



# Going the Extra Mile

For Kids in Need of Jesus

HCA + Holy Childhood Association + A Pontifical Mission Society + [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org)

*Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus* is a sponsor-style fundraising event through which children throughout the United States raise awareness of the great needs of children in the Missions. >> continued on page 2



## About Going the Extra Mile

>> *continued from cover*

Schools, parishes and dioceses participate in the Extra Mile Program at many different levels. Some have large walk-a-thons, involve an entire parish community and solicit donations and sponsorship from local businesses. Others host smaller events like bake sales, community car washes or reading marathons. Whatever the event, the goal is the same — to help young people understand that through their prayers and actions they are missionaries, making a faith-filled difference in the lives of children in the Developing World.

For example, in the Diocese of Ndola, Zambia, prayerful contributions from young Catholics in the United States help support Saint Anthony's Children's Village. Here, some 100 HIV-infected children are cared for by the Dominican Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a family setting. The Sisters explain that such a home offers the opportunity to teach children and their families about Jesus and His great love for them.



Ega is from the Archdiocese of Cotabato in the Philippines.

She is a member of an indigenous group in that country. Her weekend chores include filling drinking water containers from a safe water source located about 30-minutes from her home.

Thanks to the prayers and support from children in the United States through the Holy Childhood Association, Ega is able to attend school on weekdays at Delesan Kailawan Center for Children run by the Religious of Notre Dame of the Missions Sisters. "What is most important is that the people experience the Church as a caring one and learn about Jesus through the example of His followers," said Sister Kathleen Prendergast, RNDM. "While it's not easy sometimes, it's made possible through the grace of the Spirit and the loving support of our sisters and brothers in faith across the world. May God bless all the boys and girls who contribute and pray for us."



**IN THE MISSIONS**, the Church operates some 63,000 kindergartens and 92,000 primary schools where the poorest of the world's children learn about the love of Jesus and dare to dream of a better future. For example, the Asha Bhavan School in India provides some 30 children with disabilities daily medical care, nutrition and education. While some children are not Catholic, all children are taught about Jesus, and God the Father. And, during a recent HCA celebration, the children helped collect about 400 Rupees (about \$10) for missionary work of the Church outside India.

# About the Holy Childhood Association

The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies active in some 110 countries throughout the world. Founded in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson (*below*), HCA helps to animate the young faithful to a universal missionary spirit and to gather prayerful and financial support for the local churches of Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America for the Church's service among children.



The goals of the Holy Childhood Association have remained unchanged since its founding. The first is the emphasis it places on the need for children to fulfill their Baptismal responsibility to share the Good News of Jesus with children in the Developing World.

The second goal is to encourage children to pray and to offer their own personal sacrifices for children who are in desperate need of basic resources like clean water, food, education and medical care — and, above all, the knowledge of the love of God.

HCA helps children strengthen their relationship with God through active participation in the missionary work of the Church.

Parents, guardians, parish priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters, and lay people — especially teachers and catechists — play a vital role in HCA's work. With support from these adults, the HCA message can reach the greatest number of children.

With a distinct focus entirely on children, HCA serves the Church worldwide — in the United States with mission education programs; in the Developing World with support for spiritual formation, and health and human development programs.

All young Catholics have a Baptismal responsibility to make the message of Jesus Christ known to others. HCA helps young people in this country understand the universal nature of the Catholic Church and to recognize that they are missionaries today, in prayer and sacrifice, reaching out to children in the Missions.

Annually, the *Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples* publishes the *Rapporto*. This document lists contributions from Catholics throughout the world to the Pontifical Mission Societies, as well as all of the subsidies distributed to the Missions by these societies. Your diocesan director/coordinator for the Holy Childhood Association receives a copy of this document and could provide you with information such as:

- ✦ *How much money was contributed to HCA by children in Zambia?*
- ✦ *Did HCA fund construction of orphanages in Sri Lanka in a particular year?*

# Sample Letter

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Our students are invited to participate in a unique program to show their love for children in the Developing World who are growing up in very different circumstances from their own. The Holy Childhood Association (HCA), the Church's mission organization for children, has asked us to join a program called *Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus* by participating in a (*walk-a-thon or insert name other fundraising event*) to benefit the poorest of the world's children.

We want our students to understand that by participating, they walk in step with missionaries all over the world who share the Good News of Jesus and with the children of the world who are eager to respond to His message of peace, love and hope.

*(Optional paragraph describing specific fundraising event)*

The children have been given pledge sheets to help them solicit contributions from neighbors, friends, relatives, parishioners and others. With your encouragement, they will reach a wider group of people interested in sharing their faith in Jesus and His love with children everywhere.

Each year, Catholic children throughout the United States raise some \$40,000 through the Going the Extra Mile Program. This year, our school / parish Extra Mile goal is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Annually, offerings from children in the United States to the Holy Childhood Association are combined with offerings from children worldwide — including children who live in the Missions — and are distributed directly to the Missions to support the Church's evangelization efforts among children there.

We are excited that our students will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children in the Missions by participating in this Holy Childhood Association program. Thank you for your support.

May God bless you!

Mission Moderator / Principal / R.E. Director

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR KIDS IN NEED OF JESUS

# Prayer Service

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:38-42)



**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** “To go the extra mile” is an expression that people use to share their willingness to make a special effort for others. We can look to the Gospel of Saint Matthew to see that this expression, or Christian attitude, comes from Jesus Himself.

**Reader:** Matthew 5: 38-42

**All:** “And whoever asks you to go one mile, go with him for two.”

**Leader:** In this Gospel, Jesus is teaching us how to love and serve one another — even when it is difficult. It is easy to love people who know and love you. It is quite another thing to love people whom you do not know. By Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus, we are called to love people whom we have never met and to share with them the Good News of Jesus! Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us.

**All:** Come, Holy Spirit, help us to reach out to those in need, especially to those children who long for peace. Show us the way to love and serve both you and our brothers and sisters everywhere, according to Your Holy Will. Amen.

**All sing:** Prayer of St. Francis, *Sebastian Temple © OCP Publications*

**All:** St. Francis, please help us to follow your unselfish example of love and service to others. May our Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus program help our sisters and brothers in the Missions who struggle for life’s basic necessities. Through the words and actions of missionaries, may children in the Developing World come to know of God’s great love for them. And we pray that someday — through the grace of God — they will ask to be baptized in the name of Your Son, Jesus.

**All:** Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



(top) These children attend an HCA-supported school in Madagascar.

(bottom) Indigenous Peoples’ Sunday, celebrated in the Philippines on the first Sunday in October, is very special for the local, Dulangan Manobo people. Here, some of the Catholic girls and boys of the tribe lead the Opening Procession of the Mass.

## HCA's Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus Program Participation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School / Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Home School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Arch)Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of students in School / Religious Education / Home School program: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of students who participated in the *Going the Extra Mile* program: \_\_\_\_\_

Dollar goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount raised: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you conduct a walk-a-thon (*check one*):  Yes  No

If no, please describe event below (please attach separate sheet if needed):

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## Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School/CCD: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Collected: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Arch)Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name & Address	Amount Pledged	Amount Paid	Sponsor's Initials
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			



# FUNdraising Ideas and Activities

## “Thon” Events

While the Going the Extra Mile for Kids in Need of Jesus fundraiser is designed as a “walk-a-thon” event, there are many other fun and creative “thon” style events you might consider such as:

An Extra Mile Bowl-A-Thon. Rent lanes at a local bowling alley for your event. Participants get sponsored by pin, collect donations, or both. Participants pay for their bowling and their shoe rental. Award prizes for such things as highest score, lowest score, most strikes, etc. After the event, participants collect from their sponsors according to their bowling scores. For example, if they bowled a total of 300 points for 3 games, and someone sponsored them for 1 cent per pin, the sponsor would owe them \$3.

Other “thon” events include: swim-a-thons, math-a-thons (children complete a booklet of math problems for sponsorship dollars), skate-a-thons, etc.

If you are working with older children, you may want to consider a “shack-a-thon.” Teams of students and / or adults build shacks out of recycled materials and duct tape in a school or parish hall. This event can be particularly helpful in showing young people how many of their brothers and sisters — particularly refugees — live in the Missions. Sponsorship dollars could relate to the size of shack, how much material was used, time it took to build, etc.

Always remember to begin and end any event/ activity with prayer and reflection (see Extra Mile Prayer Service) reminding all participants that their

offerings and those of their sponsors help children in the Developing World learn about the Good News of Jesus.

## October / Mission Month

If your school/parish has a band or children’s choir, plan a special Mission Month performance with an international theme. Proceeds from ticket and concession sales can support your Extra Mile fundraising efforts!

## Going the Extra Mile at Christmas

At Christmas, ask children and their families to make an offering for a light on a parish/school Christmas tree representing Jesus — the Light of the World. If possible, string lights on the tree representing the colors of the World Mission Rosary. Then, plan a community tree lighting that includes a prayer service, hymns and time for reflection. For more information about the World Mission Rosary visit: [www.worldmissionrosary.org](http://www.worldmissionrosary.org).

## Worker Auction

Yard work, house care/repair/painting and other services are often needed by members of the parish and the community. Young people can provide those services and earn money for the Going the Extra Mile program at the same time.

The offering of services may be done in a variety of ways. A chart could be posted in a parish center, at school, at church, etc., showing the cost of mowing a lawn or raking the leaves, etc. or an auction held where people would bid for the services of an individual.



Jennifer Tompkins of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of New Orleans created a “Shoe Decorating Contest” in support of HCA’s Going the Extra Mile Program. She conducted the contest during Catholic Schools Week. For more information about this contest, visit our HCA site for adults at: [www.worldmissions.catholicchurch.org](http://www.worldmissions.catholicchurch.org) Just click on the link for educators/ catechists.