

# WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2002 as a volunteer program of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Metuchen, the Catholic Charities Solidarity Team (CCST) -- in response to our Gospel call to love God, neighbor and creation -- works to reduce injustice and suffering facing the poor and vulnerable overseas and here at home in the Metuchen Diocese.

We apply prayer and Catholic Social Teaching to selected justice and development activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, especially Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, along with the Justice for Immigrants campaign.

We support the model of integral human development (IHD), a holistic concept which encourages the flourishing of potential, aspiration and dignity for every human person. The Catholic Charities Solidarity Team meets monthly. New members are always welcome to join us in our work.

For further information, please visit: [ccsolidarity.org](http://ccsolidarity.org)

Director: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Kerrigan (2002-2017)  
[jkerrigan@ccsolidarity.org](mailto:jkerrigan@ccsolidarity.org)  
Incoming directors: Deacon Michael Martini (2017-present)  
[mmartini@ccsolidarity.org](mailto:mmartini@ccsolidarity.org)  
Deacon Peter Barcellona (2017-present)  
[pbarcellona@ccsolidarity.org](mailto:pbarcellona@ccsolidarity.org)



(LEFT TO RIGHT) METUCHEN DIOCESAN VICAR-GENERAL MSGR. WILLIAM BENWELL, CHANCELLOR LORI ALBANESE, BOARD CHAIR OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES FOR 2017-2019 MOST REV. GREGORY J. MANSOUR AND CCST DIRECTOR MSGR. JOSEPH KERRIGAN IN SOMERSET, NJ IN 2016.

# SUPPORT CCST PROJECTS OVERSEAS



To help support any of our projects, please fill out the form below, along with your donation, and mail to:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOLIDARITY TEAM  
HOLY FAMILY PARISH CENTER  
56 THROOP AVE.  
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901

To donate online, please go to:  
[www.ccsolidarity.org/donate](http://www.ccsolidarity.org/donate)

Enclosed please find my tax-deductible gift to help someone less fortunate overseas

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500

Use my gift where it is needed most or direct my gift to the following (circle one)

- Lebanon/Cyprus:
  - Disabled Refugee Children's Project
  - Cyprus Caritas Program Development
- Philippines:
  - Anibong Resettlement Project, Tacloban City
- Guatemala:
  - Food for School Scholarship Project
- Kenya:
  - Prosper Project

MY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

# CCST

GUATEMALA – LEBANON/CYRPU –  
KENYA – PHILIPPINES

“WALKING WITH THE CHURCH ON THE ROAD OF  
GLOBAL SOLIDARITY”



[WWW.CCSOLIDARITY.ORG](http://WWW.CCSOLIDARITY.ORG)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOLIDARITY TEAM IS A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF METUCHEN, AND REPRESENTS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY.

# LEBANON/CYPRUS: DISABLED REFUGEE CHILDRENS PROJECT

In 2016, the Catholic Charities Solidarity Team began a country program in Lebanon in support of the Syrian refugee crisis response of CRS and Caritas Lebanon.

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2011, more than 1 million Syrians have sought refuge in Lebanon. An estimated 30 percent of these refugees have special needs, many of them children.



CCST is supporting CRS and Caritas Lebanon in a project with care for 200 refugee children with disabilities. The goal is to “help children with disabilities lead healthy, dignified lives by improving physical health and well-being and promoting social integration.”

Project activities include:

- Helping children access specialized assistance, including full coverage of medical expenses and provision of assistive devices
- Facilitating the participation of children in relevant activities of Caritas Lebanon community centers
- Psychosocial support through individual and group counseling.

Central New Jersey native and former CCST member Melissa Chedid is beginning a related set of projects in Cyprus, as the country’s new Caritas director, with the guidance of CRS Lebanon. In 2017, we envision supporting Caritas Cyprus with technical assistance funding as she establishes a program.

# GUATEMALA: FOCUS ON SCHOLARSHIPS

CCST supports community-led projects within the Santa Rosa Diocese. These projects have in common basic principles: leadership from the local community, application of Catholic social teaching and addressing human development or basic social needs in the community.

**There are two tiers of Scholarship:**

- \$360 is a full year for a student in grades 1 thru 9
- \$600 is a full year for a student in grades 10 thru 12+



Three community projects are active:

1. Food for School Scholarship Program
2. St. Peter’s University Hospital Health Project
3. Amistad y Fe Microfinance Project (Queenship of Mary Parish).

The Scholarship program, established in 2008 by high school students from the Diocese of Metuchen, is an important lifeline for many poor families. Implemented by Estela Cristales in the Santa Rosa Diocese, the program directly helps approximately 100 students as of January 2017. The scholarship program provides school supplies, books, medicines, and other basic necessities, as well as promotes service to the community and the active participation of parents supporting their children’s education. The school year begins in January and ends in October. During the vacation months of November and December, children of all ages typically help their families earn income by working in the fields and harvesting crops (coffee, corn, beans.)



(Note: for High school in Guatemala, called “Diversificado”, a student chooses a “major,” and then follows a prescribed curriculum; the number of years varies with each major (called a Carrera). The increased scholarship helps to cover additional costs of tuition, travel, snack as students must leave their villages to go to High School.

Parishes and individuals can offer full or partial sponsorships. Any amount is helpful and 100% goes to Guatemala.

**CCST**  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
SOLIDARITY TEAM