



CRWRC



*"If the Son sets you free, then you are free indeed!" John 8:36*

*Free A  
Family*

*a CRWRC ministry*



## Families Living Across The Globe

Millions of families around the world struggle every day because of poverty. Their lives can seem so different and remote to us, yet, despite such differences, our basic needs are much the same no matter where we live.

Good health, gainful employment, adequate education, and nourishing food—these are the things of life that we, as North Americans, sometimes take for granted. They are also the things that can seem out of reach for many people living in poverty.

## Families Trapped In A Cycle Of Poverty

To people living in poverty, every day can be a struggle to survive. Where will they find food to eat and clean water to drink? If they can't eat or are ill, how will they find strength to work? If they can't work, how will they earn enough money to purchase food and medicine or pay the bills?

Poverty can seem like a vicious cycle that families can't escape.

## Families Freed Through Families Like Yours

In an expression of Christ's love, the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) comes alongside these hurting people to help them gain the skills and opportunities they need to break this cycle, escape poverty and meet their daily needs on an on-going basis.

Now you can join this important ministry of CRWRC through *Free A Family*®. Your support will help families overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and illiteracy while experiencing the love of God. Thousands of families just like yours are already participating in the *Free A Family*® program. They are learning about the issues of poverty and injustice, and putting a face on the vital work that Christians are doing to share Jesus' love in a world of hunger and disease.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1 What is *Free A Family*®?

*Free A Family*® is an exciting alternative to child sponsorship that gives you a chance to show compassion to a family in poverty. *Free A Family*® is not a handout. Your participation establishes Christian training programs to help people gain the skills they need to obtain adequate food, health, and income as they also come to know Jesus. In other words, your prayerful involvement helps families and communities meet their own needs while experiencing the love of Christ.

## 2 How does it work?

Through *Free A Family*®, you have the opportunity to support ministry in one of four regions of the world: Asia, East & Southern Africa, West Africa, or Latin America. In each of these regions, CRWRC staff have selected a family who is involved in their programs to represent all of CRWRC's program participants in that region.

You select the region of the world in which you would like your contribution to be used. Once you have made your selection, *Free A Family*®



will send you a color postcard with a photo and information about the representative family from that region. Quarterly photo-stories will follow to help you learn about the family's joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams as they work toward change. You will also see how your pledge is giving a hand up to an entire community.

CRWRC and *Free A Family*® will follow the life of the representative families for a total of three years. Then the process will start over with a new set of representative families.

### 3 Why does *Free A Family*® use “representative families”?

Unlike traditional child sponsorship programs, your donation to *Free A*

*Family*® does not go directly to one child or family in need. Instead, it goes to support CRWRC's programs in one region of the world. This allows CRWRC to use your gift to make the greatest amount of impact.

Most sponsorship programs require an enormous amount of time and money to match each donor with a specific family or child. By eliminating this step and reporting on only one family in each region, CRWRC is able to use more of our staff time (and more of your donation) for programs that directly help people in need rather than administration.

In this way, your gift goes further—to develop programs and meet the needs of entire communities. In essence, you are helping many families free themselves from a life of poverty—including your representative family.





#### 4 How much should I give each month?

Because of the efficiency CRWRC and *Free A Family*®'s programs, you can help a family have an opportunity to change their lives for as little as \$20 US or \$22 CDN each month. That's only 66 cents a day (73 cents Canadian)! If you feel that you would like to contribute more of your resources to help families in need, you can feel free to do so at any time.

#### 5 If I don't want to send a check each month, are there other ways to give?

Yes! There are a wide variety of ways that you can choose to support the *Free A Family*® program. You can send a check each month, or send one check to cover an entire year (\$240 US or \$264 CDN). You can also have your monthly pledge automatically deducted from your credit card or checking account.

## 6 How much of my gift goes to CRWRC's programs?

More than 85 per cent of your gift is directly used in ministry to the poor. These funds pay for programs in literacy, health, agriculture, income generation, and justice education. The remaining portion of your gift is used to help cover CRWRC administrative costs.

## 7 Is my gift tax deductible?

Yes! The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and *Free A Family*® are recognized Christian charities in both the United States and Canada. As such, your gift will be receipted as a charitable donation and is tax deductible.



**8 How can I be sure that you are using my gifts as I intend you to?**

CRWRC is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. This means that our financial practices are carefully scrutinized by external auditors to ensure that your gifts are used responsibly, as you intended, and in a stewardly manner. In addition, copies of CRWRC's audited financial statement and annual report are available each year upon request.

**9 How can I become a Free A Family® supporter?**

Simply fill out the attached form and return it to CRWRC with your first check. Your receipt and introduction to your representative family will follow in the mail.



*Free A  
Family*

*a CRWRC ministry*

**Free a Family - US**

2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560  
1-800-FREE-352  
[www.crwrc.org](http://www.crwrc.org)

**Free a Family - Canada**

PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1  
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8  
1-800-730-3490  
[www.crwrc.org](http://www.crwrc.org)



Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Grand Rapids,  
Michigan  
Permit 149

**CRWRC-US**  
2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560

**CRWRC-Canada**  
3475 Mainway  
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1  
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

*Free A  
Family*

a CRWRC *ministry*

## **Free a Family - US**

2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560  
1-800-FREE-352  
[www.crwrc.org](http://www.crwrc.org)

## **Free a Family - Canada**

PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1  
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8  
1-800-730-3490  
[www.crwrc.org](http://www.crwrc.org)