

GRATITUDE REPORT

2022



Sisters of Mary
**World Villages
for Children**

OVERVIEW

- Letter from Sr. Maria
- Your Impact
- Your Gifts
- Lives You Have Transformed
- Country Profiles

This Gratitude Report is a snapshot of the incredible impact you've made on the lives of over 20,000 children throughout the world! This work would not be possible without your abundant generosity.

Two simple words - but for us they mean the world - THANK YOU!



From Sr. Maria Cho, Superior General

Thank you so much. As I look back at the year that has passed, I am amazed to see how your dedication to support our charity programs has given joy and hope to the many poor children under our care. With this, I could not help but say my sincere gratitude for everything that you do for us to continue with our mission.

Every year, we are able to accept new children and other have graduated and more have found jobs than of the previous years. Thanks to the sisters who untiringly take care of them and to the teachers and other collaborators to teach and assist them in school.



"Let us serve the Lord with joy!"

Everyone is trying his/her best, especially the additional girls, new toddlers and trainees in Tanzania. For them to be at our place is paradise because they all come from very desperate family situations. Thus, we are more inspired to start the Boystown in Dodoma City, where the bishop of the diocese had donated the 12 hectare land. We had the groundbreaking last December and hopefully in the fall of this year we can help some boys at the pilot buildings which will be constructed this coming month.

So we look forward with hope that this year will be much better and we continue to pray for your good health and the well-being of all our benefactors.

Thank you once again and God bless you all.

**Sister Maria Cho, SM
Superior General, Sisters of Mary
Chair of the Board, World Villages
for Children**



LEADERSHIP

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*"I trust this work to Mary - she will remain
 as director, chairman of the board,
 founder, helper, protector and friend"
 - Venerable Father Al Schwartz (founder)*

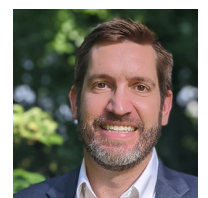
You and your generosity bring us such joy! Every time I visit with the Sisters and children, they ask me to sincerely extend their gratitude to you and all of our benefactors. It takes a very special heart to give to something you cannot directly and constantly see, touch, sense. Giving to international poverty relief takes faith! I thank you for placing your faith and trust in us.

You share your time and money with those you love. Thank you for sharing your love generously with children in poverty!

Grace and Peace,

Paul Gesterling

President/CEO of U.S. Development
 Sisters of Mary World Villages for Children



YOUR IMPACT

3,809

New graduates now moving on to share their gifts and help their communities.



5,253

New students have been accepted into our charitable programs.



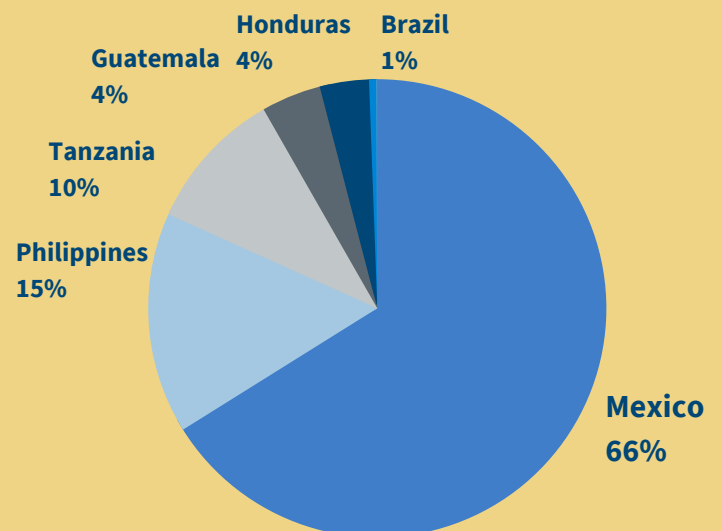
22,374

Children have been served in 2022 by the Sisters of Mary, thanks to you!



Where Your Gifts Traveled in 2022

Gifts from U.S. development efforts are used throughout all sites of the Sisters of Mary charitable programs. Unrestricted gifts are distributed according to the greatest immediate needs of the Sisters and children. Restricted gifts may be designated by country fund or to particular site projects.



2022

BY THE NUMBERS*

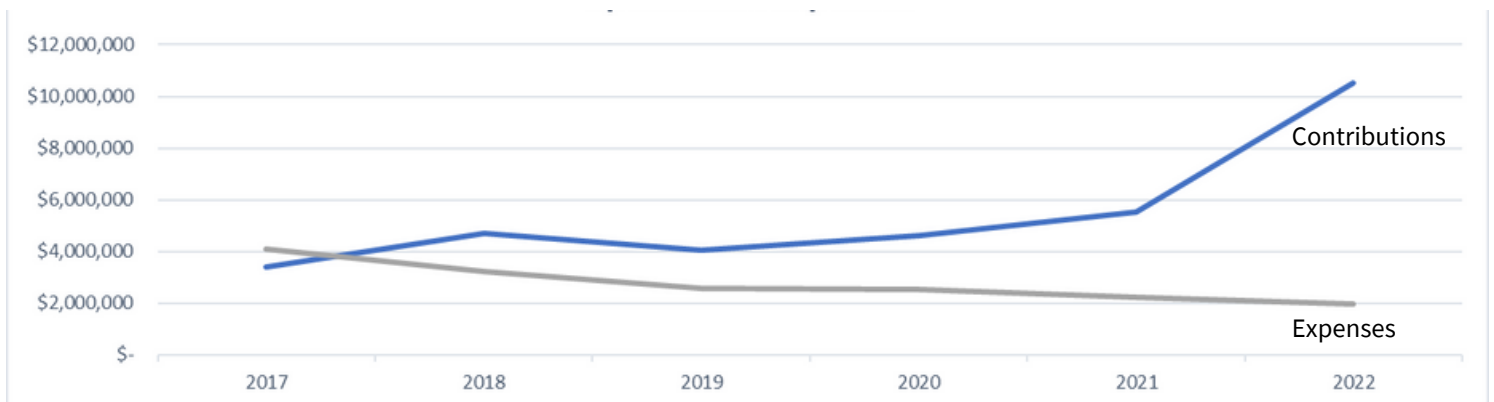
Income	Total
Contributions	\$9,664,234
Legacies and Bequests	\$754,103
Total Other Revenue	\$119,663
Total Support and Revenue	\$10,538,000

Expenses	Total
Grants to Sisters of Mary	\$8,719,000
Information Services	\$1,016,372
Fundraising	\$512,772
Management and General	\$448,856
Total Expenses	\$10,707,000

Public Contributions and Operational Expenses

Year Over Year

(Gap between public contributions and operational expenses represents U.S. funding, combined with investment income, available to support Sisters of Mary Charitable programs)



*Financials are from pre-audited year-end numbers. Following our annual audit, updated audited financials will be released and available on our website. Grants to the Sisters of Mary represent funding from current reporting year, as well as year-end contribution from the previous year distributed in current year. For more information on Sisters of Mary World Villages for Children financial transparency, your donor privacy rights, and our accountability, visit: <https://www.worldvillages.org/about-us/accountability/>

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

"The first time I entered here at Villa de las Niñas, I was really shocked with what I saw and I felt very big changes in my mind. The Sisters of Mary are of big help for me to overcome my fears and are examples of perseverance for me. "

-Sagrario, Mexico





Meet Sagrario



My name is Sagrario. My father is a farmer and my mother is a housekeeper. When I was in elementary I made many absences at school because I have to work in the farm with my parents to earn money and at the same to have some harvest for our food.

The first time I entered here at “Villa de las Niñas”, I was really shocked with what I saw and I felt very big changes in my mind. The Sisters of Mary are of big help for me to overcome my fears and are examples of perseverance for me. In here we learn from each other, we get to know each other’s different stories and memories in childhood.

Now I am learning many things that I never thought of before. I can now work some projects on the computer and more or less I am becoming good at controlling the sewing machines.

I am very grateful to our benefactors for their spiritual and financial help. They are truly part of the fulfillment of our dreams in life.

BY THE NUMBERS

Schools	Children	Teachers	Sisters	Staff
Chalco Girlstown	3,040	108	52	72
Guadalajara Boystown	1,979	71	15	42
Chalco Daycare	107	7	2	10

Mexico

In Mexico, nearly half of the population lives in poverty. With poor living conditions, lack of proper nutrition, and quality education inaccessible, the cycle of poverty persists.

The Sisters of Mary programs provide a safe place to live and learn for 5,000 children, where they are lovingly cared for and have the chance to enjoy a childhood free from the worries of poverty.



"I realized how life is so difficult and that nearly stopped me from dreaming. But that's the time God intervened through the Sisters of Mary School."

-Bukhari, Philippines





Philippines

In the Philippines, poverty afflicts more than a fifth of the total population and **children are disproportionately affected by these living conditions**. Many children are living in slums and their basic human needs, such as clean water and clothing, are not being met. Without access to education, the cycle of poverty continues, with little hope for a bright future for these children.

With the help of our donors, the Sisters of Mary are able to provide care for over 10,000 of the poorest children in the Philippines. The Sisters of Mary operate and maintain 4 schools in the Philippines: Biga Girlstown, Adlas Boystown, Talisay Girlstown, and Minglanilla Boystown. These schools provide an education, a safe place for children to grow up, and the priceless gift of hope for a better life.

Meet Bukhari



My name is Bukhari. My father is farmer and my mother is housewife. I am currently studying at the Sisters of Mary School-Adlas.

My life outside before I entered here in the Sisters of Mary School was very hard, for my family is included in the impoverished unit of the society- in short, we are poor. In cases we don't have enough food to eat for the day, I was expected to work on the field and when I graduated my elementary education, my family cannot support my schooling.

I realized how life is so difficult and that nearly stopped me from dreaming. But that's the time God intervened through the Sisters of Mary School.

My mother told me that I must not give up if things get hard for there are many ways to overcome it. So now that I reached this far, I must continue. I believe that I can make it to the peak of my dream of my childhood-to become an engineer. Truly the Sisters of Mary School provides quality education that helps me. I believe God is always with me every step of my road to pursuing my bachelor's degree. I'd like to finish my studies in college. I learned from my experiences that whatever happens I must continue my path. And there are ways to overcome the hardships in life.

I am thankful for all those people who made the difference in my life. I pray our good Lord continue to bless your life, for you became a channel of his blessings to bring glad tidings to poor and give them better future. To the Virgin of the Poor, Fr. Al, sisters, teachers, donors, and friends, thank you very much.

BY THE NUMBERS

Schools	Children	Teachers	Sisters	Staff
Biga Girlstown	2,198	55	33	65
Adlas Boystown	1,604	53	21	59
Talisay Girlstown	2,142	74	25	77
Minglanilla Boystown	1,592	61	17	79
General Trias - Boys	188	10	2	9
Clinics	Outpatients Per Day	Sisters	Staff	
JP Rizal Memorial - Biga	75	2	12	
Marie Doty - Minglanilla	59	1	10	



"At home we can only eat once a day because most of the time we depend only on the charity of our neighbors. I am not even sure if I can study Secondary Studies with this kind of life. "
-Mercedes, Tanzania





Mercedes in Her Own Words



My name is Mercedes. I am 15 years old. My father died when I was still very young. At that time life became more difficult especially for my mother. At home we can only eat once a day because most of the time we depend only on the charity of our neighbors. I am not even sure if I can study Secondary Studies with this kind of life.

My first impression, I am surprised with the big beautiful 4th and 7th story buildings because I did not have the experience of walking up stairs. Also the food that I was eating here is very impressive because such food we could eat only if there is special occasion like a birthday in our neighbor's house.

What I like most from the Sisters of Mary is its good environment. The way I am living here is a good foundation to me to have a good and better future. I imagine also using the different talents that I have in order to reach my dreams and goals in life.

I would like to say Thank you very much our beloved donors for your generosity and kindness especially to the poorest of the poor like me. Without your donation through the Sisters I would not be here in a good place where I can get different skills and discover my talents.

Tanzania

The Sisters of Mary started operations in Tanzania with their Kisarawe Girlstown in 2019 and have since expanded their programs in this East African country.

In 2022, the Sisters of Mary opened Kiluvya Nursery and Training Center, a multi-purpose facility providing Montessori style nursery care for 90 young children and certified training for 110 impoverished women who have dropped out of education.

In response to the pleas of the community, the Sisters have plans to open up a Boystown in Dodoma. On December 9th, 2022, the Sisters were able to hold a groundbreaking ceremony to officially open the building project.

Education is inaccessible to about 40% of Tanzanian children and without quality education, these children are left vulnerable to the devastating effects of poverty. The work the Sisters of Mary do in Tanzania is changing lives and it is only possible through the generosity of our donors.



BY THE NUMBERS

Schools	Students	Teachers	Sisters	Staff
Kisarawe Girlstown	626	28	19	17
Kiluvya	87	5	6	7

*Dodoma Boystown anticipated 2023

"My first day at the Sisters of Mary was full of emotion, having curiosity all throughout the compound. My heart was so happy having a new opportunity to study. "

-Yordin, Honduras





HONDURAS



Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America with **over half the population living in poverty**. There is little access to quality education and many children are pulled away from school to work to provide for their family.

With the funds from our gracious donors, the Sisters of Mary are able to operate two schools in Honduras; Tegucigalpa Girlstown and Amarateca Boystown. The over 1,500 children at the schools in Honduras come from the most remote and impoverished regions in the country.

The Sisters of Mary prioritize vocational training for the students so they are equipped with skills and trades to gain employment once they graduate. This year, they were able to start construction of a dressmaking workshop at Tegucigalpa to expand the vocational training for the girls.



Yordin in His Own Words

Since my parents do not have money to send me to school, they didn't send me to school for about two years. Within these years, I dedicated to work in the farm together with my parents and to help my 2 elder brothers study. I am the third child of seven. My parents are working hard yet our family does not improve economically.

My first day at the Sisters of Mary was full of emotion, having curiosity all throughout the compound. My heart was so happy having a new opportunity to study.

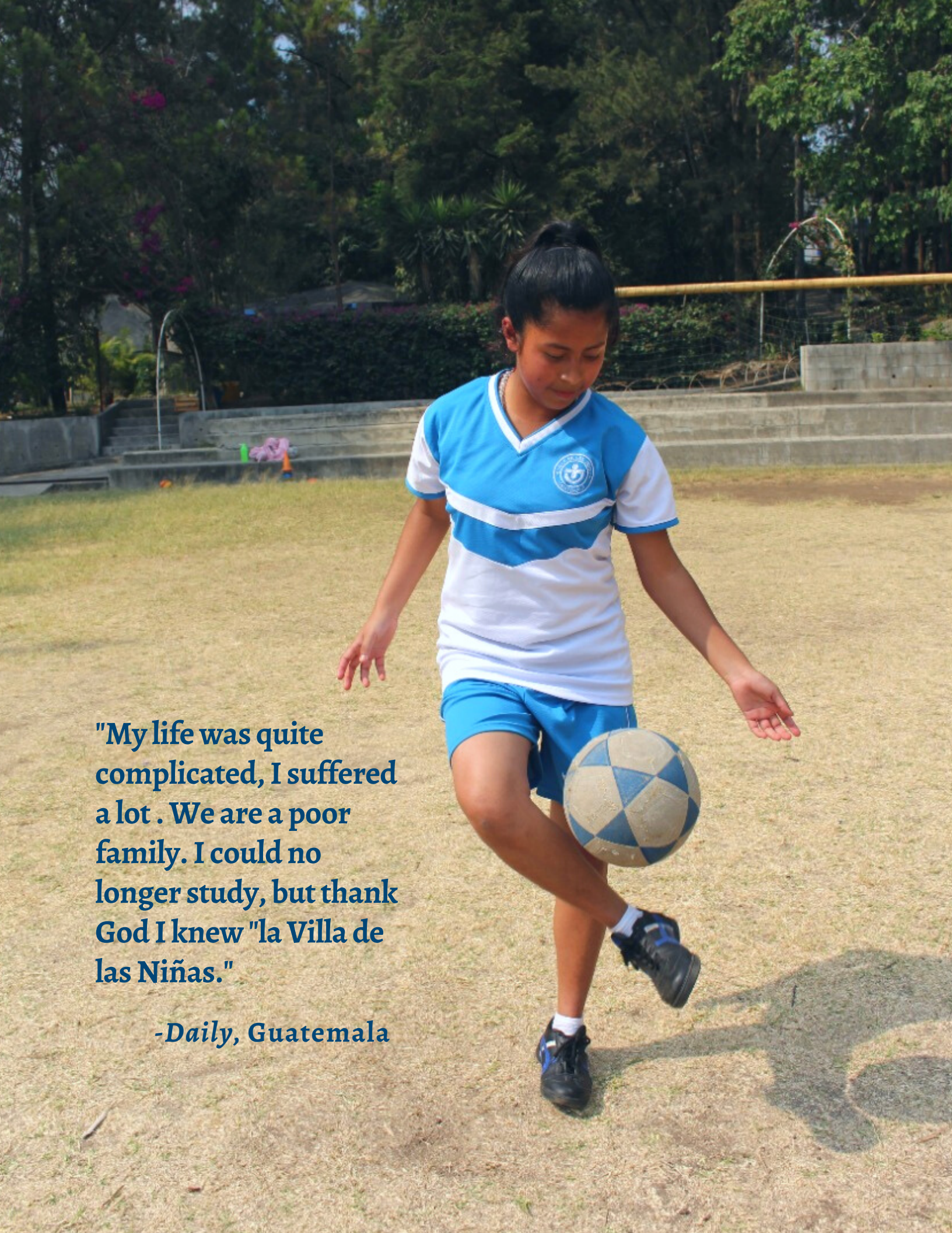
What I like most here is the organization of everything. On how everything goes well. I like our beautiful garden and when all of us sing in the gymnasium.

I imagine myself as a graduate of boystown with a profession helping my family. Also, having my own company.

Many thanks to all of you our dear donors for this opportunity that I have, my studies are free, not having to think about payment to school matters. And how much I'm impressed of your kind heart of helping each poor child from my country.

BY THE NUMBERS

Schools	Children	Teachers	Sisters	Staff
Tegucigalpa Girlstown	709	28	15	28
Amarateca Boystown	800	30	9	42

A young girl with dark hair in a ponytail is captured in a dynamic pose, kicking a soccer ball with her right foot. She is wearing a blue and white V-neck soccer jersey with a circular logo on the chest, blue shorts, white socks, and black sneakers. The ball is blue and white. The background shows a dry, grassy field with concrete steps and lush green trees under bright sunlight.

"My life was quite complicated, I suffered a lot . We are a poor family. I could no longer study, but thank God I knew "la Villa de las Niñas."

-Daily, Guatemala



One day when I went to church there I heard the notice that there was a school called "Villa de las Niñas" that helped young people who wanted to move forward. The first requirement is to take an exam to enter the institution. I asked my mom for permission to take the exam, she accepted. The exam was done by video call. Then I called to ask if I had won and the answer was yes. I was very excited and I thanked God for the opportunity and now that I am here I am fighting to improve in my studies and I am also asking God for wisdom and I know that with the help of him I will be able to achieve it.

Guatemala has one of the highest poverty rates in Latin America and many children are left neglected and malnourished. In rural areas, where the poverty is the greatest, children start working at a young age and they lack access to basic health care and sanitation.

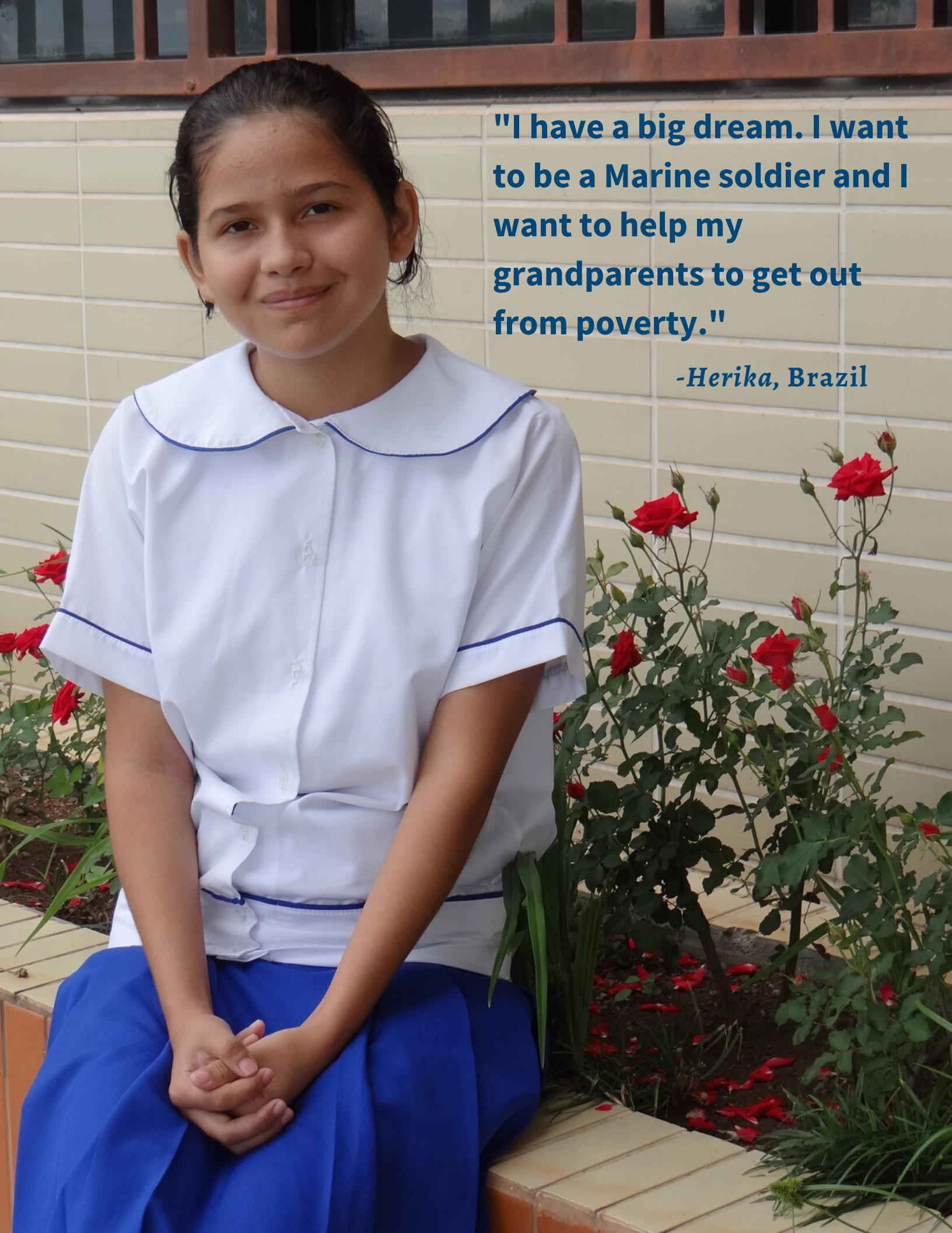
Thanks to our generous donors, the Sisters of Mary are able to care for 2,100 children at Zona 6 Boystown and Zona 13 Girlstown. At these schools children receive educational and vocational training to give them hope of a promising future.

These poor children come to the Sisters with nothing but once they enter the Sisters' care, every child has all the food, clothes and educational supplies they need to have a proper childhood away from the harmful effects of poverty.

BY THE NUMBERS

Schools	Children	Teachers	Sisters	Staff
Zone 13 Girlstown	862	27	15	43
Zone 6 Boystown	1,068	35	13	49
Zone 13 Daycare	102	8	1	6
Clinics	Outpatients per day	Sisters	Staff	
Clinica Medica Maria	74	1	7	





"I have a big dream. I want to be a Marine soldier and I want to help my grandparents to get out from poverty."

-Herika, Brazil



Brazil

Brazil is the largest country in South America but has one of the most unequal economic systems. Brazil has a high level of unemployment and oftentimes parents desert their children or these children have to leave school in order to work and support their families' basic needs.

The Sisters of Mary care for children from some of the poorest families throughout Brazil at their Girlstown school in Brasilia and their elementary school in São Paulo.

From a chaotic early life, the children in the care of the Sisters of Mary can begin to enjoy their childhood, regain their health, thrive at school and learn the skills they need to build a productive future for themselves and their families.



HERIKA'S STORY

Hello! My name is Herika, I am 13 years old. When I was born my mother didn't have the condition to care for me because my father left her. My grandparents have taken care of me since birth. They also have a poor living condition. My grandfather is a fisherman and my grandmother is a fish vendor. Life is not easy at home. They are now getting old, so I helped in the household chores.

I have a big dream. I want to be a Marine soldier and I want to help my grandparents to get out from poverty. Because of the pandemic, I was not able to study. When the sisters came to our town I was so excited and I promised to myself that I would really do my best in order to get the scholarship. I knew I would be apart from my family but I see that though a unique opportunity I would have a bright future. I took the test and luckily, I passed. Now, I am studying hard.

I am so happy with my new home. I thank God for giving such a grace. The sisters are very good and our benefactors are goodhearted people. I thank you with all my heart. I pray to God that He may continue to bless you. Thank you so much!

BY THE NUMBERS

Schools	Children	Teachers	Sisters	Staff
Brasilia Girlstown	837	27	15	15
Brasilia Daycare	67	4	2	-
Sao Paulo Daycare & Elementary	454	22	6	9

Fully Alive

CHALCO, Mexico - The I AM the Vine Foundation provided catalyst funds for a new building project and endowment fund in Mexico after a visit to the Sisters of Mary Girlstown in Chalco, Mexico. The funds come as a \$3 million matching grant to support the children experiencing poverty in Mexico. Half of the \$3 million match will be used to support a new arts and vocational workshop building on the Chalco Girlstown campus named *Fully Alive*. The other half of the funds will match contributions to an endowment to help sustain operations long-term at Chalco Girlstown.



"The Foundation is honored to support the work of Sister Margie and the fifty-plus Sisters of Mary caring for 3,500 of God's most precious gifts in Chalco, Mexico. The work exemplifies the Foundation's mission of supporting the Church's Corporal Works of Mercy - the Mercy of Grace only available from the intercession of our Lord and the Holy Spirit. We look forward to the completion of the facility so the girls can embark on a new stage of development in their lives." - Kathy Fitzgerald, I AM the Vine Foundation



In response to the matching gift challenge, the Craft Family Foundation matched the entire \$1.5 million to build the art and vocational workshop building on the Chalco Girlstown campus. Construction has already commenced, and the building should be completed by late summer of 2023.

On the heels of the combined \$3 million gift to complete the workshop building, the Stella Park Foundation aka Shema Foundation contributed \$1 million to be used for the Fully Alive Endowment Fund and scholarship resources for the girls, which benefit the Sisters of Mary's long-term charitable work in Mexico.

This incredible giving will help transform generations of girls in Mexico!

Nearly **50% of graduates** from the Sisters of Mary program in Mexico have gone on to receive a college degree, far surpassing the general population rate of 20% with a college degree. **Over 96% of graduates** report being able to make a living for themselves and their families with the skills they learned at the Sisters of Mary School.

A Word from Our Founder

“The greatest work in the world is the saving of souls. Nothing is more sublime, more holy, more important, more complete and more pleasing to God than saving of immortal souls. This is what the Sisters are trying to do, **but they need a back-up team. You are always very important. Without you, the Sisters will have no success.** So, participate in this apostolate of the Sisters. Take this seriously, and each day, pray fervently and sacrifice in every opportunity. **In this way, the Sisters of Mary, together with you and your help, will win many souls for Jesus.** Jesus will be very pleased with you and He will give you blessings upon blessings.”

Fr. Al, Homily, Aug. 29, 1990





Helping **children** break free
from a life of **poverty**

2022 GRATITUDE REPORT



19 sites | 6 countries

21,000 students | 160,000 graduates

