



A New Legacy

Ending Generational Poverty Through
Faith, Farming & Flourishing Communities

EMPOWERING OUR
THRIVING KIDS INITIATIVE

FALL 2025

NO WAY OUT: “There is *Nothing*...”

Come along with us, as we visit rural Guatemala and hear the needs from families there. We'll hop in the truck and travel five hours from the airport on a paved road, then another hour on a dirt road, through creek beds and winding, mountain paths. Now, with no town in sight, we'll pull up to the side of a mountain and start an arduous hike uphill into the village of La Jigua.

Here, we will meet 24-year-old Juan Ramon, his wife, and their three young children. “There are seasons with no job and ***nothing*** in the kitchen,” he tells us.

“**My biggest worry in life is that I won't have food on the table for my family.**” From there, we will bump along a potholed path to Los Vazquez, a dusty community with no middle or secondary school.

“Life here is hard,” said 29-year-old Mirian, a mother of two, whose husband is ill and immobile. “I tried to grow coffee but had to

borrow money just to fertilize it. In the end, it didn't even yield much. **I was only able to pay off my debt with *nothing* leftover.**”

We'll then head another hour toward the eastern highlands of Chiquimula, a drought-prone, food-insecure region known as the Dry Corridor. We'll walk through brush to a home with no running water and meet Larri, a severely malnourished eight-month-old. Larri's parents must walk 30-minutes downhill, then 30-minutes back uphill just to get buckets of unclean, murky water to their house.

Larri's father echoed similar frustrations: “**We struggle every day. I don't have the money to get medical care for my son – we have *nothing*.**”

Despite a desire to leave a different legacy for their children, families in these extremely remote communities have no way out of generational poverty and chronic hunger.

Ongoing Emergency: Communities on the Brink

Cross International goes where the critical needs are – and in Central America, over 20 million families live in desperate poverty, trapped in a cycle of daily hunger, limited access to healthcare and education, landlessness and substandard housing.

In Guatemala, 80% of the indigenous population lives in extreme poverty, or \$1.25 per day. The lack of economic opportunity contributes to the country having one of the highest rates of stunting in the world, with nearly 47% of children under five experiencing this serious form of chronic malnutrition.*

In Nicaragua, many families are also stuck, working as exploited day laborers, earning meager wages on commercial farms, never able to build a future for their own children.

* World Food Programme

Through our **Thriving Kids Initiative**, we work to address generational poverty by stabilizing families, creating resilient communities, and establishing rooted and growing faith lives – all so children can grow up in an environment where they can fully and sustainably thrive!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

A New Legacy | OUR CAMPAIGN

Cross International works to move communities like these from deepest need to thriving joy – and one way we do this is through Community Transformation programs. These programs are a multi-year, multi-sector commitment to break the cycle of poverty in vulnerable villages. We work hand-in-hand with communities to fully address their self-identified most critical material and spiritual needs. We partner with their local Christian leaders to provide long-term, sustainable solutions – lending a hand-up, not a handout.

In Central America, we have pursued this comprehensive strategy since 2020 – and we are making a difference! Our **A New Legacy** campaign, as part of our Thriving Kids Initiative, will continue to help families move from poverty into prosperity, providing education, pastoral training and support, nutrition assistance, clean water, sanitary latrines and access to healthcare. We will also provide families with a pathway to own land and the resources to operate their own profitable, self-sufficient farm or business, with access to competitive markets, so they can build a savings, net worth and a new legacy for their children.

Cross has **13 villages** in our Central American Community Transformation programs, covering **2,748 people** in Guatemala and Nicaragua with critical, comprehensive services so children and families can reach their God-given potential. But right now, there are even more communities in desperate need of a lifeline. Through our **A New Legacy** campaign, we will expand our vital Community Transformation outreach in these countries and change the lives of children and families in more vulnerable villages like these around the world!

Will you join us in making an impact?

Come and See What the Lord Has Done!

“**With this program, I felt God heard me,**” said Juan Ramon, the 24-year-old father we visited in La Jigua, Guatemala, whose biggest worry was not having food on the table for his family.

Juan Ramon, along with 342 others from his village, are now benefitting from our Community Transformation program. As part of the program, Juan Ramon was matched with the most viable income-generating activity for his environment and cultural context – a chicken coop – and provided with the tools and trainings he needed to succeed.

“Now I know how to take care of chickens and sell eggs to clients, including a market that buys up to 12 cartons at a time,” he said. “I always dreamed of having my own business but never had the opportunity to start. When the chickens came, I said, ‘**Thank you Lord for hearing me!**’”

“I am filled with joy when my kids go with me to pick up eggs and they ask, ‘**How many for us today, Dad?**’ And I say, ‘**Bring three or four so there is enough for everyone.**’”



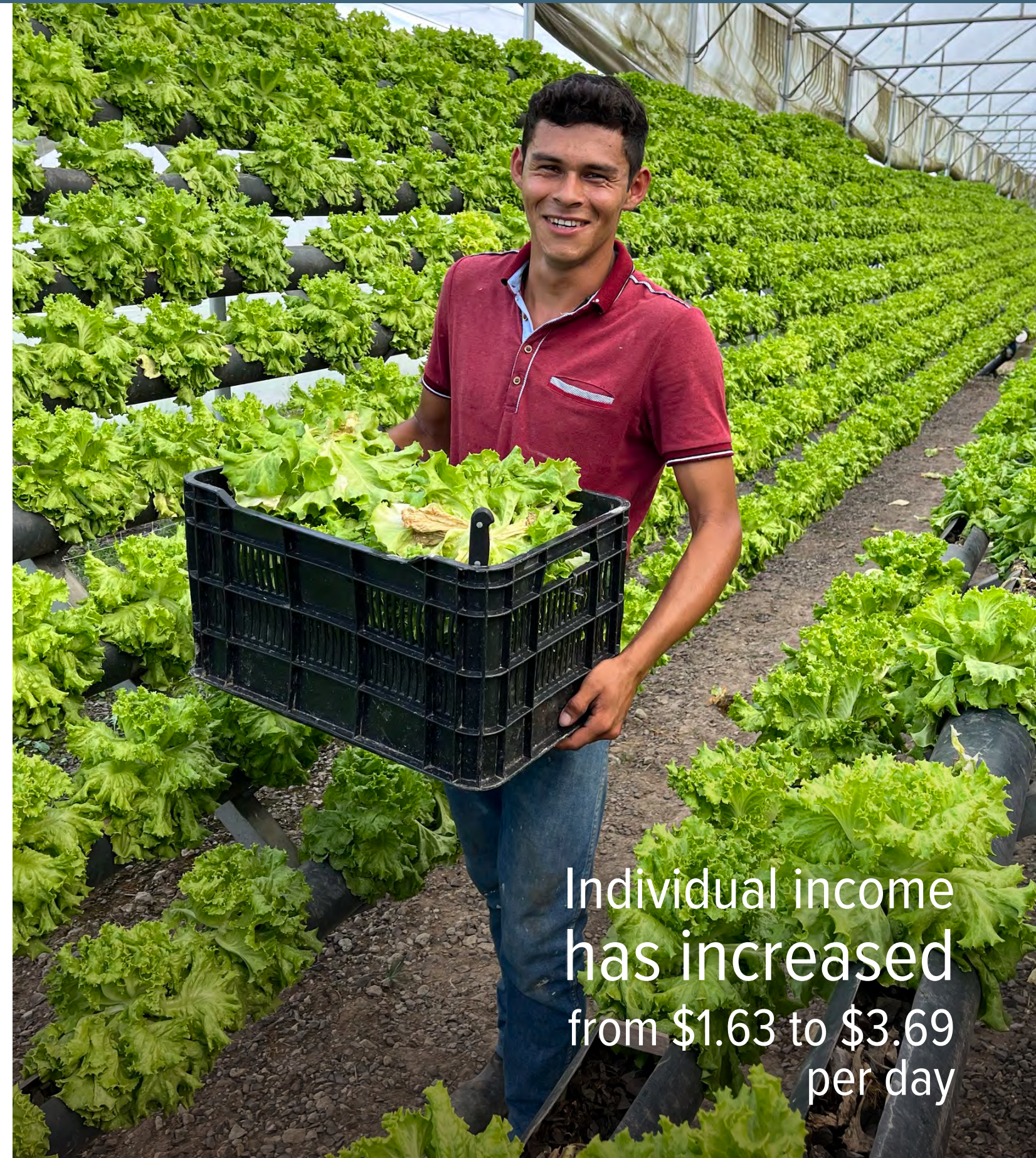
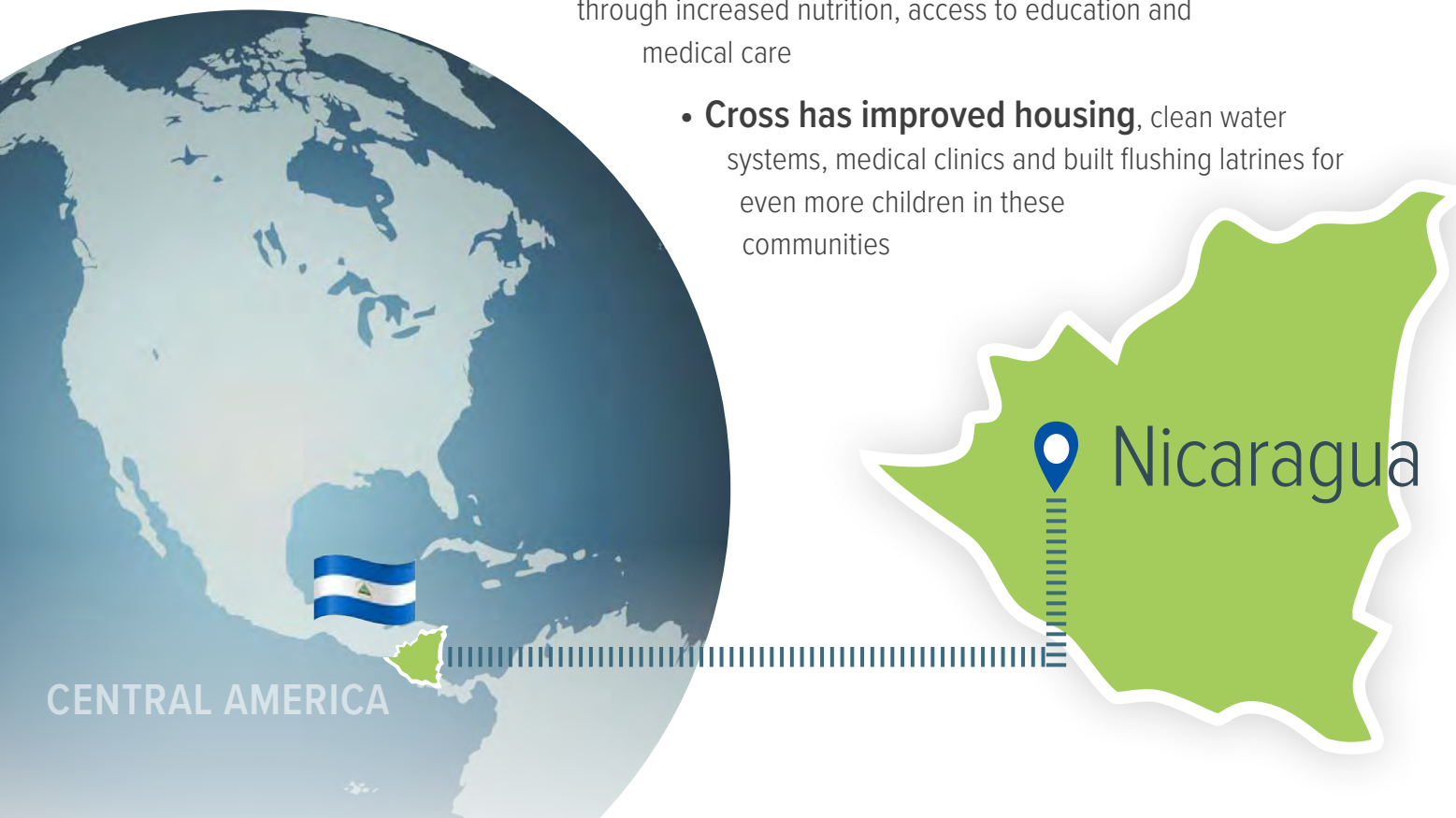
“...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” MATTHEW 5:16

Community Transformation

OUR APPROACH

Here's how Cross is shining the light of Christ and making a difference in Nicaragua:

- Through the Cross Community Transformation program, **290 previously impoverished farming families and day laborers**, in six rural communities, **receive robust training**, new irrigation innovations and agricultural technical expertise and oversight
- **Farmers are trained** in coffee and vegetable production, including peppers, lettuces and cabbage and are able to produce income-generating crops throughout the year
- Farmers also receive strong market linkages to large, international grocery stores, rather than village markets – as a result, **90% of vegetables sold achieve 30% higher prices than informal markets**
- **60 additional businesses have been supported for female entrepreneurs**, including raising livestock and grocery stores
 - **400 children are benefitting** from their parents' agribusinesses, through increased nutrition, access to education and medical care
 - **Cross has improved housing**, clean water systems, medical clinics and built flushing latrines for even more children in these communities



Individual income
has increased
from \$1.63 to \$3.69
per day

“We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.” PSALM 78:4

Spread the Gospel | OUR MISSION

Cross is dedicated to creating pathways for the vulnerable to know God and experience his mercy, restoration and redemption. Within our programs, we work closely with local Christian leaders to best share the truth of God so people can know his love and have the opportunity to follow Jesus. One of those local leaders is Pastor Edgar, who is focused on the eternal legacy of the people in his community, as he cultivates rooted and growing faith lives in the village of La Jigua, Guatemala.

“The most important thing for me is the church remains Christ-centered and that our people know the Word of God,” he said.

When we first met Pastor Edgar, he was the only one from the village with an education past the ninth grade. In Guatemala, 85% of the churches are led by people with no formal training in theology or discipleship. Though most of these local leaders, like Pastor Edgar, live below the poverty line themselves, they report their greatest need is theological training.

In order to strengthen and equip the church, Cross provides:

-  Bibles for families in the Community Transformation program
-  Ongoing pastoral training for local Christian leadership
-  Bible study materials, developed specifically for these communities
-  Sunday School teaching materials
-  Vacation Bible School resources and access to overnight Christian youth camp
-  Church building repairs and upgrades



“When we gave people their Bibles, they were truly happy. Many said, ‘I’ve never had a complete Bible like this before,’” said Pastor Edgar. “And still, there are communities near here where people do not even have access to a Bible.”

Pastor Edgar knows there are other pastors and Christian leaders throughout the rural mountains of Guatemala that desperately need pastoral training and biblical resources to foster a faith-filled community. In La Jigua, he saw the attendance of their Vacation Bible School double with the new materials – and he would love to see this transformation happen for children in other churches throughout the countryside.

Will you come alongside these faithful Christian leaders and join our **A New Legacy** campaign? Together, we can help show and tell the coming generation in Guatemala the glorious deeds of the Lord.



Pastor Edgar, Christian leader partner in the village of La Jigua.

Transformed Lives | OUR GOAL

Pastor Edgar understands the long-term investment needed in order to bear good and lasting fruit. He shared:

“The Bible story that means the most to me is of Joseph and his dreams. **There was a whole process God had before things came to be.** I am encouraged that Joseph had these dreams, and it was decades later before they came true. So, **I also have hope for these dreams I still have in my heart for this community.**”

Cross Community Transformation is a process – a comprehensive, collaborative effort, and a five-to-seven-year commitment to bear together the complex burdens of poverty so the dreams of families for their children in these 13 communities throughout Central America may one day be realized. We praise the Lord that He is moving and transforming lives in rural Guatemala and Nicaragua – and that He invites us to join Him in this life-changing work not only there, but around the world!

“**This work we see every day is God turning death into life,**” said Lourdes, our local Cross partner, operating a malnutrition hospital in Zacapa, Guatemala. “**We all play a part in passing the torch of this work to each other and playing our small part in His bigger transformation.**”

Remember Larri, the severely malnourished eight-month-old from Chiquimula? Thanks to this outreach, he is one of the hundreds of children each year able to receive lifesaving, ongoing medical care, intensive nutrition support and household hygiene education, at no cost to his parents.



Remember Mirian, the struggling coffee farmer we met in Los Vazquez? She used the tools and training she learned from our ministry-work to significantly improve the income from her coffee farm – and with her new savings, was able to stock a chicken coop and pig pen for additional profit. Also, her husband now has the medicine he needs, and they received a safe, new home for her children to grow up in. She shared:

“This year, with the program, the coffee plants really produced – something I never dreamed of. Now I make more money from the coffee, and I’ve bought things I never could before, like soap for the whole year. My goal for the future is to **keep moving forward** – keep saving, keep walking in God’s ways, follow the program’s advice for my coffee farm, and persevere toward a better life for my children.”

Help Us “Keep Moving Forward”



TOGETHER

we can help families build
a new legacy

A New Legacy campaign is part of our Thriving Kids Initiative, which is meeting the urgent material and spiritual needs of children and their families in rural Nicaragua, Guatemala and ten other countries around the world. Everywhere Cross serves, our desire is to make God known and achieve long-term societal impact where thriving kids turn into thriving adults, who sustain thriving communities.

With your gift, you will be bringing agricultural training and income generation opportunities to communities like those in El Tuma-La Dalia, pastoral training and biblical resources to churches like Pastor Edgar's, food security and financial stability to families like Juan Ramon's, and clean water to children like Larri.

We are making an impact – but there is still much work to be done!

Will you join us in supporting children and families in villages who have not yet received these life-changing services?

Give today to share the hope of the Gospel to children, not only in rural Guatemala and Nicaragua, but also to the many impoverished communities Cross International serves around the world!



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Candid.



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