



FATHER CHUCK'S CHALLENGE
Changing lives one family at a time!

ADVENT – CHRISTMAS 2023

*Father Kennedy's Note and FCC Challenge
Haiti Update
Mission Trip to Honduras
Nicaragua Update and Christmas Wish List*

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**We have no paid staff and are most grateful
to our 100% Volunteer Board and Staff**

**FATHER CHUCK'S CHALLENGE IS A
CHARITABLE NONPROFIT
UNDER IRC SECTION 501(c)(3)
OUR TAX NUMBER IS 27-0165813**

*YOUR DONATION IS FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE ACCORDING
TO THE CURRENT TAX LAWS.*

*WHEN A PROJECT IS COMPLETED YOUR DONATION WILL
BE USED FOR THE NEXT GREATEST NEED.*

**"WHATEVER YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF
MY BROTHERS, YOU DO FOR ME."
Matt 25:40**

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FATHER CHUCK'S CHALLENGE

*"When we attend to the needs of those in want,
we give them what is theirs, not ours.*

More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice."

– Pope Saint Gregory the Great



Extreme poverty, children living at the dump, and shacks made with scrap wood were some of the sights we recently saw as we traveled through Honduras. Yet, smiling faces, new clean homes, small community businesses lifted our spirits as we visited with the 45 beneficiary families in Villa Fraternidad and Macuelizo.

Jose, in Macuelizo, felt a great deal of sadness that he could not provide his daughters with a suitable home. "One of my biggest dreams was to give my children a safe house where they could have a stable place to grow comfortably," he said. "I asked God in my prayers to bless us with a home for my family."

Yessenia lives in the same community and said, "I thank the Lord for this house he has given me and my family. It is a great blessing because we would never have an opportunity to build a house. This is a great blessing, so I thank you. I bless you with the blessings of the Lord."

By God's grace, our wonderful donors did this for Jose, Yessenia and the other families we visited. Each story was different, but all shared a common theme – trusting in God that they would one day be able to move out of their shack with muddy floors and into a clean and safe home. Always, they thanked God first and foremost for answered prayers, and then thanked our donors for a dream come true!

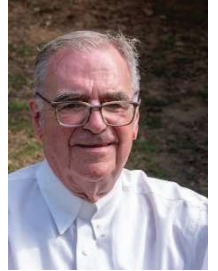
So we press on. We have accepted a new proposal in Villa Fraternidad (GPS coordinates 15.2763916643, -88.014100479678) which will bring the number of funded homes to 65 in Villa! Many thanks to the selfless donors of Father Chuck's Challenge for "changing lives one family at a time"! If you would like to journey with us on our next pilgrimage to meet these most grateful families, please contact us through our website:

<https://www.fatherchuckschallenge.com> or send us an email at fatherchuckschallenge@gmail.com.

*Theresa Gilmore
Volunteer*

FATHER KENNEDY'S NOTE

Christmas 2023



Dear Friend of Fr. Chuck

Mary and Joseph were pilgrims at that first Christmas. In September, our team was happy to be pilgrims once again on our first trip to Honduras. Due to government action, the door had been shut in our face in Nicaragua. Mary and Joseph experienced being shut out in their mission, yet we rejoiced in being welcomed in Honduras. We were able to provide homes there as we did in Nicaragua, and still do in Haiti.

We experienced new life in Honduras with new associates; and interacted with those who had nature crush their homes multiple times. Our volunteers came back renewed in spirit and invigorated after an absence of visits due to Covid.

At this time of the year, the beatitude "Blessed are the merciful for mercy shall be theirs" is like a guarantee from Jesus that mercy will be gifted to us if we reach out to others.

Bishop Sheen said, "You get back what you give." We sow kindness, we experience kindness. We give hate, we get that back. We show mercy, we will experience mercy even without asking for it.

Blessed are we then as we take advantage of showing mercy to the needy and to each other, for we will realize mercy in various ways in our own lives at times when we least expect it.

Merry Christmas,

Father Charles J. Kennedy

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE WITH FCC!

Visiting Honduras served as an important reminder of the inequalities and vast scope of need in places like Macuelizo and Villanueva. Our board and volunteers met with the villagers who shared stories about the dangers they faced from weather and disease, and the implications these had on daily life, including on their incomes and education. Receiving the gift of a home, furniture, community and opportunities has answered prayers for many, giving them hope of a brighter future.

We have raised nearly \$9,000,000 since the inception of Father Chuck's Challenge – approximately \$500,000 a year – to help the less fortunate. Inspired by what we've seen and heard on this recent trip we are challenging ourselves and our donors to increase this amount annually,

This Christmas FCC is calling on you to answer the call to help more families trapped in the cycle of poverty.

How will you join us? Please contact us at fatherchuckschallenge@gmail.com.

- 🏠 Increase your yearly donation – make it 2x/year or increase by 20%
- 🏠 Organize a parish visit for FCC to speak to your congregation at masses
- 🏠 Assist with materials distribution at parish visits or elsewhere
- 🏠 Share our newsletter, website, social media posts
- 🏠 What is your special talent that you can share?

UPDATE ON HAITI

Twenty Families Have Moved Into New Homes!

With the last coats of paint and installation of the roofs, the final twenty homes in the community of Noyau, Haiti have been completed. Twenty families have received their keys, along with blessings for a safe and happy life in their new homes made possible only by the love-filled gifts of our kind donors.

As soon as the finishing touches have been applied to the community center – a secure metal door and tropical windows – residents will also have a central gathering place to use for celebrations, meetings, and classes. With solar-powered streetlights, more sanitary kitchen and bathing facilities, and access to clean drinking water from freshly dug wells, the residents of Noyau not only have better living conditions but also greater opportunities that come with an improved quality of life.

Please give generously so that we may carry the good work done in Noyau to the next Haitian community in need.

THE 2021-22 HAITI PROJECT

Noyau, Haiti

GPS Coordinates are:

18°50'00.0"N

72°06'19.0"W

The community center nearing completion



Marie Lifaite Jerome's family shows off their solar-powered light kit.

*"Be brave, give what little you have, your talents, your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters. Do not be afraid, nothing will be lost, because if you share, God will multiply. Banish the false modesty of feeling inadequate, trust yourself. Believe in love, believe in the power of service, believe in the strength of gratuitousness."
– Pope Francis*

MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS

FCC resumed Mission Trips earlier this fall with a visit to Honduras!

After receiving only virtual updates from the field over the past three years, the FCC board and volunteers were once again able to see firsthand the impact of our fundraising – and how much more work is still needed.

Our first visit to the country coincided with the finalization of five homes in Macuelizo and 14 of 20 homes in the Villanueva community funded through FCC. All were outfitted with the following components:

- Water and sanitation
 - Running water
 - Flushing toilets
- Healthy kitchen
 - Eco-stove
 - Water purification drum
- Furniture
 - Double bed with cotton sheets
 - Two single beds with cotton sheets
 - Dinette set with four chairs

New residents proudly opened their homes to the visitors and provided tours of the community and shared spaces. Father Kennedy blessed the homes, and the visit culminated in a celebration of mass together.

We invite you to visit our website for more photos and a video of our trip to see the smiles made possible with your commitment to providing stable housing and peace of mind to those with the greatest need.

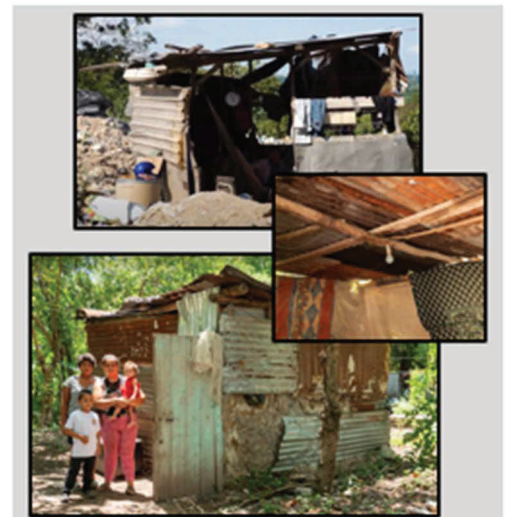
THE 2023 Honduras PROJECT GPS Coordinates are:

Macuelizo:

Total Cost: \$49,175.00
15°18'05.7"N, 88°32'31.3"W

Villanueva:

Total Cost: \$196,175.50
15°16'35.0292"N, 88°0'50.76"W



Your contribution can not only move a family like this into a new, sturdy, sanitary home, but also put them on a more dignified path full of new opportunities



Villa Fraternidad
Villanueva



You help to turn dreams into reality,
one home, one family at a time.

Macuelizo



Jose Alfonso Diaz Portillo and his wife now have a safe place for their family to live, allowing them to focus on improving other aspects of their lives.



My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. – Isaiah 32:18

MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS (CONT)



NICARAGUA UPDATE AND CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

NICARAGUA UPDATE

Capping off our projects in Nicaragua, the school at the Eileen George community has been completed. Students will benefit from the clean water provided from the drinking fountain and will participate in reforestation efforts in the community – all made possible through your financial contributions!



Four Easy Ways to Bring Comfort and Joy This Christmas

1. Pass this newsletter on to help increase our donor base and assistance to families in Haiti and Honduras
2. Send us the postal or email address of a friend who'd benefit from knowing about the great work of FCC
3. Give the gift of shelter this Christmas by making a donation to FCC in honor of a loved one
4. Use the tags below in your Christmas cards or with gifts to spread the joy of giving this season

This Christmas

Please join me in including
Father Chuck's Challenge, a 501(c)(3),
on your gift list.

Make a donation to benefit families
experiencing poverty in Haiti and
Honduras, by scanning the QR code
below or visiting

www.fatherchuckschallenge.com



To:

From:

I've made a donation in your name to
Father Chuck's Challenge
to benefit families experiencing poverty
in Haiti and Honduras

www.fatherchuckschallenge.com

Merry Christmas!



A Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to Our Donors and Friends!