



Partnership Newsletter

You Matter to CRS | U.S. Church Engagement Division



October/November 2018 | VOLUME 16 ISSUE 5



Earthquake and Tsunami hit Sulawesi Island in Indonesia

Catholic Relief Services and our local Catholic partners are responding on Sulawesi in Indonesia, which was hit by an earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northern part of the island. The loss of life and the

number injured will likely grow as reports from members of families come in. To read the entire emergency fact sheet on CRS' response to this disaster, [click here](#).

CRS Fact Sheet

- [Indonesian Tsunami Survivor describes Loss](#)-Jennifer Hardy

In This Issue

- CRS 75th Anniversary article-Rebeka Lemke, CRS

News from CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region

- Our Partners Want to Put CRS Out of Business-Nora Collins, CRS

News from CRS Midwest Region

- CRS Speaker offers Eye Opening Words to Iskali Members-Vicente DeReal, Iskali
- Diocese of Joliet CRS Coordinator Reflects on CRS Speaker's Presentation-Kayla Jacobs, Diocese of Joliet

News from CRS Southeast Region

- Helping Hands Event in Savannah GA-Michael Trujillo
- CRS 75th Anniversary: Surprise Connections-Michael Trujillo, CRS

Advocacy

- Advocacy Action-Jennifer Maez, CRS

CRS Programs & Resources Unit

- CRS Rice Bowl-Eric Clayton, CRS
- CSMG 2019 Registration

New Resources for your Ministry

- CRS Ministry Resource Center
- CRS Advent Resources
- CRS/NCCW Water for Life video
- Where are they now? CAURIE microfinance 7 years later-CRS video
- CRS Current Prayer of the Month



Relationships make all the difference in our line of work. But we don't have to tell you that—as our valued partner, you know it firsthand!

This month, we're sharing two stories that highlight the importance of relationships. [The Miracle in Ethiopia](#) may have been just that, where the kindness and goodwill from the American people—from a young girl who gave up her visit to Disneyland to Paul Newman's donation of \$250,000—saved countless Ethiopian lives from starvation. But miracles don't just happen. And this miracle was born from innovative, interfaith partnerships.

On the other hand, in our [Behind the Story podcast series](#), we look at what happens when relationships crumble—and the devastating impact that can result. Hear from one of our former colleagues as she recounts what it was like to lose 100 family members in the Rwanda genocide.

The lesson: We need to keep working together to build the future we want: one of peace, justice and prosperity for all.

CRS SOUTHEAST REGION NEWS



Helping Hands Event in Savannah GA

More than 80 volunteers from parishes, schools and ministries throughout the Diocese of Savannah celebrated CRS' 75th Anniversary with a CRS Helping Hands meal packaging event on September 22. The CRS Helping Hands event offered people of all ages a chance to make a difference in the lives of those living in Burkina Faso by packing 10,000 meals. CRS would like to thank Sr. Pat Brown and Bishop Emeritus J. Kevin Boland for organizing the event.

Check out the video of the event at <https://www.facebook.com/diosav.org/videos/166170264306617/> and learn how you can host a CRS Helping Hands event at <https://helpinghands.crs.org/>.



DeRon Waller kicks things off at the Diocese of Savannah's Helping Hands Event. Photo by Diocese of Savannah

CRS NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Our Partners Want to Put CRS Out of Business!

When asked to imagine "Where will CRS be 10 years from now?", we received a surprising- and profoundly hopeful three-word response: "Out of Business." For more than 75 years, CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries. It would be very, very welcome good news if this lifesaving work was no longer needed and we closed shop around the globe! Indeed!

We received a lot of great responses to this simple question from our colleagues and supporters who gathered at the region's "75th Anniversary Celebration- Your Compassion, Our Thanks," on September 29th at the Inn of Villanova. Over 150 CRS Diocesan Directors, university partners, staff, and friends gathered to hear a superb lineup of equally hopeful speakers, including: Thomas Awiapo, CRS Ghana, Caroline Brennan, CRS Global Emergencies Team, Anne Ayella, CRS Diocesan Director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and Dr. Barbara Wall, VP for Mission and Ministry at Villanova University. All four speakers spoke of what it means to them, personally, to be part of the CRS family over many years of their dedicated partnership and work with CRS.

Full of delicious hors d'oeuvre and fair-trade chocolate, other reception participants offered similar sentiments, that include: a world government, peace, and a fossil-fuel free energy system, an establish educational system to teach the people of Sierra Leone to be self-sustaining, and a next generation that has a giving spirit of generosity. There were many excellent comments- but, clearly, our partners in the NEMA hope for nothing short of world peace in a short period of time! Together, we have much to do. And those who attended this 75th Anniversary voiced their ongoing passion and commitment to continue to do the work of global justice through CRS for as long as it takes!! A great celebration, indeed!



CRS 75th Anniversary: Surprise Connections

Catholic Relief Services' last refugee resettlement project in the U.S. was with Cuban refugees in the 1960s. Two CRS staff members, Ana Gloria Rivas-Vazquez, Director of Hispanic Development and Augusto Michael Trujillo, Relationship Manager for Church Engagement are connected to that project. Check out this video to learn their story - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vEKG9068I4&feature=em-uploademail>

CRS Speaker offers Eye Opening Words to Iskali Members

Iskali and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) have been working together creating awareness around global solidarity and issues related to DACA and immigration. On August 24th, alongside CRS staff, Iskali met with both of Illinois Federal Senators Durbin and Duckworth's senior staff to ask them to keep defending DACA and fighting any changes in the budget that could decrease assistance to those in need both in the U.S. and around the world.

On September 7th, 2018, Iskali hosted Thomas Awiapo from CRS Ghana, Africa. His evening presentation was with young adult leaders from three parishes and members of the couples community from Iskali. Thomas Awiapo shared stories from his childhood about growing up in poverty in a small Ghanaian village, receiving assistance with food and schooling from Catholic Relief Services. Thomas, now, holds a Master's Degree from California State University and works for CRS in Ghana.



Members of Iskali with Thomas Awiapo in the center. Photo credits: Luis Beteta, CRS Staff

Awiapo began the discussion with what he called a simple message of gratitude and thanksgiving. He explained that the work of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian aid organization for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, is only possible because of the support of Catholic parishioners. Awiapo stated, "Due to so many generous Catholics giving their time, talents, treasures, and prayers CRS is able to bring the Gospel message of love and hope to the poor and vulnerable in over 100 countries around the World."

Many of the Iskali members present connected on a personal level with Awiapo, since many immigrated to the U.S. running away from realities of extreme poverty. The impact that the CRS Rice Bowl program has around the world was eye opening. By the end of Awiapo's presentation, Iskali members made the commitment to participate in the program next year to take part in the impact that CRS has around the world and change the lives of more people like, Thomas Awiapo.

Diocese of Joliet CRS and CCHD Coordinator Reflects on CRS Speaker's Presentation

Kayla Jacobs, CCHD and CRS Coordinator offers a reflection on Thomas Awiapo's presentation to Diocese of Joliet Office of Human Dignity and the Council of Catholic Women, during his speaker tour in the United States. [Click here](#) to read the entire reflection.



Share the
Journey 
#sharejourney





ADVOCACY ACTION

An important bill is moving in the Senate and needs your voice to get across the finish line. Education may not seem like something essential during war and conflict, but it has the power to help children heal from trauma and build hope for the future. **Urge your Senators to pass the “Protecting Girls’ Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act” today! (en español)**

CRS PROGRAM AND RESOURCES NEWS



CRS Rice Bowl

CRS Rice Bowl changes lives—not just around the world, but here, at home, too. That little cardboard box is a gateway to global solidarity. But don’t take our word for it. **Meet Alejandra Estrada**, a parish animator in the Diocese of Orange. She’s on fire for CRS, and CRS Rice Bowl is just one way she puts her faith into action.

We want everyone to have the life-changing opportunity that Alejandra so beautifully describes. That’s why we’re reminding you that **it’s time to update or place your CRS Rice Bowl order for Lent 2019. You can do so here.**

Register Now for the 2019 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering!

2019 Theme: “Let Justice Flow (cf. Am. 5:24): A Call to Restore and Reconcile”

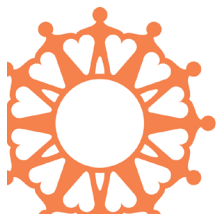
February 2-5, 2019 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

Special early bird registration rate ends November 5.

To register or for more information visit www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org.



If your organization would like to promote the 2019 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, materials are available for collaborating organizations. Please **click here** to view the materials CSMG is asking collaborating organizations to use or adapt when promoting the Gathering.



Share the Journey 
#sharejourney

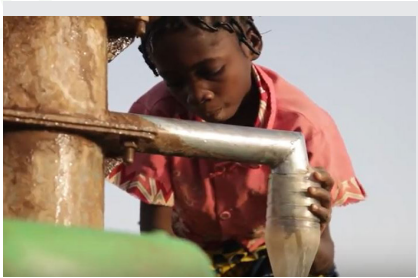


CRS Ministry Resource Center

Visit the [CRS Ministry Resource Center](#) to find ministry tools for prayer, formation and action with a global perspective.

CRS Advent Resources

[View](#) Advent reflections, activities and prayers to prepare hearts to welcome Emmanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23), into our world at Christmas.



New Version of CRS/NCCW Water for Life Video is Now Available on CRS YouTube

The [Water for Life video](#) illustrates the work of Catholic Relief Services in partnership with the National Council of Catholic Women ([www.nccw.org](#)) in responding to the critical need for water projects in developing countries. [Learn more](#) about all the CRS/NCCW Works of Peace and Reconciliation programs.



Where are they now? CAURIE microfinance 7 years later

Funding was phased out of [CAURIE Microfinance](#) (Coopérative Autonome pour le Renforcement des Initiatives Economiques par la Microfinance) 7 years ago, but it is still fulfilling its legacy of helping the most destitute women in Senegal take ownership of their lives. [View the video](#) and see how you have help others grow through your prayers and involvement in CRS programs around the world.



Catholic Relief Services' Current Prayer of the Month

As Catholics, Catholic Relief Services recognizes that prayer is of the utmost importance. In our mission to act with the Church to help the poor overseas, we begin with prayer. We first seek God’s grace and guidance, and then we work, animated by the Spirit that connects us. Each month, CRS publishes a new prayer that we ask the Church to join us in praying. [The current prayer of the month for October is the Coffee Prayer.](#)



Contact Us | CRS REGIONAL OFFICES

Email: resources@crs.org | U.S. Church Engagement Call Center: 1-866-608-5978

Jacklyn Ireland, Communications Specialist for the Partnership, Training and Engagement Unit, prepares the bi-monthly Partnership Newsletter. The U.S. Operations Partnership, Training and Engagement Unit is responsible for managing national partnerships in the United States for CRS. If you would like others in your organization to receive this newsletter or if you have questions please contact the U.S. Church Engagement Call Center at 1-866-608-5978 or email: resources@crs.org.

