



Emergency Covid-19 Relief Fund Update

May 5, 2020

Partners In Deed established an Emergency Relief Fund in mid-March to meet the food and basic health needs of vulnerable Dominican families living in low-resource barrios during the COVID-19 pandemic. With your kind support we have raised over \$30,000.

Thank You!

Rod Davis, director of TEARS Ministry, shared yesterday that these extra funds will help the El



Food Donation

Camino and Soto church teams feed at least 100 families/week (2 meals per day x 5 days) till early June. Each weekly package contains food (rice, beans, salami, pasta, sardines, oatmeal...), hygiene supplies (soap, toilet paper, bleach, masks) and clean water for families at greatest need.

El Camino and Soto churches and TEARS school teachers want you to know that your prayers and financial support continue to be a great encouragement as they strive to meet the many needs in our partner communities. During these hard times churches have been in the forefront of ministering to meet physical and spiritual needs. Thank you for continuing to pray for Negra, Pastor Fey's (El Camino church) mother, who contracted COVID-19. Her health continues to be very fragile with cardiac and diabetic issues.

We received this note from Rod Davis yesterday:

"As I drove through the slums of Maria Auxiliadora to survey the effects that the pandemic was having on the people, and drop off the last few bags of groceries,



Food Package Delivery

I was struck by the looks on people's faces. The desperation was heartbreaking. I was flagged down numerous times by people who knew of the food distribution program but whose names were not on the list for rations in this week's distribution. They told me

stories of their children not eating a meal since the day before and how the "lock down" has not allowed them to work (which was already infrequent as the slums historically have a 45% unemployment rate). As I arrived at one of the last houses on the list, an elderly woman and her invalid husband were sitting there on the stoop. I got out of the car and grabbed the bag of groceries to bring in. As I passed them to her, she whispered, "the Lord told me you were coming, I have been waiting for you". It would not have impacted me so much if I had told her I was coming, which I hadn't, or if she had received food previously from our distribution center, but this was the first time ... there was no way she knew I was coming.

In times like these, it is a blessing to be Christ's hands and feet, seeing firsthand how He cares for the last, least, left out and forgotten. Together we can see God glorified in the middle of these challenging times."



Food Distribution Centre

Another story we want to share involves the family of Ana Victoria who lives in the Juan Bosch barrio near the TEARS Centre. In their simple hillside house live six people including three small children.

In Ana's words:

"Our situation is very critical. My husband worked as a motorcycle taxi driver earning between 50 to 200 pesos/day (\$1-4) to contribute provisions to our home. But for almost two or three weeks due to the quarantine he has been unable to work. There was almost no life for us; speaking frankly, we were starving ... and pretty badly because our situation was not normal before the quarantine and now it is worse. When TEARS Ministry came to our house to give us a food voucher we felt it was a blessing that fell on our house. We really needed it. We didn't know what to do to give our children something to eat, but upon receiving that blessing, we saw the glory of God falling on our house. It was God who touched us when we received that voucher. And within the first hour I was at the ministry door to receive the food, a great blessing and we are very grateful."

In addition to these relief initiatives, TEARS Schools are providing online instruction and phone support to 600 students. Some, but not all, of the teachers' salaries are paid by the government. The government is providing one food package/student/week- enough to feed a family of four for just one day. The TEARS Water Plant is operating at full capacity six days a week, on average providing 1,500 gallons per day of purified water. And now TEARS is using relief funds to provide water for free for the most vulnerable. The Dental and Wellness Centre is closed due to safety restrictions, but health information is being disseminated on a weekly basis by the ministry teams.



Water Purification Plant

In closing, we are guided by 2 Corinthians 8:13 which reads:

"Our goal is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality."

As you are able, please consider financially supporting the Partners in Deed Emergency Relief initiative. Please go to the PID web site www.partnersindeed.com, click on the Donate tab and designate your donation to the TEARS Emergency Relief Fund. Additional funds will provide needed supplies for these families and others for the weeks ahead.

