



CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN AND AGING
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Fact Sheet for Journalists

What is CFCA?

CFCA is an international movement of people who support and encourage children, youth and the aging in developing countries. We help families put food on the table, send their children to school, access health care and have a decent place to live so that together we can end the cycle of poverty. Founded by lay Catholics acting on the call to serve the poor, the CFCA movement includes people of all faiths.

How many children and aging people are sponsored?

Children: 286,137 Aging: 22,301 Vocation candidates: 404 **Total: 308,842**

How many people are CFCA sponsors?

There are 271,037 primarily U.S.-based sponsors.

Where does CFCA work?

CFCA has projects in 24 countries, listed by region below:

Mexico and Central America: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua

Caribbean: Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica

Asia: India and Philippines

Africa: Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda

South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela

Where are the CFCA headquarters?

The CFCA international headquarters are in Kansas City, Kan.

How does CFCA work?

We bring people together through a sponsorship model in which one sponsor partners with a child or aging person in a developing country, offering support and encouragement. This relationship impacts not only the child or aging friend but the whole family and the sponsor as well.

At CFCA, we listen to families and tailor the sponsorship benefits to their needs, giving them the tools to make a better life for their children. We also give them a means to work with their neighbors to support each other and build stronger communities.

CFCA sponsors: What they contribute. What they receive.

Through the support of primarily U.S.-based sponsors who contribute \$30 a month, CFCA provides basic life necessities and, in some instances, livelihood programs so families can become self-sustaining and live with dignity. Sponsors get to know their sponsored friends through letters and photographs, and some sponsors travel to meet the people they help support on CFCA-hosted mission awareness trips.

Benefits and services provided through sponsorship are personalized according to the needs of the family and may include: nutritious food, school uniforms, school supplies, tuition or other school fees, clothing, housing repairs, medical and dental care, livelihood support, literacy training for adults, Christmas and birthday celebrations, social outings and assistance for the elderly.

How does CFCA invite sponsors to join the CFCA community?

CFCA's primary way of inviting sponsors is through church presentations. About 30 priests visit churches on weekends and speak on behalf of CFCA sponsorship.

Some people who have sponsored through CFCA become advocates. They share the story of sponsorship with their families, friends and community by helping at parish presentations, hosting sponsorship parties, giving talks to community organizations, and bringing CFCA presenters to their churches.

What other ways can people contribute to CFCA?

CFCA manages several funds that accept donations. To learn more about the funds listed below, please visit www.cfcausa.org/howyoucanhelp/contribute

Scholarship Program	Disaster Assistance Fund	Food Assistance Fund	Housing Fund
HIV/AIDS Fund	General Fund	Healthy Communities Fund	Sponsorship Assistance Fund

Accountability

Charity Navigator, an independent charity oversight organization, has awarded CFCA a four-star rating for the seventh year in a row, an honor earned by less than 1 percent of the charities it reviews. We have earned an A+ rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy and meet the stringent standards established by the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

Leadership

Chief Governing Officer: Scott Wasserman
Chief Executive Officer: Francis "Paco" Wertin
President and Co-founder: Robert Hentzen
Director of International Programs: Paul Pearce

Director of Sponsor Outreach: Raelene Dietz
Director of Sponsorship Operations: Elaine Haake
Director of Communications: Loretta Shea Kline

History

CFCA was established in 1981 by brothers Bob, Jim and Bud Hentzen, their sister Nadine Pearce and Jerry Tolle. Bob Hentzen, a former Christian Brother, and Tolle, a former Jesuit priest, worked in Central and South America for many years. They developed the sponsorship program to help people living in dire poverty.

Mission Statement

CFCA's mission is to walk with the poor and marginalized of the world.

We provide personal attention and direct benefits to children, youth, aging and their families so they may live with dignity, achieve their desired potential and participate fully in society.

We invite people of good will to live in daily solidarity with the world's poor through one-to-one sponsorship.

We build community by fostering relationships of mutual respect, understanding and support that are culturally diverse, empowering and without religious or other prejudice.

Grounded in the Gospel call to serve the poor, CFCA is a lay Catholic organization working with persons of all faith traditions to create a worldwide community of compassion and service.

For more information:

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Web site: cfcausa.org

blog: cfcausa.org/blog

youth Web site: walkwiththepoor.org

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