

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Cross Catholic Outreach has had the privilege of working with the NCCW since 2011 when this beautiful collaboration began. Cross has also been a Gold Sponsor of the National Convention since 2013 and we hope to continue as you launch your 100th Year celebration.

Our Ministry is blessed by the synergy these two organizations have shared over the nine years. Mrs. Patty Johnson, the “Our Lady of Good Counsel Awardee” for 2019 was among the original NCCW leadership who helped to solidify this wonderful partnership and has been a great advocate of the work that we have achieved together. Very early on, we identified the shared aims that exist between us and combined efforts to make a bigger impact on behalf of the Catholic Church. In those early years, the leadership of the NCCW joined us in the trenches as they visited ministries in Haiti and Guatemala to see firsthand how Cross and their ministry partners were making a difference and to find the best way to work together. Patty Johnson was one of those who was present and helped steer the partnership. She will now give her own perspective on how it all came together.

Since 2011 the “Women Helping Women” Campaign has helped to mobilize Catholic women around the world, to address urgent issues which oppress women and children in developing countries. Through this partnership, Cross Catholic and the NCCW have helped to build homes for abused African women and their children, making it possible for them to escape domestic violence. Asian girls have been able to avoid human trafficking because of the provision of academic scholarships and in parts of Asia, even found rescue through shelters we provided as they fled forced abortions and family rejection.

In rural Kenya, mothers and infants were needlessly dying during childbirth. The “Women Helping Women” program provided some of the funds to build a Maternity Ward at St. Raphael in the Diocese of Kitale, where women can now be safe and their newborns cared for during this vulnerable time of child-birth and the post-natal period.

As we continue to stand with marginalized women and vulnerable children in Haiti and Guatemala, God has blessed the efforts of our partnership and the fruits continue to bear. The St. Joseph Nutrition Center can boast of lives saved by the provision of nourishing food for the body and life giving messages of hope for the soul. Together we took on the fight against human trafficking in Haiti at the St. Jean Evangeliste Home, where children and young girls are protected from the unspeakable after being found alone and vulnerable along the border with the Dominican Republic. We were able to support The Sisters of Mary Immaculate, as they minister through the Marie Louise Bayle Center with nutritional support, along with medical and educational programs to literally rescue children from the brink. They provide vaccinations and

other health aids and their work even extends to educate parents how to engage in the development of their children, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

We look forward to your continued support of our many projects that connect with the Mission of the NCCW responding with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society. Through your members you support, “empower and educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and service” and Cross is happy to be a part of that process.

Finally, even in the midst of despair, we have been able to bring JOY - Over the last 5 years we have blessed children in Guatemala, Haiti, The Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and El Salvador with Christmas gifts through the Box of Joy program. This year we were able to include the Bahamas after their devastating hurricane and added the island of Grenada.

When the program started in 2014 we were only able to help 11,000 children, but with growing support from Catholic Churches and Schools, CCW and other auxiliary groups, we can report that for the 2019 season we were able to screen over 75,000 Boxes of Joy, destined for the children of those communities. Some of the children who have received gifts, had never had such a blessing before – gift boxes filled with toys, personal hygiene items, educational supplies and fun things which any child would want to receive. This partnership with the NCCW has grown stronger year after year and continues to make a way for the poor to be lifted up and through it, the name of the Lord has been made strong!

We are so grateful for the way God has been working to bring us closer to impact the poor and their communities and that the future looks bright for our NCCW Partnership and collaboration on behalf of the poor and the marginalized.

Sincere congratulations to the National Council of Catholic Women on this significant milestone of 100 years work and service to the Catholic Church. We will continue to work together to transform the poor and their communities, materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ. God Bless you all.
