

# INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 0552



***Cross Catholic***  
***OUTREACH***

*Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor*

## Safe Haven for Babies

Provide nutrition, medical aid and the love of Christ  
to babies at St. Vincent de Paul Children's Home

— Quito, Ecuador —



“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart...”

Jeremiah 1:5



## We are a Catholic ministry

that serves the poorest of the poor internationally by channeling aid through dioceses, parishes and Catholic missionaries, cost-effectively helping the poor break the cycle of poverty while advancing Catholic evangelization.

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

The Daughters of Charity provide 24-hour care to 20 babies (newborn-two years old) living at St. Vincent de Paul Children's Home.

### Purpose

To ensure that young children are nurtured and nourished to have a happy and healthy start to their lives.

### Cost

**\$44,550** is needed to help provide salaries for staff members and food and medicine for the babies in the nursery at St. Vincent de Paul Children's Home for an entire year.

### Location

Quito, Ecuador's capital city

### Highlights

- St. Vincent de Paul Children's Home has been caring for children and babies since 1876.
- It is run by the Daughters of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul Society with the help of several volunteers and staff members.
- The orphanage cares for 72 children — from infants to 18-year-olds.
- The sisters depend on Cross Catholic and its donors to provide for the daily needs of 22 infants and toddlers, as well as the salary for full-time staff who provide 24-hour care to these precious babies.
- Since caring for these infants and toddlers is such a large and difficult job, the nursery is the most expensive department to run at St. Vincent's.
- Cross Catholic Outreach is committed to helping provide the salaries of staff members and food and medicine for the babies in the nursery. This includes formula, baby food and medical care and treatment.



See what great love the Father has lavished on us,  
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1



## The Problem: Helpless Little Ones

Only a few weeks into his life, young Maverick's desperate mother abandoned him at his grandmother's house — but his grandmother was too poor and overwhelmed to care for his needs. Tragically, his grandmother was also forced to abandon the baby in a bus station restroom with a diaper bag and a letter explaining their dire situation.

Maverick's story is just one of many in urban Ecuador. Extremely poor parents and relatives struggle to properly meet the needs of their fragile children. As a result, these infants and toddlers become malnourished — stunting their physical, cognitive and emotional growth and threatening their overall health. Across the country, 26% of the population is chronically malnourished and 62% of children under the age of 5 are anemic. And in extreme situations like Maverick's, relatives will abandon their young children in hopes that a compassionate stranger will give them a better life.

And the sisters at St. Vincent de Paul Children's Home in Quito are those compassionate strangers. They believe that God has a special purpose for babies like Maverick and care for other babies like him in the nursery. As God tells us in the book of Jeremiah, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). The sisters know each of these children have a special purpose — and God has plans to use their lives in great ways.

Maintaining the nursery is the most expensive and difficult part of operating the children's home — that's why Cross Catholic has committed to help provide the salaries of the staff, food for the children and various types of medicine. The need is great — and we need the support of compassionate Catholics to continue this important ministry.



*Because of the loving care of the sisters at St. Vincent's, now Maverick is thriving and growing healthier by the day!*

### The Devastating Effects of Childhood Malnutrition

Short-term effects:

- Breakdown of the immune system

- Stunted growth

Long-term effects:

- Stunted bone development and lack of physical strength

- Decreased cognitive development such as attention deficit disorder, lower educational achievement, decreased IQ scores, reduced social skills, slow language development, memory deficiency and difficulty with problem solving.



## Ministry Description



In 1876, St. Vincent de Paul Children's Home opened its doors to abused, abandoned and neglected children in Quito. Today, 72 children call St. Vincent's home — 27 of those children are babies and toddlers under the age of two.

Providing around-the-clock care to the youngest children at the home, the Daughters of Charity show the love of Christ through their tireless service. The sisters consider the work they do a calling from God — to care for “the least of these” in Ecuador's society.

Babies living at St. Vincent's come from a variety of tough situations: some are orphans, some have difficult home lives, and some have parents who are simply too poor to take care of them. In the loving care of the sisters, babies receive medical care, neurological check-ups when necessary, nutritious food and physical exercise to stimulate physical development.

Since most of the babies arrive at the children's home malnourished, the sisters make sure each child is placed on a special nutrition regimen. This includes formula for infants, baby food, vitamins and solid foods for toddlers. When children reach the age of two, they are placed in a special class where they participate in activities that build their fine motor skills.

The best part of St. Vincent's: the sisters faithfully show the love of Jesus to each child who comes to live at the nursery. Each staff member has heeded the Lord's command to take care of the fatherless and the destitute. Not only are these children being fed, medically treated and given a safe place to call home, they are being brought to the feet of Jesus each day and welcomed into the family of God. He has a special plan for each of their lives — and you can be a part of it!





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### Please — Help Us Meet This Need!

The first chapter of James says, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (1:27). Christ calls us to look after the orphan, the vulnerable and the oppressed — and there are 20 babies in Quito, Ecuador who need your support. With the care of the sisters, these babies will get their lives off to a healthy and stable start. As they grow, they will learn of God’s wonderful plan for their lives.

**Cross Catholic Outreach has committed to helping provide salaries, food and medicine for the nursery at St. Vincent de Paul Children’s Home — providing around-the-clock loving care to each child. But we can’t help the Daughters of Charity without the faithful support of generous American Catholics like you. Won’t you reach out in love and support children in desperate need of your compassion? You’re not just feeding children — you’re giving them hope for the future!**

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

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#### 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.