

While we all know that food is vital for our health and strength, there's so much more to a meal. Through your generous support of our nutrition programs, you sat at the table with families in need, sharing the solidarity of breaking bread together.

By the end of our fiscal year in 2022, your support had served 5,152,052 meals to 24,256 vulnerable children and elders.

Antonia serves up hope in new program

Smiling, supportive and responsible"
Antonia lives with her husband, two children and a nephew, near our Chiclayo site in Peru. She and Gilberto are raising their nephew, Eithel. Eithel was blessed with a Chalice sponsor in 2019, which is how Antonia got involved with the site.

Antonia is part, along with her friends, of the "Mujeres con Esperanza" (Mothers with Hope) Chalice family circle.

"At the beginning, she was shy," the site staff recall. She held back from group decisions. But as the site staff continued to train and motivate the parents, she really started to bloom.

"A first challenge was to start her small pastry business," the site staff continue. Antonia bakes cakes and desserts to order. This is a great source of income and helps her contribute to her children's education.

Mastering her first challenge, Antonia took on a second: she became the Chiclayo site's nutrition program coordinator. She and four other mothers run the daily program.

In November 2022, Chiclayo site proudly opened the 'Brandon, Sembrador de Esperanza' (Brandon, Sower of Hope) soup kitchen.

Antonia and her fellow cooks serve a hot, nutritious meal to 80 children, four days a week.

When the field workers told her just how many children were facing malnutrition, she was deeply concerned. They knew the significance of the new meal program.

"We were happy [to have the program] and we started working hard," Antonia says. "My mom lent us her house and the program is running there."

"Chalice supported us with the implementation of the kitchen," and after a few renovations, "now we are organized."

They have already helped more than 50 children to recover from malnutrition!

"They are really improving and now they get sick less," Antonia says.

Antonia has truly come out of her shell in this role. The site staff say, "she is the leader of her community."

"Thanks to my children's sponsors for giving me the opportunity to learn, keep growing, and encouraging me."



Food for the body, nourishment for the spirit.

Pochaiv site director Roman says in plainly: "War does not bring anything good... it makes everything worse."

"And those who needed help before the war are now in an even worse situation."

Roman and his site's social workers knew that the most food insecure families in their communities could not cope with Ukraine's shattered economy. The war caused inflation and unemployment to skyrocket. The cost of food doubled, then tripled.

In 2022, the Pochaiv site team asked Chalice for nutrition support for the 301 most food insecure families across their site.

"These are mainly children from low-income, single parent families, and children with disabilities," says Liubov, a social worker. "Most of the parents in these families are unemployed and live mainly on government social benefits... For all of them, this is a significant and much needed support to purchase food."

Roman says the families broke out in "tears of joy" when they heard the news.

"The parents said: 'how good it is that Chalice does not leave us in such difficult times, but actually tries to help?' This is truly God's miracle and the embodiment of God's blessing through the hearts of Canadian donors."

"Some families bought cereals to be able to prepare porridge for breakfast for the children every morning," Liubov says, "others bought vegetables for the winter to have something to make vegetable soups with."

"Thanks to these food products," says fellow social worker Zoreslava, "families will be able to prepare nutritious and healthy meals."

Roman says nutritional support goes well beyond nourishing their bodies. It is truly food for their souls.

"It gives hope, faith and strengthens love for God. Such a great act of mercy gives an understanding that a person is not alone in the world and that even thousands of kilometers away, there are many good hearts that are not indifferent to someone else's grief, trouble and despair."



You are with them during this difficult time, and it gives them hope that everything can change one day.

Liubov, Pochaiv site social worker

Willma's worry-free lunch

Willma grew up with her three brothers and sisters and her mother, Brigida, near our Levantáte Mujer site in Sucre, Bolivia. Brigida, like many parents in her neighbourhood, is raising her children on her own. She works full time in a restaurant and must take as many hours as she can. Willma's older brothers and sisters could look after themselves, but Willma was too young to be home alone after pre-school.

So Brigida enrolled Willma in the site's meal program at the Rodolfo dining hall. Every day, 58 diners, ranging from pre-schoolers to teenagers, eat a healthy, balanced meal.



It's a great weight off Brigida's mind to know that Willma can rely on a good meal in a safe and friendly environment.

"I work without worrying about her food, and when I get home at night, she tells me about the good food she ate and the things she learned."

"Sincerely, I am very grateful to the site because they support me in a great way."

School meals a boost to students, teachers, and parents.

Rehema Daycare and Orphans Centre is in the densely-packed Korogocho slum of Nairobi. Rehema is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the children in this highly impoverished urban neighbourhood. Korogocho presents many challenges to its community, such as poor sanitation, overcrowding, poor infrastructure, and unsafe housing.

The orphanage receives and cares for babies and children who cannot live with their parents. But the school is open to children coming from homes all around the area. The school's current enrollment is 357 children, of which 152 are sponsored by Chalice through our Nairobi site.

Most parents in Korogocho live below the poverty line and are chronically food insecure. As a result, most children who attend Rehema school are malnourished.

"Rehema saw it as a necessity to start running a feeding program," wites Chalice's Nairobi site staff, "for the many impoverished and needy children within the vicinity. It is evident from their signs; learners are malnourished, and some have nutritional deficiencies due to a lack of healthy meals."

"Chalice's support to Rehema Daycare and Orphans Centre has been of great help to the whole community as the pupils, teachers, and parents are benefitting." "The meals served in the school are essential to learners' growth and development. With the feeding program, learners' attendance at school has greatly improved, and the hot lunch provided has boosted the learners' concentration during the afternoon lessons."

"Teachers at the school have noted academic improvement and more energetic pupils. Learners are more than willing and excited to participate in school extracurricular activities."

"The feeding program has offered immense support to the parents, the heavy load has been lifted off their shoulders. They are happy and thankful as they can focus on other tasks with the assurance that their children will have something to put hunger pangs at bay."

"Parents are happy their children can eat at school and concentrate on their academics; the teachers are happy with the boosted class concentration level and the pupils are so happy with their improved academic performance."

We are thankful to all the Chalice donors and supporters for putting a smile on these children's faces. Their lives have really improved.

Nairobi site staff

