

# Chalice Nutrition Fund

Impact Report 2021



Thanks to generous supporters like you, last year we served an estimated **3,939,292** meals to **24,256** to children and adults in five regions.

Nutritious food is essential for a happy, healthy childhood. Our nutrition program looks different across our regions, and each site develops its own unique way to best serve the nutritional needs of the children and elders we support. At the heart of each of them is the incalculable value of a nutrient-rich diet and food security.

*Your donation truly made a difference to hungry children and elders in need.*

## Daily lunches a Godsend for Grandmother Norma

Maximiliano and Jordan live with their grandmother Norma and great-uncle Kevin near our Dominica sponsor site in Paraguay. Norma and Kevin work hard to provide for the boys, but the inconsistent nature of their work makes it difficult to make ends meet.

Maximiliano is in grade three and his little brother Jordan is in grade one. They both love school and are dedicated to studying, even though their classes, even when their classes went virtual as a pandemic precaution.

*Norma worried that she couldn't afford the food the growing boys needed to stay healthy.*

*Her Chalice family circle suggested she enroll them in the Dominica site's lunch program, supported by Chalice's nutrition program.*

Now the boys have a hearty lunch daily at the *Comedor San Pedro* (San Pedro dining hall) and the quality of their nutrition has improved. Every day, they eat alongside the 123 children, teens and elders the dining hall serves.



*“With the Chalice Program, the site has been able to see many happy faces, where families can go and ensure a healthy lunch.”*

Dominica site staff

Maximiliano and Jordan have become physically stronger, and their attention spans and academic performance have also grown in leaps and bounds.

It is a blessing for Norma to be able to re-allocate lunch costs into other household needs.

Norma sends her great gratitude to all supporters of Chalice's nutrition program, and hopes it reaches every child who needs it. She also prays that each person who eats a meal from the program can appreciate the faith and love that went into every bite.

# Vital meals for orphans and vulnerable children



“ This has helped them look forward to attending school, improved their individual nutrition and sparked their concentration in class to a high level. ”

Merciline, Nairobi site director

Rehema Daycare and Orphans Centre is in the impoverished Korogocho community in Nairobi, Kenya. The community has very limited resources, poor infrastructure, and is overcrowded. Families living in the area mostly earn incomes through casual jobs in construction or market vending. Families in Korogocho face extremely high rates of food insecurity, with 85% of households being food insecure and 50% considered “severely” food insecure.

The centre sits on a small area in the middle of the slum and offers a community school, library, orphanage and small farm. There are 350 children attending the school, 121 of whom have Chalice sponsors through the Nairobi site. The Rehema staff work “to provide a safe space for many orphans and vulnerable children in this community” writes Merciline, the Nairobi sponsor site director.

Rehema runs feeding programs for many orphans and vulnerable children. “There are visible signs of malnutrition and vulnerability among the learners,” Merciline writes.

*“There is low-class attendance caused by illness and low academic performance because of low retention due to lack of proper nutrition.”*

Thanks to everyone who gave to Chalice’s Nutrition program, Rehema was able to provide each child a hot meal and a cup of porridge every school day. That’s 350 meals and substantial snacks each day!

“The hot lunch was provided to learners during school days and it was indeed very vital because most families in Korogocho survive on one meal a day or none at all,” Merciline describes. “Many children who had been attending school on empty stomachs are now guaranteed lunch.”

The Chalice Nutrition program also supported the children living in Rehema’s orphanage, enabling their caregivers to prepare three balanced meals per day.

When the schools closed for the holidays, Rehema Centre continue to take care of 50 children at the orphanage while the other children went home to their families. The staff identified the children in the most food insecure situations, and sent those children home with hampers of extra supplies.

Merciline says that the nutrition program has been a big blessing to these children.

*“They are happy and able to fully concentrate in class and play with friends. Thank you so much and may God bless you.”*

## How can I help?

*When you feed a child, you feed the future.*

- ✓ *Make a one-time or monthly donation to a nutrition program or community farm.*
- ✓ *Purchase a nutrition gift from our catalogue.*
- ✓ *Host a fundraising event with your family, friends, and community.*



## Baskets take a bite out of winter hunger

The children in our Pochaiv sponsor site in Ukraine are artistic and ambitious, but some come from marginalized communities that lack access to enough nutritious foods. The staff of the Pochaiv site could see that some healthy, homemade food would transform these students' lives.

Thanks to everyone who gave to our nutrition program, the Pochaiv site staff prepared 360 hampers of essential food items for sponsored children most in need of a boost in their food security.

*The hampers helped them and their 720 family members eat well through the long Ukrainian winter months.*

The site staff also brought in a nutritionist to speak to parents and offer advice on how to plan and prepare the healthiest diets for their children. They learned to appreciate the power of a balanced and nutrient-rich diet, not only for growing strong bodies but also for their cognitive development and sense of self-esteem.

The baskets also had the added effect of taking some of the weight of their grocery bills off of the parents, freeing them to allocate programs to household and education costs or other urgent needs.



*“Thank you for your support and all the invested hopes!”*

Halyna, Pochaiv site director

## Customized meal plans are no problem in Konta

*“The Chalice nutrition programme is actually one of the most important programmes in our site.”*

Nicholas, our Konta site director, is emphatic. The nutrition program is especially important for the children who attend the two schools in the rural Ghanaian site that offer adapted learning for children with disabilities: St. Don Bosco and Wa School for the Deaf (“Wadeaf”).

With Chalice’s support, “the schools were presented with assorted food such as *gari* [cassava flour], milk, eggs, cooking oil, and dry fish.” It is especially important for the children in these schools to have a rich diet because many are taking daily medications. These require specialized nutrition for each student, which is not always possible to accommodate on standard government-supplied food deliveries to the schools.



*“The Chalice nutrition program continues to create a positive impact on the children of Wa School for the Deaf and St. Don Bosco.”*

Konta sponsor site staff

The children also received deworming medication – a critical preventative medicine in their rural west African community. “The result was good as children who used to frequent the clinic with complaints of stomach upset has now stopped,” Nicholas reports.

“The headmasters of the two schools on behalf of the students expressed their sincerest gratitude to Chalice and the donors for touching the lives of these vulnerable children in Don Bosco and Wadeaf.”