

# Chalice Nutrition Fund



## Introduction

Thanks to generous supporters like you, last year we served 2,848,733 meals to 21,685 beneficiaries and provided training and workshops on topics such as proper hygiene, meal preparation and diet related lifestyle diseases to 8339 parents and children.

Nutritious food is essential for a happy, healthy childhood. Our nutrition program looks different across our regions, and each site develops its own unique way to best serve the nutritional needs of the children and elders we support. At the heart of each of them is the incalculable value of a nutrient-rich diet and food security.

*Your donation has truly made a difference to hungry children and elders in need.*

*Note: Feeding programs are resuming as schools reopen with additional health protocols in place. Nutritional support is needed more than ever because parents aren't able to work due to COVID-19 restrictions.*

## Motivated Minds in Meru

In rural Meru County, several schools benefit from the Chalice Nutrition program through daily school lunches. The value of these daily hot meals cannot be underestimated. While the meals themselves support the children's healthy development, it is the incentive they provide that has sparked the most change. *Our sponsor site director, Karutani Rose, estimates that at least half of the students are enrolled in school because of the feeding program alone.*

In January 2021, the Kenyan government reopened all schools after pandemic closures. Teachers and staff saw enrollment increase over the previous year, with 198 children across the five schools in the area newly enrolled. *This meant the Meru nutrition program was feeding 2351 children per school day. Of these, 151 children have Chalice sponsors.*

The daily meal is githeri, a stew of corn and beans, which is more robust than the alternative option of cereal porridge. "This has really impressed the pupils," writes Karutani Rose, "and they have reported that they enjoy taking meals at schools since most of them come from families that normally [can] not afford the three meals per day."



The children's parents have been contributing food and firewood when they are able. "It is...amazing to learn that the parents own the program," Karutani Rose remarks. The parents can see that by supporting the school lunch program, they are not only investing in their children's health and the quality of their education, but they are contributing to the future of their entire community. This sense of ownership "will go a long way in developing a self-sustainable community," she writes.

## Grateful Gustavo in Guatemala



“God bless each of your lives for sharing.... Thank you for your generosity. Jesus the Good Shepherd guide your lives at all times.”

Gustaco, Luis Amigo site in Guatemala

Gustavo grew up with his mother, Brenda, and his four siblings near our Luis Amigo sponsor site in Guatemala. A very studious 14-year-old, Gustavo is determined to complete his education and find a good job so that he can give back the hard work and sacrifice Brenda has shown him. A single mother, Brenda supports her five children by selling food in a spot by the river. However, COVID-19 closed her businesses, adding to her already daunting challenge of providing for her children on her own.

Thanks to all those who supported Chalice's nutrition program through the gift catalogue, Gustavo and Brenda received a stock of essential groceries, including beans, rice, fortified nutrition drinks, and cereal.

## Timely Transformations in Tondo

The Tondo sponsor site's central office -- known as the "Centro" -- sits within the impoverished region of Manila, where densely packed homes are constructed of makeshift materials and there are few or no services, utilities or sanitation. Many children in their neighborhoods struggle with malnutrition.

The Tondo staff are committed to curtailing the long-term health effects childhood malnutrition can cause, and to reducing the number of children going hungry, especially in unstable pandemic times.

*This year, through Chalice's nutrition program, the Tondo team served five meals per week in three communities. A total of 635 children ate a nutritious meal every weekday.*

In one of the neighborhoods, Baseco, the staff started an urban gardening program for the families to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables.



“The garden provided food security to the residents. It is a 'go-to' place for families without food for a meal.”

Site Staff, Tondo site in Philippines

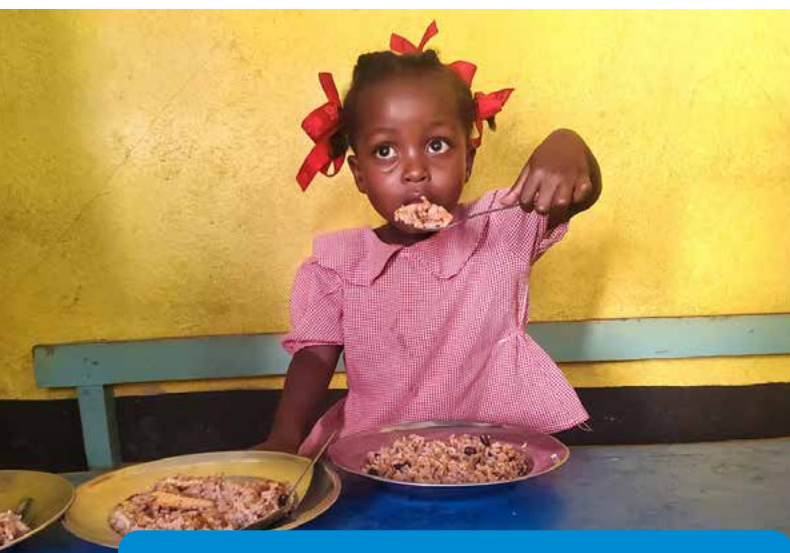
*Thanks to the support of Chalice donors, 81 children who were malnourished at the beginning of this year are now a healthy weight.*

## Hunger Halted in Haiti

Haiti has struggled with significant political upheaval and a contracting economy. Food security is a primary and growing concern. While the COVID-19 pandemic caused less disruption in Haitian schools than most other countries, and classes remained open much of the year, the children and families still faced significant challenges.

“Daily activities resumed as usual,” writes the Haiti North site staff, “but the pandemic’s consequences on economic life became a burden on the shoulders of the population.” Anxious parents “imagined waking up every day not knowing what to feed their families,” the staff continue.

*Through your support of the nutrition program, 1187 children across six schools in our Haiti North sponsor site benefited from the breakfast program. They received a nutritious meal made of foods such as eggs and milk three times per week.*



“Our sponsored families were very happy and so grateful to Chalice and the donors for thinking of them during their most difficult moment.”

Site Staff, Haiti North site in Haiti

*Thanks to all those who gave to the nutrition program through the gift catalogue, the site also supplied vital food to the families in need.*

*“This great gesture represented a relief,” the staff write. “Without the support of Chalice ...they wouldn’t have known what to do to feed their family.”*

## Animal Activity in Amanecer

The Amanecer (“Sunrise”) Religious Foundation runs five homes for youth on the streets and at high social risk; children and teens who cannot live with their families. The

staff work closely with these vulnerable youth to promote connecting with others, healthy friendships, and belief in their own self-worth. Some sponsored youths are living with their families, and sponsorship helps them continue accessing their education.

*This year, the children living in the homes didn’t just get to enjoy the food on the table – they received the farming and animal care experience required to get it there. In the Madre de Dios home, where 25 vulnerable girls live and study, the sponsor site started a small farm. The San Martin home for boys raised small livestock and poultry. The children and teens from the homes, 92 residents in all, reap the rewards of fresh eggs, meat and poultry to round out their diets.*

The farms act as occupational therapy for the children. With their teachers’ guidance, they are learning responsibility, commitment, animal care and the skills they need to grow and raise their own food. The girls are growing in teamwork and are demonstrating growing care for creation.



The Amanecer sponsor site also assisted 60 sponsored children who can live with their families. The families received hampers of dry staple goods such as rice and lentils, and fresh items such as eggs and milk.

## How can I help?

*When you feed a child, you feed the future.*

- ✓ Make a one-time or monthly donation
- ✓ Purchase an item from our Gift Catalogue
- ✓ Host a fundraising event with your family, friends, and community
- ✓ Involve your parish by setting up a “Pocket Change for Change”