



Just one can make a difference



One sponsorship can bring light to one child and ignite the flame to bring CFCA's Hope for a Family program to many more.

Mother Teresa once said, "If I look at the mass I will never act, but if I look at the one I will."

As a CFCA sponsor, you understand what it means to look into the face of ONE child, youth or aging person and take action. Sponsorship ignites a flame of hope that spreads throughout the entire family of your sponsored friend.

And it doesn't stop there. Your sponsored friend and family become a source of inspiration to other families in their neighborhood or village. Hope is contagious.

This spring we are asking for your help in keeping the circle of hope and inspiration growing. Will you

consider participating in our spring sponsorship drive, "One Can Make a Difference?" If each one of our volunteers found just one new sponsor, together we would be able to give hope to more than 2,000 children, youth or aging persons and their families.

It's easy to participate. Between March 1 and May 31, simply request one folder by filling out the postage-paid response card and mailing it to CFCA. You may also call (800) 875-6564 and ask for the Outreach Volunteer team, or email cfcaoutreach@cfcausa.org.

This spring, make a difference by inviting someone to look at the one and act! ■

How to find a sponsor

Tips for success:

1. Take time to read the family profile and become acquainted with the living conditions and circumstances of the child, youth or elderly person and their family. This will help you better represent them and share their story.
2. When speaking to a potential sponsor, mention the child by name. Example: "I'd like you to meet Manuel, a 5-year-old boy living in Nicaragua."
3. Utilize the CFCA website to support you in introducing others to CFCA and Hope for a Family sponsorship. Share your enthusiasm and why you sponsor. If people want time to consider sponsorship or learn more, direct them to the website at www.hopeforafamily.org.
4. Consider placing an announcement in your parish bulletin letting parishioners know you have one child, youth or aging person who is brimming with potential but in need of help. You may end up with several requests! ■

Walk2gether puts the spotlight on Costa Rica

At the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, CFCA President Bob Hentzen will be in Costa Rica walking with families living in poverty and bringing them a message of hope.

Currently, there are 582 children, youth and aging friends in Costa Rica waiting to be sponsored. When requesting your folder to share with others, please consider asking for a child, youth or aging person from Costa Rica.

Here is some information you could share with a potential sponsor.

Extreme poverty exists throughout Latin America and Costa Rica is no exception. CFCA has been working to build hope among families in Costa Rica since 1991.

The San Jose project offers Hope for a Family program benefits for

children, aging persons and their families at 16 sites around the country. Sponsored members and their families receive help with home improvements, groceries, access to nutrition centers and educational assistance. In addition, basic clothing such as pants, shirts, dresses, shoes and jackets enhance self-esteem, and medical visits and regular exams improve physical health.

Costa Rican society mirrors many of the beliefs and values of Spanish culture. Most Costa Ricans value their family and religion above all else. Festivals honoring patron saints are a common occurrence in many towns or villages.

Costa Ricans, or Ticos, as they call themselves, value personal dignity and have strong family ties. They love brilliant colors and use them in their homes. Many houses are painted bright pinks, greens and blues and are decorated with colorful flowers. ■



How does Hope for a Family sponsorship make a difference?

When you sponsor a child, youth or aging person, the entire family benefits. Following are several core principles of the Hope for a Family program.

- At CFCA, we believe in strong families. We are not just giving food or other benefits to a child living in a hopeless situation. We are working with families so they can be full participants in their local communities.
- Families enrolled in the sponsorship program help decide what benefits and services would be most useful and necessary. CFCA believes in the wisdom of mothers in particular. Mothers know

what their families need, so our programs are designed in true partnership with them.

- CFCA encourages participation in livelihood programs, with the ideas and planning coming directly from the families. The families CFCA serves are brimming with potential but in need of resources to forge a path out of poverty.
- By empowering the people we serve, they become more invested in the Hope for a Family program and in their communities. They have hope for a better future for their children.