

Press Release #1

Faith in Action: Indiana Church Reaches \$1 Million Goal to Build New Community in Honduras

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. (June 16, 2025) – Thanks to the unwavering dedication of parishioners at St. Mary’s Church in Greensburg, Ind., and the generosity of their partners, a once-distant dream is becoming a reality for families in Cucuyagua, [Honduras](#).

Food For The Poor (FFTP) is celebrating the fully funded construction of a new community – 53 phase one homes, a community center and a feeding center – made possible by the church’s commitment to raise \$1 million over the past 18 months. That goal has been met, and generous support continues to grow.

Construction is now underway and a formal dedication is scheduled for October.

In addition to funding construction, St. Mary’s Church also has organized a tractor-trailer of goods to be sent to Honduras in support of the families who will soon call the new community home. The shipment will be routed through FFTP to long-time in-country partner CEPUDO.

The vision for this transformative project began when FFTP clergy speakers Fr. Carlton Beever and Fr. Bob White introduced the need for housing, education, and community infrastructure in Cucuyagua, Honduras, to St. Mary’s Church. Inspired by their message and moved by the Holy Spirit, parishioners felt called to act.

“By the grace of God, our priest, Fr. John Meyer, embraced the challenge, and our parish was moved to respond,” parishioner Tom Ricke said. “St. Mary’s parishioners have been taking the opportunity to fulfill Jesus’ words from Matthew 25:40: ‘Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’”

Ricke himself had been moved by a deeply personal experience in which he clung to prayer and witnessed his wife’s miraculous recovery from paralysis almost 35 years ago and made a promise to follow God’s call to help others. That commitment has guided him ever since and helped spark his parish’s incredible journey to transform lives in Honduras.

In March 2024, Ricke was among a group from the church, including Greensburg Mayor Joshua Marsh, who traveled to Honduras with FFTP to visit the site where the new community is now taking shape.

“It has been a blessing to meet and help these families establish a new community where they will have a home with electricity and clean water,” he said. “Along with Food For The

Poor and CEPUDO, it is possible to change the lives of these families for future generations.”

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Indianapolis is contributing to this effort with a recent donation of more than 50 bicycles, a pallet of bike parts, and a pallet of clothing valued at \$2,400. Decatur County Memorial Hospital, of Greensburg, Ind., donated more than \$2,300 of physical therapy equipment. That shipment is now at FFTP, where it is being loaded onto a container for shipment to Honduras.

“At the heart of St. Vincent de Paul’s mission is a commitment to serving those in need with compassion and dignity,” Operations Director Chris Sutton said. “When Fr. Carlton approached us with St. Mary Church’s ambitious and inspiring initiative to build homes, a school, and a community center in Cucuyagua, Honduras, we felt called to contribute. Donating bicycles, clothing, and parts is a tangible way we can support the day-to-day needs of families – helping them access school, work, and essential services more easily. It’s a small part of a much larger story of hope and solidarity, and we’re deeply grateful to be involved.”

The truck, generously provided by Batesville Tool and Die of Batesville, Ind., donated transportation to FFTP’s Coconut Creek, Fla., headquarters.

“This project is a powerful testament to what’s possible when compassion meets purpose,” FFTP President/CEO [Ed Raine](#) said. “The people of St. Mary’s Church and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Indianapolis, together with Batesville Tool and Die, have shown that love knows no borders. Their efforts will forever change lives in Cucuyagua, providing not just homes, but dignity, hope, and opportunity.”

FFTP has been working in Honduras since 1999 with its in-country partner CEPUDO to implement sustainable development initiatives that uplift communities through housing, health care, education, and livelihood projects.

About Food For The Poor

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the United States, is committed to facilitating paths out of poverty and transforming lives. As an interdenominational Christian ministry, we help families across Latin America and the Caribbean. Our efforts span urgent humanitarian relief and long-term development – from emergency aid and hunger alleviation to education, housing, and economic empowerment. We follow a distinctive approach that integrates faith, multi-sector strategies, and trusted partnerships. Whenever possible, we strive to work at the community level, partnering with local leaders and residents to co-create sustainable

solutions that address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. For more information, please visit foodforthe poor.org.

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Press Release #2

National Hispanic Heritage Month: Honduran Families Celebrate New Homes and Hope, Thanks to Indiana Church and FFTP

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. (Sept. 25, 2025) – Families in the rural community of Cucuyagua, [Honduras](#), are celebrating a new beginning as they move into safe, sturdy homes built through the generosity of parishioners at St. Mary’s Church in Greensburg, Ind., with Food For The Poor (FFTP).

For years, families in the area lived in fragile homes of cardboard, plastic, or rented spaces without reliable water or power. Today, thanks to the parish’s commitment to raise \$1 million, 53 homes, an air-conditioned community center, and vital infrastructure, including clean water and electricity, are being built.

The joy of these families moving into the first homes completed is evident as they begin their lives in a secure environment where their children can dream of a brighter future.

Claudia, a mother of school-aged children, described her life before moving into her new home.

“We lived in a small house made of cardboard and plastic,” she said. “When it rained, it flooded, and we lost our few belongings. It was a critical situation, especially for my children.”

Today, she says her family enjoys safety and stability: “We wake up in a safe place, bathe, have breakfast as a family, and enjoy peace,” she said. “It’s immense happiness.”

For Lindolfo and Rosa, the new home has transformed their family’s health and restored dignity.

“We lived in very difficult conditions. We had no water or bathroom and had to go to the woods for our needs,” Lindolfo said. “Today, with this home, we feel like we’ve been born again. It’s a tremendous joy.”

The milestone comes as the nation commemorates National Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to honor the resilience, culture, and contributions of Hispanic communities. For FFTP, it’s also an opportunity to highlight the strength and perseverance of families in Latin America who inspire hope through their determination to build better lives.

In October, a group from St. Mary’s Church will return to Honduras to meet these families, celebrate with them, and see firsthand the completion of the first homes.

Tom Ricke, one of the parishioners who helped inspire the effort, said his first encounter with families in Honduras left an indelible impression — and he looks forward to being with them again soon.

“When we first met families in Honduras, they had so little, yet their hearts were full of joy and gratitude,” Tom said. “Their faith was unbelievable, and I knew we had to help. This wasn’t just about one family or one house. It was about giving an entire community a chance at a better life. We can’t wait to return and share in their joy as they settle into their new homes.”

His wife, Susan, shared that it was the suffering of children that struck her most deeply. “As a mother, hearing that children were going hungry was incomprehensible to me,” she said. “I felt called to act, and when we shared that call with our parish, the response was overwhelming. Seeing these families move into safe homes today is truly a miracle.”

St. Mary’s parishioners were first moved to act after hearing FFTP clergy speaker Fr. Carlton Beever share stories of the urgent need for housing in Honduras. For the Rickes, that call resonated deeply with a promise Tom made to God decades earlier, when Susan survived a sudden health crisis that inspired them both to dedicate their lives to serving others. From that spark, the parish launched an ambitious campaign that quickly grew into a \$1 million effort to build homes and a new community in Cucuyagua.

Greensburg Mayor Joshua Marsh, who traveled with parishioners to witness the project’s progress, said he was especially inspired by the community-driven development and is eager to reconnect

“What inspired me most was that this project went beyond building homes. It’s about creating a stable community — education, leadership, health, and opportunity,” Marsh said. “I’m proud that St. Mary’s, our largest church, has led such an extraordinary effort,

and that Greensburg can be part of something that connects our small town with a rural community in Honduras in such a meaningful way.”

Watch [FFTP’s *Beyond the Plate* podcast](#) to learn more about how St. Mary’s parishioners and the Greensburg community launched a powerful movement of compassion to help this struggling community in Honduras.

Since 1999, FFTP has worked in Honduras alongside its in-country partner CEPUDO to implement sustainable development initiatives that uplift communities through housing, health care, education, and livelihood projects.

FFTP President/CEO [Ed Raine](#) emphasized that the project embodies the mission of the organization.

“This is the heart of Food For The Poor’s mission to walk alongside families as they move from hardship to hope,” Raine said. “Thanks to the faithful generosity of St. Mary’s parish and their partners, entire families now live with safety, clean water, and restored dignity. These homes are not just walls and roofs. They are places where children can thrive, parents can dream, and communities can flourish.”

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