

## CRS Chapters: An Overview

*Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is building a network of CRS Chapters* to mobilize Catholics and others of goodwill to end global poverty. These chapters—which are being formed nationwide and are comprised of students, parishioners and others—advance our mission to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas through meaningful action, enabling chapter members to live out their call as missionary disciples.

The goal of CRS Chapters is to equip and empower volunteers to become champions for the families and communities that CRS serves, and to lead the way to a more just and peaceful world. We do that by encouraging our elected officials and the media to highlight and support this lifesaving work, and by mobilizing essential resources that make our work possible.

### What will CRS Chapters do?

As communities of people committed to serving the poor and ending global poverty, chapters will take action that contributes to CRS' mission to create transformational change for our global human family.

**ADVOCACY:** Chapters will work to address the systemic causes of global poverty through advocacy, by developing relationships with their members of Congress, visiting their members' offices, and writing letters to the editor and op-eds to raise the profile of pivotal issues like forced migration and malnutrition.

**CHAPTER GIVING:** Chapters will support the immediate needs of our brothers and sisters around the world through giving activities. These activities will not only allow CRS to be agile and respond to people's immediate needs but also help CRS leverage additional funding to reach even more people.

### What are the benefits of joining a CRS Chapter?

CRS Chapter members receive specialized support and training as well as intensive skill building from CRS staff. Members will be educated on current global issues and have access to faith formation resources. Chapters will be connected to a nationwide network of CRS champions working to advance global peace and justice, and they will have opportunities every month to put their faith into action and make a difference in the world.

### How does a CRS Chapter get started?

A CRS Community Engagement Manager will work with local leaders to gather a group of interested people who will attend a Chapter Launch Workshop where participants will learn what it means to be part of a chapter. Those who choose to join the chapter will then be trained by CRS. After the trainings, chapters will come together once a month for a national conference call featuring a guest speaker, Q&A, best practice sharing and ongoing training. Individual chapters will then meet a second time each month for fellowship and to plan their actions around giving and advocacy.

*Ready to lead the way?* Each chapter will have one or more leaders that will serve as the primary point of contact between the chapter and CRS. These individuals, who will receive additional training, will be the main motivators of the chapter, mobilizing their members to take concrete action on behalf of those most in need.