs	\$37,500.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$287,500.00

The funds you generously contribute to Food For The Poor will be used toward completion of your project of choice. If any of your donation exceeds budget cost, rest assured that it will be used to fund other Food For The Poor programs and organizational support to meet the urgent needs of the poor.

Contributions are tax-deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

About Food For The Poor

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation, does much more than feed millions of hungry children and families living in poverty primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for vulnerable children, care for the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance. For more information, please visit www.FoodForThePoor.org.