



CFCA UPDATE

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN AND AGING

Offering hope. Restoring dignity. Worldwide.

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Family experiences God's blessings with sponsorship

(The following story was submitted by CFCA's Hermano Pedro project in Guatemala.)

The Esqueque family lives in the neighborhood of La Cruz, in the small community of Pastores Sacatepeques, Guatemala. They are a humble family, poor in material wealth yet rich in love for each other and for God.

Don Mauricio and Doña Cecilia provide for their children the best they can. Don Mauricio finds work repairing shoes, while Doña Cecilia goes into the larger city of Antigua to wash and iron clothes.

Carlos, their oldest son, is 11 years old and a participant in the CFCA program. He is a cheerful, dutiful and studious boy who gladly takes charge of his siblings when his grandmother is unavailable to watch them.

His parents' income barely provided the family with enough to eat, much less new clothing, medicine, school supplies and decent shoes. The family felt so blessed by the benefits they received through Carlos' sponsorship that they never imagined how God would work through the program to better their lives even further.

The family had suffered tragedy after tragedy in recent years. Shortly after the death of one of their children, Don Mauricio's father died. The family was grief-stricken, yet faithful and determined to continue with their lives.

Not long after, the family suffered another blow. On the morning of Jan. 9, 2003, shortly after the parents prepared for work, Carlos for school and the little ones for grandma's house, their tiny house went up in flames. The fire destroyed everything in a few minutes, and the family that had little to begin with was left with nothing.

The fire brought out the best in their small, close-knit community. The neighbors rallied around the family, providing them a place to sleep, food to eat and a few articles of clothing. Doña Cecilia said that they never felt alone, and realized there is always someone willing to lend a hand. Yet they knew they could not live off of their neighbors' compassion forever.



CFCA/Hermano Pedro Project

Carlos and his mother are shown at the location of their previous dwelling, which was destroyed by fire.

Word of the family's situation traveled quickly. Local subproject representatives contacted the CFCA office in San Antonio, and they were relieved to hear that special funds had been approved to help the family rebuild.

Don Mauricio had asked his neighbors to loan him the resources necessary to build another wooden shack on a small piece of land they had found, and then the news came. CFCA was going to help them build a house. Not just a sugar-cane lean-to, but a real cement house with a zinc roof. The smiles on their faces stretched from ear to ear, and the bitter tears they had cried for their loss turned into sweet tears of joy and gratitude.

A statement from the subproject shows how God works through sponsorship to bless the lives of not only the children and aging persons, but the lives of all who are involved.

"God has once again spoken to us through the pain and suffering of our Christian brothers," the statement said. ... "We ask God to bless all of our brothers and sisters who send their money from far away in order to make possible these labors of love."

Editor's note: Carlos is sponsored by Walter and Alice Kimbro of Pembroke Pines, Fla. The grandparents of 10 said they think of Carlos as a part of their extended family.

DONATIONS HELP WITH PRIORITY NEEDS

When the Esqueque family lost their home in a fire (see story at left), the local CFCA subproject was able to allocate special funds to help them build a new house. This help was made possible by sponsor donations designated for "project needs."

Donations for project needs are sent in their entirety to the subproject where the sponsor's friend receives benefits. CFCA does not use any of these funds for administration.

Use of the funds is left to the discretion of the local coordinator to best serve the needs of sponsored friends. The funds may be used for the benefit of all sponsored friends or the urgent needs of one or more sponsored persons.

The tear-off remittance form, found at the bottom of your contribution receipt and used when making your next sponsorship contribution, includes a line for any additional donations for project needs. (See sample on back of this publication.)

Donations for project needs are one way CFCA helps build compassionate communities through a program that stresses personal outreach.

About your remittance form

Attached to the bottom section of your contribution receipt is a remittance form to use when making your next sponsorship contribution. (See back) The form includes lines for totaling your sponsorship contributions plus any birthday, Christmas, project, general or other donations.

If you sponsor more than one child or aging person, be sure that the "Sponsorship" line shows the total of all sponsorship contributions being made. If you want a sponsorship contribution or project contribution to apply to only one sponsored friend or project, please write your request on the form.

New CFCA database system generates changes in contribution receipt

Each time CFCA receives your contribution, a receipt is generated. With CASA, our new computer database, the appearance of your receipt has changed. The new receipt shows posting of all funds, whether to specific sponsorships or general project donations. Multiple sponsorships now appear on a single receipt.

In the past, a sponsor of more than one child or aging friend received a separate receipt pertaining to each sponsored person. Please contact Sponsor Services toll-free at (800) 875-6564 if you have any questions about the new receipt. Be sure to note your CFCA ID at the top right of your receipt.

