

Faith Based and Community Initiatives



USDA
2008

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food for the Poor

Section 416(b)

Dear Donors,

Thank you for the milk you send us. Thanks to you, we can drink milk every day. We make really good things with the milk like chocolate milk and milk donuts. Since the milk is so delicious, all of us love it. We know it has lots of vitamins and makes us grow stronger. Few of us eat three meals a day, so we are happy you send us milk. Our parents make a lot of sacrifices and it helps that you, from your office, make sacrifices, too, so we can be healthier. My dad sells hot dogs and my mom works as a maid. Our principal also says he is thankful for the daily milk.

Love, Scarleth del Socorro López
Fourth Grade
Josefa Toledo School, Managua



Cliff,

I want you to know that we have been able to reach over seventy thousand people monthly with the milk program. We have gone into the mountains where there is severe drought and have opened kitchens where these children will be served warmed milk. It is unbelievably how many people we have found in these remote villages that are literally starving. You have opened the door for these people to receive hope and believe that there are good people who care for them. It would be an honor for us to have representatives from the USDA and FFTP to visit us and take them to these feeding centers.

We thank Food for the Poor and the United States Government for sending us this food and allowing us the privilege to serve these most humble people.

Pastor Carlos Vargas
Esperanza de Vida
Zacapa, Guatemala

Hello,

My name is Yeiling Padilla.

I am writing to you from Hermanos de Salzburgo Elementary School. My little brothers and I want to thank you for sending us milk. Our parents are very poor, and we never have lunch before we go to school every afternoon.

The milk really helps us.

Love,
Yeiling

How the Initiative is Helping.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food For The Poor, Inc. (FFTP) signed a Section 416 (b) Latin American Regional agreement that provided 34,560 metric tons of Nonfat Dry Milk (NFDM) and 2,335 metric tons of various grains for Direct Distribution to 14 countries.

The Faith-Based and Community Initiative works with the Foreign Agricultural Service to support faith-based organizations such as Food for the Poor in their efforts to serve the international community.



Delivery of USDA Commodities to some of the most remote areas of Haiti is done through traditional means.

Contact.

Robin G. Mahfood, President

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<http://www.foodforthe poor.org/>

As of May 2005, all activities in the fourteen countries of the Latin American Region have been operating for at least one and one half years and are showing indications of enormous success. The direct feeding program at this time is feeding more than **5 million** children and adults in **31,107** institutions varying from schools to elderly homes and orphanages. **These numbers are well above the projections.** The target of 1.5 million beneficiaries has been obtained and surpassed but not only are these beneficiary numbers impressive but the nutritional and health outcomes were more than expected. FFTP received over \$35,000,000 in value added food and hygiene supplies to supplement the 416(b) regional program in 2004. In 2003, the value was even greater by approximately 10%.

FFTP and its recipient agencies working in the Latin American region use the NFDM donated by USDA to directly feed more than 1.5 million children and adults in hospitals, orphanages, schools, homes for the elderly, and living on the street. The NFDM provided under this agreement is expected to augment direct feeding programs in the region for three years.

Dear Donors,

I am writing to you to thank you for the incredible support you give to all of our school's students. The milk is a big help, because nearly all of us come from low-income homes. It has helped us get better grades, since we have more energy during class and for our homework. Many of us live with our moms who work all day to make a little money. My mom feels a bit of relief knowing that when she doesn't have time to make me breakfast before she leaves the house, I will at least have a glass of milk when I get to school. We would be so grateful if you could donate a full breakfast for us. A lot of us are in our teens (we started school at age nine or ten) and it is tough to make it through the school day when we haven't eaten. We send you our sincere thanks. Our parents are really happy, and we all hope you will continue to support our school.

Sincerely,

Marlon Francisco Alvarado González

Sixth grade student and member of school government
Jinotega

The Organization.

Food For The Poor (FFP) ministers to spiritually renew impoverished people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Established in 1982 as a 501(c)(3) corporation, our goals are to improve the health, economic, social and spiritual conditions of the men, women and children we serve.

Food For The Poor raises funds and provides direct relief assistance to the poor, usually by purchasing specifically requested materials and distributing them through the churches and charity organizations already operating in areas of need. In this way, the organization serves the poor with dignity and ensures the most appropriate use of donors' funds.

Our ministry reflects God's unconditional love, which surrenders all, inspires trust and faith, and embraces all people regardless of race, status or creed. We believe that Christ is alive, and that we can best serve Him by being of assistance to those in greatest need. Finally, we stress the need for regular prayer to guide and maintain the purity of our mission.

FFP seeks to link the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that aids both the materially and spiritually poor. We empower the poor in spirit through our direct ministry of teaching, encouragement and prayer. Ultimately, we aspire to bring benefactors, recipients and ourselves to a closer union with our Lord.

Dear Friends,

In the name of Jesus Christ, I am writing to you this little letter to thank you for the milk you send to my school, La Libertad in Managua. My family is very poor, and my mom asks me to sell tortillas every day after class to help us make ends meet. I am very happy because I drink milk in school. This glass of milk gives me energy and I am able to study a lot better now.

Thanks so much and may God bless you,
Lester Zamora
Third grade
La Libertad School
Managua

Dear Donors,

I send you warm wishes and hope that God will bless you always.

It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given me and my school.

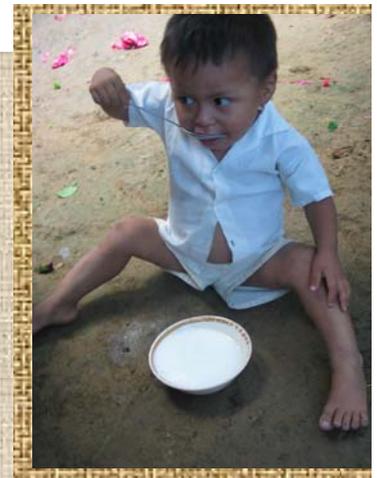
Not only the students but also our parents are extremely grateful for the milk donation. Some parents have admitted that last year they didn't send their kids to school when they could not feed them breakfast to give them energy for the long walk and the school day. Some of my classmates are orphans living with grandparents or other relatives; these families have been especially happy about the daily glass of milk we get at school. Personally, my family is pretty humble where my father works very hard to earn some money for us. I have come to school several times without eating, and I know I'm not the only kid here who has done that. But I also know that God is with us because He sends us good people to take care of our needs.

I give thanks to the Lord that there are people like you and I ask Him to give you more and more blessings to keep on helping us.

Sincerely,

Norlan José Chavarría

Sixth grade student in the school government
Jinotega





Dear Friends,

I greet you and hope that God will always keep you safe. I am writing to you to thank you for the milk you send to our school. There are eight of us in my family. My dad is a gate guard and my mom sells tortillas. I drink the milk you send us every day in my school. It's delicious. I feel better in class after I drink milk. Thanks to each and every one of you.

With all my respect,
Zobeyda Pérez García
Third grade
La Libertad School, Managua



In our school, the milk has been particularly helpful in raising children's attendance. One of our second grade students, Bayardo, almost never came to class last year. The milk has been a major motivation for him to come to school regularly. He does a great job on his work, and we are confident he will be able to move on to third grade next year. All of the parents, especially those with particularly dire economic circumstances, tell us every day that they are thankful for the milk donation. We are happy that many of our students' parents prepare the powder into a drink at our school. They are now more involved in all the school's activities.

Thank you for supporting our school!

Republica de Holanda School, Niquinohomo
Leopoldo Rayo, teacher and vice principal

