

GOOD STEWARD



*“Entrust your works
to the Lord, and your
plans will succeed.”*

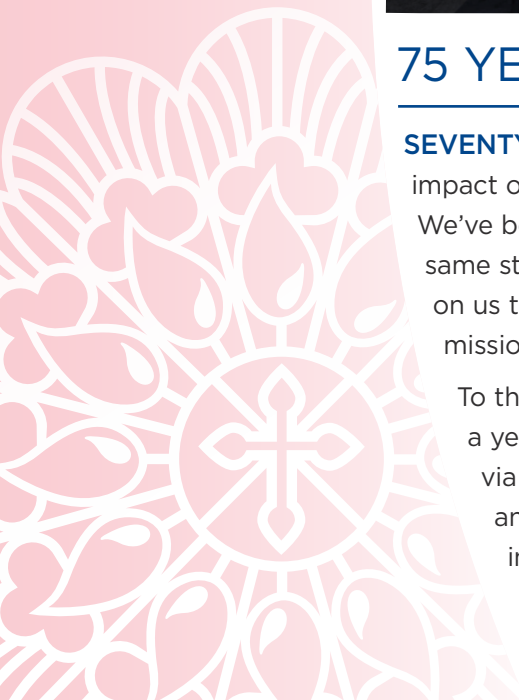
—Proverbs 16:3



75 YEARS AND THE STORY OF US

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS. More than 100 countries. Millions of lives. This is the impact of donors like you as Catholic Relief Services marks our 75th anniversary. We've been here through the decades faithfully serving people in need with the same steadfast commitment we had when we began in 1943. You can count on us to be here in the decades to come too, as we continue to carry out our mission responding to the Gospel call to help the poorest of the poor.

To thank you for helping us achieve this milestone, we invite you to join us in a yearlong celebration. We'll be sharing exciting moments from CRS history via two special anniversary editions of the Good Steward, and through our anniversary website: 75.crs.org. There, you'll find monthly podcasts, an interactive timeline and stories that reflect on our past—allowing you to see the faces and hear the voices of the people who lived them. Inside is a sneak-peek at two stories to begin the celebration. We hope you'll find them as fascinating as we do.



CRS IS BORN: AS REMEMBERED BY A REFUGEE WHO WAS THERE

JULEK PLOWY WAS 3 YEARS OLD when Catholic Relief Services helped his family escape the violence of World War II. **Born inside a Russian gulag**, CRS gave Julek the first home he'd ever known—alongside his mother, sister and some 1,500 other Polish refugees—at a community in Santa Rosa, Mexico.

It was 1943, and CRS, then called War Relief Services, had just been established through an outpouring of compassion from Catholics in the United States. Julek was among those helped by our inaugural project, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you. **Today, 75 years later, he still wants to share his thanks.** And he wants you to know that the people you help today go on to live remarkable lives of faith and perseverance, passing on your blessings from generation to generation.

“Words can’t express the gratitude, love and appreciation our family holds for CRS, and its hard work and dedication in our time of need,” Julek says. “CRS provided aid to us in many

forms, such as clothing, food, education, toys, medical aid, and also finances ... But the most important contribution to our family was the full restoration of our faith in the goodness and love of God and humanity.”

Eventually, Julek immigrated to New Jersey, served in the Marine Corps and raised a loving family in California. But he still remembers those harrowing experiences of childhood, and he speaks with great emotion as he recounts his story.

Listen, as he remembers in his own words on our anniversary podcast at 75.crs.org.

“WORDS CAN’T EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE, LOVE AND APPRECIATION OUR FAMILY HOLDS FOR CRS, AND ITS HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IN OUR TIME OF NEED.”

—Julek Plowy

Below: Young Polish refugee Julek Plowy, standing in front row, left of center, is a beneficiary of CRS’ first project at Colonia Santa Rosa. Right: Julek and his wife Teri with their granddaughter Lauren in Southern California. *Photos courtesy of Julek Plowy*



FROM NICKELS TO MILLIONS: THE HISTORY OF CRS RICE BOWL

STARTING WITH JUST POCKET CHANGE in 1975, a small idea born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, has now raised more than \$250 million to help the poor. It all began when Monsignor Robert J. Coll launched Operation Rice Bowl, now CRS Rice Bowl, an initiative to engage Catholics during Lent.

As he told *People* magazine in a 1976 interview, he wanted well-fed Americans to be temporarily “hungry enough to hurt,” so they will know what “500 million of our fellow human beings feel like 7 days a week.” Families would participate in once-weekly “sacrificial meals,” substituting, for example, salad for steak. They’d collect the money they saved in cardboard bowls, and at the end of Lent’s 40 days, they’d donate their collections for the poor.



Jim DeHarpporte holds his favorite Rice Bowl from previous years.. Photo by Lauren Carroll/CRS

CRS’ Jim DeHarpporte, who worked in India at the time, remembers the \$25,000 raised that first year. **“The funds were used to purchase wheat and dal,” or lentils, to feed starving babies,** he says. “Because of the poverty in Calcutta, most children suffered from low birth weight and were breastfed long after they needed supplementary food.”

It wasn’t long before the program took off nationally, reaching dioceses across the country after **endorsements came from the likes of Mother Teresa** at the 41st Eucharistic Congress.

J.L. Drouhard, diocesan director in Seattle, Washington, remembers the impact it had on his community—and his family. “[We] fasted and prayed for unseen sisters and brothers in other lands in a new and exciting way, and raised over \$72,000 that first year,” he says. “During Lent, [my family] always traveled with boxes of Rice Bowls in the trunk of our car, ready to be dropped off at parishes that had run out.

The kids have grown up, moved away, but they expect a Rice Bowl personally mailed by their dad to arrive by Ash Wednesday.”

Read the full story—and watch a vintage Rice Bowl TV ad—at 75.crs.org.



OUR TEAM IS HERE TO HELP

Please contact us to answer any questions, or to share your story.

☎ **800-235-2772**
Select option for Planned Giving
@ plannedgiving@crs.org
🌐 crs.org/planned-giving

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CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER AND THE NEW TAX LAW

ON DECEMBER 22, 2017, the president signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Since then, there have been a plethora of questions regarding tax brackets, individual deductions, charitable giving and the effect on planned giving tools. While the questions are complex—and we would always recommend seeing a financial planner and tax professional to discuss your specific circumstances—**there are still ways to utilize tax advantages as you fulfill your philanthropic goals.**

One planned giving tool that has been put in the spotlight is the **charitable IRA rollover**—also known as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD. Why is this planned giving tool getting attention? **The main reason is that using the IRA rollover enables a donor who may not be able to itemize deductions under the new law to gain similar tax advantages.** This is because funds sent directly to a qualified charity, like CRS, from an individual retirement account are not considered taxable income for the individual. By making a gift this way, **you avoid increasing your taxable income** as you meet or exceed your required minimum distribution (RMD) and support lifesaving programs around the world.

There are many situations in which you may not want to withdraw some or all of your required

minimum distribution. They may include wanting to maintain a certain income level to ensure access to benefits based on income, or simply **not wanting to pay additional taxes on unneeded income.** Working with a financial planner, many people have found that using the IRA rollover allows them to address these concerns while also fulfilling their desire to support the work of a qualified charity like CRS.

There are **some specific rules that** must be followed to ensure an IRA rollover qualifies as a QCD:

- The donor must be age 70½ or older at the time of the gift.
- QCDs are capped at \$100,000 per year.
- The gift must be sent directly from the fiduciary to the qualified charity.
- IRA rollovers may not be used to establish a charitable gift annuity or other life-income gifts.

As the doubling of the standardized deduction may affect your ability to itemize charitable giving, the IRA rollover provides people who are age 70 ½ or older with an additional opportunity to support causes they care about, while meeting RMD and other requirements. As always, **please discuss any withdrawals from your IRA with your financial planner or tax advisor.**



CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES AND REAL ESTATE

BUYING A HOME IS AN EXCITING STEP—be it a first home for your growing family, a second, vacation property where loved ones can spend quality time together, or an “empty nest” home where you downsize to make things easier. Before you signed on the dotted line, you did your research, made sure this was the right move and knew the financial implications. Over time, the personal touches and special memories made the house your home.

Your home has served you well, but as life happens, situations continue to change. Perhaps you are moving again. Or it is time to liquidate. Or, your property is now more of a burden than a benefit. Whatever the reason, **is it now time to reduce ownership costs and increase your rate of return? What if you could do this while also making a gift to a charity that pays you guaranteed income for life?**



A CRS Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to make a gift that serves the poor and vulnerable overseas, while guaranteeing a lifetime income for you and/or someone you designate. It provides a **fixed income based on your age, and a portion of your income is tax-free.**

You can fund a charitable gift annuity by donating cash, appreciated securities or real estate. If you use real estate, **you may be able to receive a tax deduction** based on the property’s appraised value in the year of your gift, and **your capital gains taxes will be spread over several years.** Given that property gifts tend to be larger in value and offer a larger charitable deduction,

One Life Annuity funded with \$10,000	
Age	Per Year
60	\$440
65	\$470
70	\$510
75	\$580
80	\$680
85	\$780
90+	\$900

Gift annuity rates, which vary depending on age, make legacy gifts to CRS mutually beneficial.

people unable to itemize smaller gifts under the new tax law may find that a property gift allows them to reach the threshold where itemization is a viable option.

Your property has provided many gifts to your family over the years. Have you considered using your property to fund a charitable gift annuity? It can create a legacy gift to CRS, while providing you additional income and valuable tax benefits. **With a charitable gift annuity, you can use your home for good in ways you never thought possible.**

Gift annuity rates vary, so contact our Planned Giving team to receive customized information.



SUPPORTING YOUR PHILANTHROPIC GOALS WITH GIFTS OF MINERAL RIGHTS

WITH THE RECENT BOOM IN U.S. oil and gas production, people blessed to be holding mineral rights may find that these interests have started to become quite valuable. For some, this will be an opportunity to expand their support to Catholic Relief Services and the other charities they love.

A gift of mineral rights might be appropriate for you **if you own nonworking mineral rights** and want to help CRS support families in need. You may be eligible to receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of your mineral rights.

CRS can generally accept gifts of mineral rights if:

1. CRS will not become responsible for managing the underlying asset, or liable for any associated obligation.
2. CRS determines the underlying asset is consistent with the core values of CRS.

You can transform your mineral rights into a gift that supports CRS in a number of ways:

- Donate mineral rights during your lifetime, and see the impact of your gift unfold.
- Donate mineral rights through your will or trust.

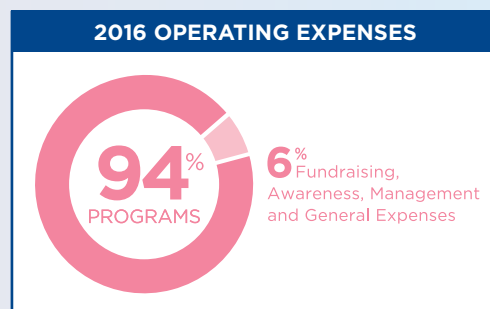
- Fund a charitable remainder trust with mineral rights, generating a charitable deduction and payments for your lifetime or for a term of up to 20 years. At the end of the term, CRS benefits from the remainder value.
- Donate the royalties of your mineral rights to CRS, thereby holding them while also lowering your income taxes and possibly putting you into a lower tax bracket.

As always, **consult your attorney and tax advisor before making any gift of mineral rights to CRS.** There are many different levels of ownership associated with mineral rights, and the related tax regulations are complex. Don't hesitate to contact the CRS Planned Giving team with questions.



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES MAKES YOUR CONCERN COUNT

- **CRS eases** suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.
- **CRS serves** Catholics in the United States by inviting them to live out their faith as part of one human family.
- **CRS is efficient and effective.** In 2016, 94 percent of our expenditures went to CRS programming that benefits poor people overseas. Our programs touch more than 120 million lives.



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These seals certify that CRS meets the highest standards of transparency, accountability and effectiveness as set forth by these charity evaluation agencies.