



# Via CARITAS

*Through God's Love*

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## We're in Belize!



*Tourist photo of Belize City, Belize*

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For over a year, CARITAS For Children has been working tirelessly to start up a child sponsorship program in Belize, and we are happy to announce that we finally have our first children enrolled in the program and available for sponsorship.



*Our Lady of the Way school in Belize*

In September of 2022, several members of the CARITAS For Children team traveled to Belize to visit some Catholic schools from impoverished communities. Our visit confirmed that the need is very great in these schools, and we left Belize feeling optimistic that we may be able to help these children.

Belize is a beautiful coastal country in Central America characterized by its lovely beaches, colorful buildings, and cheerful people. Sadly, it is also characterized by its poverty. Parents struggle desperately to provide for all of their children's basic needs, meaning they have to pick and choose which of their needs are the most important.



*Our Lady of the Way school in Belize*



*Classroom at Our Lady of the Way school in Belize*

Often, the children's education takes a back seat, as food, clothing, and shelter are prioritized. These parents want nothing more than to give their children a happy and successful life, and they know that this goal cannot be achieved without a quality education. For this reason, we are very excited to welcome these children from Belize to our program, and do our best to help their families with the cost of their education.



*Classroom and outside St. John Vianney school in Belize*

Our mission at CARITAS For Children is to spread God's love, and with your help, we can do that in Belize. If you would like to be a part of our mission in Belize, please check out our available children [here](#) and read their stories!

# Caritas 2023 Wrap-Up

Maria made this info-graphic to highlight the impact of CARITAS For Children in 2023!



# CARITAS 25th Year Anniversary

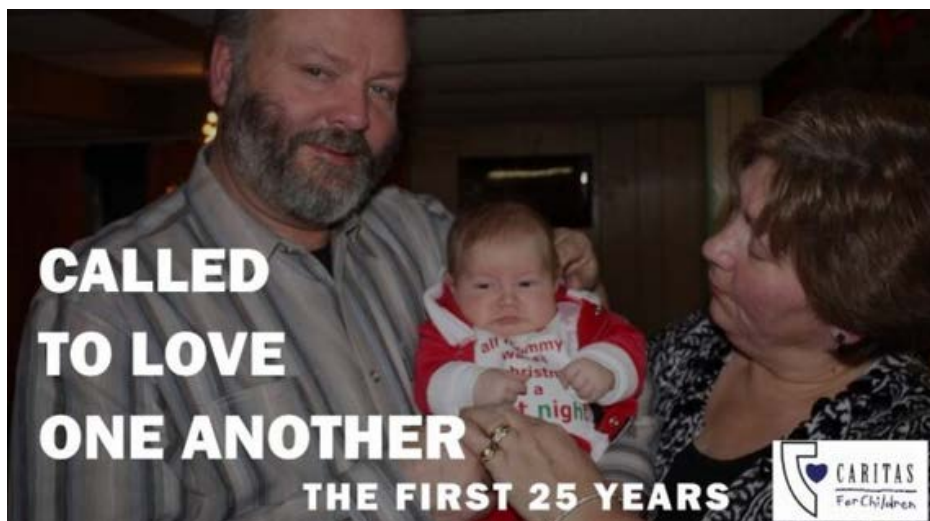
Since 1998, our founders, Chris and Barbara Hoar embarked on a mission to provide much-needed resources to some of the poorest children in the world. They knew they could not do it alone and that is how CARITAS For Children began to develop.

Since the beginning, they knew that the most significant form of poverty was to be unseen, unknown, and unloved. With this sentiment in mind, they began this ministry specifically for orphans who had nobody to care for them. This also led them to decide that everything that CARITAS For Children did for the poor always needed to involve forming relationships of love.

Inspired by the significance of their own Catholic faith, they made sure their ministry included opportunities for young children to experience faith, hope, and love by intentionally working closely with Catholic Religious men and women to provide faith-based support to those who need it most. This ministry involved not only tangible works of mercy, but also spiritual works of mercy.

Throughout 2023, we have been reflecting on how much has been accomplished in these 25 years of ministry and service. Although it is impossible to share all the great works from the last 25 years, it is amazing to see some of the main highlights.

We created a short presentation of some of the greatest milestones since 1998. To watch it, click on the video below:



It is amazing to see how something as simple as an idea to show love to those in most need has transformed over 25 years to become a global Catholic Apostolate. It is with great honor that we celebrate this milestone. At the same time, it is with great humility that we ask you to please consider helping CARITAS For Children continue on for Another 25 Years.

CARITAS For Children has always focused on pleading for support on behalf of the poorest of the poor. This year, however, we are pleading for support for our own organization. We also find ourselves in need of support in order to continue our ministry. Please consider helping our ministry. You can find out how to help CARITAS For Children by clicking on the button below.

[\*\*Help Today\*\*](#)

## **Another Water Well Project in Uganda**

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After much planning, searching, and drilling, we were able to successfully build two water wells in Uganda in 2023. What better way to celebrate this success than to try for a third water well?

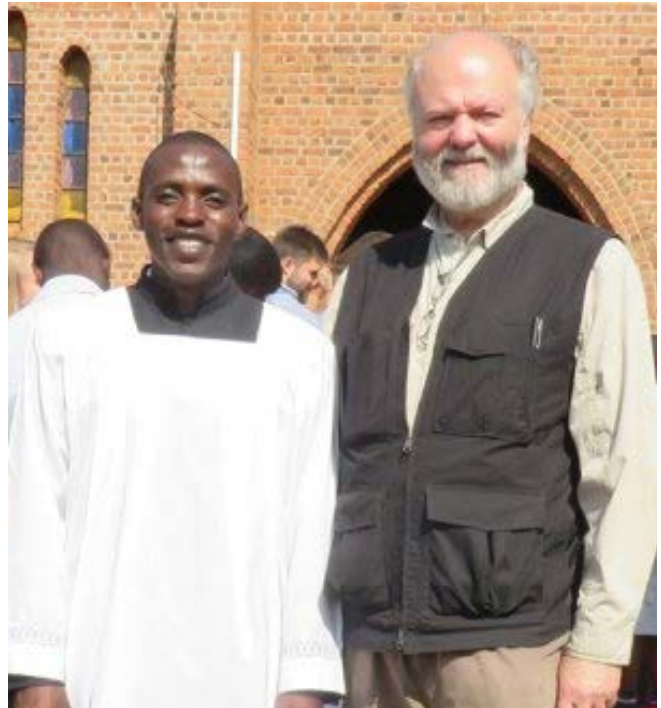
The new water well is being built at St. Joseph's Seminary in Nyenga which is where Fr. Frank, a close friend and former CARITAS For Children child himself, attended high school. He is currently the rector and headmaster of the school, and understands the needs of this community very personally. Although we haven't reached our goal for the funding of this well yet, we made the decision to break ground and begin construction and the search for water. We would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers during this time.

If you would like to contribute to this project, there is still time and need! Click below.

[\*\*Water Well\*\*](#)

## Father Frank's Story

If you've been reading our last few newsletters regarding our water well projects in Uganda, you may be wondering who Father Frank is, and how he came to be so involved in CARITAS For Children. We wanted to tell a little bit of his inspiring story. Father Frank's journey from a humble background to becoming a Catholic priest embodies the spirit of Caritas for Children. Sponsored by Caritas founder Chris Hoar during seminary, Father Frank's life reflects the transformative impact of sponsorship on education.



*Fr. Frank and Chris in 2015*



*Fr. Frank's ordination, 2017*

Father Frank's interest in the priesthood was inspired by Pope John Paul II. He pursued a dream of priesthood despite being orphaned at seven. Between community support and his CARITAS For Children sponsorship, he was able to complete his education and get ordained in 2017.

After beginning his life as a priest, Father Frank was inspired by CARITAS For Children to help children in the same situation he was in. He initiated projects like building schools and water wells in impoverished communities. His experiences mirror the teachings of Jesus, emphasizing the divine touch of love and kindness.



*Fr. Frank working in his community*

Grateful for mentorship and sponsorship that CARITAS For Children provided him, Father Frank sees these programs as embodiments of Christ's teachings, uniting distant communities in a shared mission of love and support.

[Father Frank's journey](#), woven with the mission of CARITAS For Children's, exemplifies the transformative power of faith, generosity, and compassion. His story, from early struggles to becoming an ordained priest, underscores the enduring impact of CARITAS For Children's mission on communities worldwide.



*CARITAS Staff visiting Father Frank*

# Spotlight on Children in Need

In recognition of our new program in Belize, we want to draw attention to some of the very special children from this country



[Dean Flowers, 12](#)

Dean and his siblings have been living with their grandmother since their mother passed away. Dean is the youngest of 3, with one older brother and one older sister. Their father abandoned the family years ago, and their mother and grandmother had been supporting the children on their own. Things have been very hard since the death of their mother, as Dean's grandmother is unable to work due to her advancing age and frequent health issues.

[\(Read Full Story\)](#)

To help Dean's family afford his education, he will need:

- \$36 per month from one sponsor

Mia's family has been grappling with financial constraints in their household. She resides with her parents and three siblings, all of whom depend on their parents for support. Mia's mother is diligently working as a hairdresser to provide for the family's needs, but her father is currently experiencing difficulties in securing stable employment, which has further exacerbated their financial struggles.

[\(Read Full Story\)](#)

To help Mia's family afford her education, she will need:

- \$36 per month from one sponsor



[Mia Harris, 5](#)



# Excellent Student Needs New Sponsor

Patrick lives with his mother and 5 siblings in this small, modest home. Their father passed away, and their mother has been working tirelessly as a farmer to support the children at home. Patrick and two of his siblings were in school thanks to sponsorships, but Patrick himself recently lost his sponsor.



[Patrick Kibika, 14](#)

Incredibly, the children are excelling in school. Patrick's sister, Philomera, is consistently at the top of her class. Patrick and his brother Jimmy get very good grades as well, and are always pushing themselves to work harder. It is amazing that with all of the worries these children face at home, they don't let it inhibit their education or hinder their success.



These children are smart, and work very hard to make their mother proud, and show gratitude for their sponsorships. Patrick's mother is praying for a new sponsor to recognize his potential and support his education once again.

To remain in school, Patrick needs:

- [\\$36/month from one sponsor](#)