

Partnership Newsletter

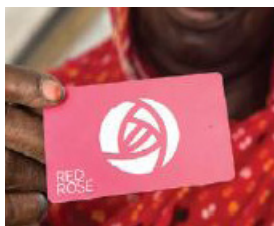
You Matter to CRS | U.S. Church Engagement Division



June/July 2018 | VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3

CRS USES DIGITAL MONEY TO ASSIST THOSE FLEEING BOKO HARAM

As people flee from terror they are unable to take valuable assets with them. Arriving in their new location, they need essential goods and food to sustain a livelihood. Digital money provides a way to respond to such a crisis in a faster impactful way and allows beneficiaries to access the goods and services they need when they need them. With support from USAID, CRS has used a digital financial service and distributed 8,500 cards since May of 2015 for people fleeing Boko Haram. [Learn more.](#)



Can you believe it's summer already? The days of family picnics, beach trips and long hikes with friends stretch out in front of us. Then, there's the food...watermelon, ice cream and great salads!

One of the best parts of summer is that we get to spend special moments with those we hold dear. We laugh together and tell stories. Those stories connect us.

CRS has some great stories for you this summer. We'll call them your beach reads. You can find them on your computer or in your ear with our 75th anniversary Behind the Story podcast story.

You'll [read about a beautiful bride](#) who met CRS when she was 12 and struggling with her mom's HIV diagnosis. We don't want to spoil it for you, but let's just say there's a happy ending.

If you don't feel like reading, sit back in your beach chair, close your eyes and listen. Our [podcast series](#) has a little bit of adventure, history and humor. You'll meet some characters who had a big part in shaping CRS into what it is today. You'll probably chuckle a bit at some of the crazy anecdotes in our early history, plus maybe learn something about happiness and children in our latest podcast, "[The Right to Laugh](#)." When you are out and about this summer, feel free to share with others through iTunes.

We know people are traveling this summer, but please know that here at CRS we are always grateful for your support. For us, celebrating our 75th anniversary has been like a day at the beach with close family and friends. Thanks for being part of it!

CRS Fact Sheets

- [Change the Way We Care-How CRS is working to deinstitutionalize orphans and other vulnerable children](#)
- [CRS and School Health and Hygiene](#)

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CRS WEST REGION NEWS

West Regional Partners Gather to Reflect and Pray



CRS West and Partners gathering May 29-31 at St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista, CA. Photo by Jesus Huerta /CRS

CRS West staff met May 29-31 with 26 partners for two days to pray and reflect on CRS' mission and to plan for the coming year. The partners represented 12 key and active dioceses throughout the CRS West region. Notable among the groups were the diversity of key and long-standing partners: Life and Justice, Hispanic Ministries, Catholic Charities, seminary partners, California Catholic Conference, as well as relationships with CRS DDs, Rice Bowl Coordinators, Ethical Trade Ambassadors, PAC Animators, and parish ambassadors. There was also a diversity of ethnicities and ages represented, which led to a rich experience of connecting and sharing ideas and plans.

The gathering consisted of a one-day reflection, a Skype presentation by Bill O'Keefe, CRS V.P. followed by discussion, presentations on the Parish Ambassador Corps by our DDs in Seattle, updates and resources on Hispanic Outreach and V Encuentro, Share the Journey Campaign, Advocacy including "Go To Advocates" and mapping, CRS response to emergencies by Caroline Brennan, and a celebration of our 75th Anniversary.

Both CRS staff and partners felt like this gathering helped strengthen our relationships and deepen our collaboration in working towards serving the poor around the world.

CRS SOUTHEAST REGION NEWS

300,000 Meals Packed in the Past 3 years!

On Friday, June 1, the Archdiocese of Atlanta welcomed over 500 volunteers for the start of the Eucharistic Congress for a Catholic Relief Services Helping Hands meal packing event! Teens and toddlers, seminarians and seniors, and all ages in between joined the event!

Over the course of 3 hours, 100,008 meals were packed for our global family in the West African nation of Burkina Faso. Every meal packed was another concrete expression of the Eucharistic Congress' call to action: The Eucharist commits us to the poor. Catholic Charities of Atlanta also set up their mock refugee camp to give meal packers a chance to experience some of what our displaced brothers and sisters around the globe are going through on a daily basis.



Archdiocese of Atlanta volunteers pack meals for the West African nation of Burkina Faso. Photo by CRS Staff

Visit <https://helpinghands.crs.org/> to bring a CRS Helping Hands meal packing event like this to your diocese, parish or school!

A big thank you goes out to Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Deacon Dennis Dorner, Kat Doyle, Jayna Hoffacker, Mary Elkins, Kathy Montag and Yanira Koch. Their passion and hard work made the annual event a success.

CRS NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC REGION NEWS

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Delegation Commissioned before Traveling to Malawi and Uganda

Twenty people from around the Archdiocese of Philadelphia gathered at the CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic regional office Wednesday, June 6 for a CRS Summer Delegation commissioning service. Four people from the Archdiocese were traveling on CRS delegation trips to Malawi and Uganda. The commissioning service was led by Archdiocese of Philadelphia CRS Diocesan Director Anne Ayella. It included reflections from Joanne Kratz and Mary Chollet, CRS parish ambassadors traveling with CRS staff member Jeff Wallace, to Malawi, and Tom Southard, Director of Cabrini University's Wolfington Center. Fr. Ed Hallinan blessed crosses that were given to each of the delegates to mark their commitment to global solidarity as they travel this summer.

The commissioning service was preceded by brief remarks by Maureen McCullough, regional director of the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic, who lifted-up a reflection on community written by Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB. The reflection stated, "community is a matter of the heart and mind. It cannot be created by place alone, and it cannot be destroyed by distance alone. It is the essence of the soul." The goal of the gathering was to foster this spirit of community within the Archdiocese. The Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region offers its prayers for the four travelers from Philadelphia, that they might experience the global community and return motivated to create an energized and responsive local community in the Archdiocese!



Four travelers from Philadelphia: Jeff Wallace, CRS NEMA, Tom Southard, Cabrini University, and CRS Parish Ambassadors Mary Chollet and Joanne Kratz . Photo by CRS staff

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE SOCIAL ACTION SUMMER INSTITUTE (SASI)!

This year's SASI is inspired by a Tweet from Pope Francis: "Love requires a creative, concrete response." Social justice ministry is dedicated to serving those individuals on the margins of society and within our Church, yet the way in which we minister must evolve. The sessions at SASI will explore creative ways to achieve our social mission.

It will start at 2 pm on **Sunday, July 15** and end at 5 pm on **Thursday, July 19** at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

SASI is a great opportunity for professional development and for diocesan/parish leaders across the country to share ideas. Visit <https://catholicroundtable.org/sasi> for more information and to register by July 12.



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CRS University - Faculty Learning Commons 2018-2019 - Human Trafficking

The CRS Faculty Learning Commons (FLC) provides online course materials for easy integration into existing college and university classes. Developed by a team of CRS experts and our faculty advisor Chris Cervenak from the University of Notre Dame, the theme for this academic year is Human Trafficking. The seven online modules explore the root causes, current manifestations, and effective responses to modern day slavery. [Learn more here!](#)

CRS University - CRS SALT Summit - Student Ambassador Leaders Together

The CRS SALT Summit is a national gathering held every two years for colleges and universities with existing Catholic Relief Services Student Ambassadors program partnerships. The Summit invites student leaders and staff advisors to come together to meet others in the CRS Student Ambassador network, meet and talk with CRS staff, and gain leadership and advocacy skills to bring back to campus. The Summit culminates with advocacy training and meetings with the offices of Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. Through the CRS SALT Summit, attendees gain a substantial understanding of the global work of CRS and what that means for college students. This year, 175 students and staff will represent almost 60 campus partners! [Learn more here!](#)

CRS University - Fall Regional Trainings for CRS Student Ambassadors

Catholic Relief Services holds Fall Regional Training Sessions at various host universities throughout the United States annually. These trainings equip colleges and universities to start and/or grow campus partnerships with CRS through our CRS Student Ambassador program. Training participants become educated on CRS University's "I Am the Cause, I Am the Solution" campaign, which includes I Am Migration, I Am Human Trafficking, I Am Climate Change, and I Am Global Hunger." We invite current partners and interested new partners to join us! You can see the list of training dates and locations on our website, and registration will be available later this summer. [Learn more here!](#)

[Sign up](#) for the CRS University email list to get the latest information and updates.

ADVOCACY NEWS

Lift your Voice in Support of Refugees Today!



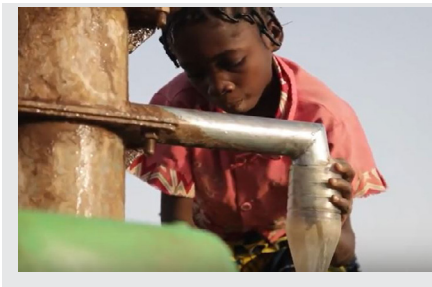
As we reflect on World Refugee Day, we call to mind our brothers and sisters who have fled their homes in search of safety. Your voice can help ensure refugees have access to water, shelter, education and an opportunity for a better future. [Take a moment to walk with your neighbor on their journey.](#)

Congress needs to hear your voice. [Send a message today to protect humanitarian assistance for refugees around the world!](#)



CRS RICE BOWL

What is there to do about CRS Rice Bowl during the Summer? A lot-just checkout the [2018 June/July CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter](#) for information on placing rice bowl orders, a sneak peek at the countries to be featured in 2019 and much more.



New Version of CRS/NCCW Water for Life Video is Now Available on CRS YouTube

The [Water for Life video](#) illustrates the work of Catholic Relief Services in partnership with the National Council of Catholic Women (www.nccw.org) in responding to the critical need for water projects in developing countries. [Learn more](#) about all the CRS/NCCW Works of Peace and Reconciliation programs.



Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC)

Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) help the poorest of the poor to unlock their dignity and build their futures together. Please check out an article on Savings and Internal Lending Communities, [Communities Unlock Their Dignity](#), in the current Our Sunday Visitor written by Tom Shaw, CRS Senior Technical Advisor in collaboration with Michael Hill, CRS Writer and Sr. Editor. Please contact Tom Shaw at tom.shaw@crs.org for more information on CRS' SILC program.



Contact Us | [CRS Regional offices](#)

Email: resources@crs.org | U.S. Church Engagement Call Center: 1-866-608-5978

Jacklyn Ireland, Communications Specialist for the U.S. Operations Partnership, Training and Engagement Unit, prepares the bi-monthly Partnership Newsletter. The U.S. Operations Partnership, Training and Engagement Unit is responsible for managing national partnerships in the United States for CRS. If you would like others in your organization to receive this newsletter or if you have questions please contact the U.S. Church Engagement Call Center at 1-866-608-5978 or email: resources@crs.org.

