

Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions

Newsletter

August 2022



To our friends and supporters in mission,

We are excited to be releasing our first newsletter as we have so much to share with you! Our last trip to Jamaica was November 2019, but we have been quite active since that time.

Several years into partnering with the Missionaries of the Poor (MOP) in Jamaica, our little team of four occupational therapists felt a call to establish a non-profit organization. We were seeking to build teams of therapists to help create sustainable therapy programming at the mission. We wanted to attract team members who would be open to participating in the rich prayer life of the Brothers and Sisters at MOP, as we found it so fruitful and truly believed prayer to be the means and end of our mission. We knew there were many faithful therapists across the globe that would be interested in missions, but we weren't sure how to connect with them. Furthermore, we were seeking more autonomy with fundraising for the supplies needed for our missions. Establishing an NPO just seemed like the next right step.



Grant Hillestad, treasurer and co-founder of LFCTM, traveling across Jamaica in a converted chicken truck



Sarah Gingrich, vice president and co-founder of LFCTM, modeling our first prototype of an adaptive bath chair

When the pandemic hit, and overseas missions came to a screeching halt, time opened for us to act on the call to establish the non-profit. We are now 2+ years into the process. It has been a journey! We have registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, spent countless hours researching federal and state laws and regulations, written articles of incorporation, bylaws, and strategic plans, built a website (www.catholictherapymissions.org) and established a social media presence. Now we finally get to begin missions again, and I am full of hope for how this organization will grow!

Our current focus in our partnership with the Missionaries of the Poor is to replace wheelchairs for an estimated 75 children who have either outgrown their chair or moved into the group homes since our last distribution in 2017 and have yet to receive a chair. My heart breaks for these children confined to beds due to lack of a properly fitted wheelchair. Hour after hour, day after day, they look at the same sights and feel the same still air as pressure builds over their bony prominences and their lungs weaken.



Carla Heinsch, secretary and co-founder of LFCTM, enjoying the company of an MOP resident

We are excited about a new partnership we are building with a group called Hope Haven. They will help us collect, refurbish and ship the chairs we need. Our team will be traveling to Jamaica in October to complete evaluations with the residents to determine their specific needs. Once those evaluations are complete, Hope Haven will step in to help craft a wheelchair to meet each resident's needs. Then the chairs will be shipped to Jamaica. We hope they will arrive early in 2023. We will then take a team back to Jamaica to distribute the chairs.

We are asking you to also partner in this mission with us. First, if you are able, we ask that you would consider sponsoring one or more wheelchairs and dramatically improving a child's quality of life. Wheelchairs will cost between \$100-\$275 each. Our overall fundraising goal of

\$15,000 should cover all the chairs as well as shipping. In addition, we ask for your prayers. Pray that we may be receptive to God's will for our organization. Pray for the Brothers and Sisters of the Missionaries of the Poor who have devoted their entire lives to the service of the poor. Pray that God would strengthen them in their mission. Pray for the sick and poor of Jamaica that through their suffering they may come to know Jesus more intimately. Finally, we ask that you would consider joining us on a mission. We are accepting applications from people of all skill levels, no therapy skills necessary. We will provide "on the mission" training. E-mail us at catholictherapymissions@gmail.com if interested.



Shannon Hillestad, president and co-founder of LFCTM, on one of her first missions after becoming an OT nearly 10 years ago.

Know of our eternal gratefulness and prayers for all of you. We could not do this mission without you.

In Christ,

Shannon Hillestad,
President and co-founder
Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions



For donations: please make checks payable to Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions and send to 507 5th Ave SE, Saint Cloud, MN 56304. Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible