



LEAD THE WAY ON MIGRATION

Table of Thanks

crs.org/leadtheway

Text LEAD NOW to 306-44



FROM YOUR TABLE TO A BETTER WORLD

CRS Table of Thanks invites you to enhance an upcoming celebration with your family, friends or community by remembering our sisters and brothers in need. Our world is composed of many peoples with unique languages, foods and cultures. Our connection as members of one human family is a gift.

Lead the way to a more just world by including a CRS Table of Thanks fundraiser in your celebration.

Use the highlighted resources below to enhance your community's CRS Table of Thanks fundraiser with prayers, stories and other resources to support migrants and refugees.

Throughout the world, people celebrate as a way to express their culture, welcome friends and family and share their time with others. God invites all his children to his banquet. As Christians, we are invited to joyfully live as missionary disciples and to share God's love with all members of our global family. As Pope Francis shares, "Fraternal love multiplies our ability to experience joy, since it makes us rejoice in the good of others" (*Christus Vivit*, 167).

"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD is your strength!"

— NEHEMIAH 8:10



Farmers like Carlos do not want to migrate. They do want to be good stewards of their land and providers for their families. Through innovative agricultural programs, CRS is leading the way to help farmers like Carlos achieve their goals.

Photo by Philip Laubner/ CRS

WE ARE ALL INVITED TO THE FEAST

BY FUNDRAISING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY, YOU CAN MAKE A REAL, POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD. SHARE THE FOLLOWING STORY AS PART OF YOUR FUNDRAISER TO SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY THE DIFFERENCE THAT THEIR DONATIONS CAN MAKE.

We are called to urgently respond to the needs of migrants and refugees. Today, nearly 80 million people are currently displaced. Changing climates make it difficult for farmers around the world to grow their crops and provide for their families, forcing many to migrate in search of work. We can lead the way to support farmers with innovative and sustainable agriculture practices that care for our common home.

Carlos Cano had grown coffee for around 15 years in Guatemala before *la roya* struck his crop. The fungus, also known as coffee leaf rust, attacks the leaves and ultimately kills the plant. Emerging data points to changing temperatures for exacerbating the spread of the fungus, which has devastated Central America's coffee production.

Since 2012, many growers in Carlos' community lost up to 85% of their coffee plants. Without a crop to sell, the farmers were forced to find alternative ways to earn income. For many, like Carlos, this meant unwanted migration to Mexico to look for work.

Migration is traumatic. Time away from family puts stress on relationships, and when a farmer is not home, his land lies fallow. For these farmers, leaving their communities was not a matter of choice—it was a matter of survival.



Recognizing that good stewardship of God's creation is deeply connected to healthy, thriving communities, CRS helps farmers like Carlos deal with the effects of a changing climate, so they do not have to migrate for work. Through the Green Coffee Initiative, CRS teaches farmers comprehensive soil management techniques, suggests production of new crops, demonstrates how to cultivate and graft rust-resistant varieties of coffee plants, and how and when to apply fungicides. Learn more about Carlos and supporting livelihoods at crs.org/leadtheway.

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

— LUKE 14:13-14

YOU CAN HELP ENSURE THAT MORE FARMERS FEEL THE SUPPORT THAT CARLOS AND HIS FAMILY HAVE EXPERIENCED BY MOBILIZING YOUR COMMUNITY TO FUNDRAISE TO PROVIDE LIVELIHOODS AND OTHER NECESSITIES FOR FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD!

HOW CAN WE WORK TO HELP LEAD THE WAY ON MIGRATION?

PRAY TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD

Our faith calls us to acts of charity. Make sure to integrate faith filled reflection into your fundraiser. Use the [Prayer for Migrants and Refugees](#), to pray as a community for each member of our global family who seeks safety and refuge.

GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Challenge your community to take your fundraiser even further by raising money to provide the items below to support refugees and migrants around the world.*

- **Raise \$70** for an **emergency supply and hygiene kit** for families on the move or in temporary housing. In addition to food, water and medicine, we provide household essentials like cooking pots, containers, blankets, soap and other hygiene items.
- **Raise \$100** for **winterization kits** that help families in sub-standard or temporary housing survive cold winters. They include blankets, heaters, insulation and tarps to reinforce roofs and keep people dry.
- **Raise \$255** for a **safe space for displaced children**. Boys and girls will receive transportation to and from classes, recreational activities to interact with friends, school supplies and counseling for their emotional health.
- **Raise \$450** for **transitional shelters**. The semi-permanent housing gives displaced families safety, security and some of the comforts of home while they wait for permanent housing

** Gifts are symbolic of the good your donation will do and represent actual goods and services provided to the people CRS serves around the world.*

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

We make the most impact when we take action together with others. Consider holding your fundraiser on one of these important dates in an effort to support migrants and refugees.

September 27: World Day of Migrants and Refugees

October 11: International Day of the Girl

November: World Day of the Poor*

December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 18: International Migrants Day

January 11: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

February: Week before Ash Wednesday*

May: Pentecost*

*Date varies given calendar year.

“Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

— ROMANS 15:7



Women work together to graft plants at “The Blessing” coffee plant nursery in San Marcos, Guatemala.

Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

SHARE THE CELEBRATION

Food brings people together with welcome, kindness and joy. As you celebrate, consider a deeper connection with Carlos and other farmers in Guatemala by preparing a tasty and traditional **black bean soup!**

Guatemalan Black Bean Soup

Servings: 4-6

Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp fair trade olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups water or vegetable broth
- 3 cans black beans, drained & rinsed
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 1 green chili, diced
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 tsp chili powder
- ½ tsp salt
- Cilantro, minced (optional)

Instructions:

In a large pot, sauté onion and garlic in oil until brown. In a blender, combine 1 c water/vegetable broth and 2 cans of beans. Blend until smooth. Add to onion mixture. Stir in tomatoes, chilis, remaining beans, spices and remaining water/broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Serve with cilantro.

Join us

by texting **LEAD NOW** to **306-44** to get the latest CRS campaign news and alerts.

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