



Dear Friend in Christ,

A crumbling shack in the Dominican Republic is endangering the life of a precious baby girl.

Eight-month-old Yoselina Montero lives in her family’s decrepit home — a fragile hut that threatens to collapse. The dilapidated structure is made of rotten wood, palm fronds and discarded pieces of metal. This mountainside hovel floods frequently and is propped up by two tree limbs.

“Oh, my Lord,” said our staff project coordinator as he took a step into the decaying hut. “This is probably one of the worst houses I’ve seen.”

Our staff members had to duck under sharp-edged sheets of aluminum to enter the cave-like dwelling. Inside, they found Yoselina and her mother literally trapped in poverty.

Living in such poor conditions has taken its toll. The dampness and lack of protection from the elements have caused Yoselina’s health to rapidly deteriorate. And when the region’s hurricane season begins in June, this little girl’s life will be in grave danger.

“My heart feels it,” said Melisé, Yoselina’s mother, about her daughter’s living conditions. Tragically, Melisé and her husband have no way of offering their child adequate shelter. All they can do is attach additional discarded materials onto their already ramshackle hut.

When it rains, their palm-frond roof leaks and the dirt floors turn into thick mud. The tiny hut becomes a hotbed of insects and rodents. And little Yoselina suffers. The baby is plagued by frequent colds, respiratory infections and skin ailments.

When the next storm hits the area, this vulnerable family will be in grave danger. Their fragile home could easily collapse on them. No one should live like this... No one.

Yet throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, thousands of poor children are forced to live in such peril. Crumbling shacks like the Monteros’ pepper the mountainsides of the countries we serve. Sadly, the suffering of these children and their families often goes unnoticed.

“Lord... when did we see You a stranger and welcome You...” (Matthew 25:37b–38a)

All of us understand the difficult economic climate we are facing today. And we at Food For The Poor are doing everything we can to provide aid amid such challenges. But we need your help. **At times like these, collective Christian charity has never been more critical in responding to the needs of the poor.** It is only together that we can make a difference in the lives of those who struggle to survive.



The Montero family doesn't understand the state of the economy. All they know is how vulnerable their baby is... and that the storm season is rapidly approaching.

I pray that you'll consider joining other compassionate individuals to help shelter innocent children. Through combined acts of love, **even the smallest gifts can create great change for endangered children.**

Today, Yoselina's father, Alcides, will rummage through discarded materials in search of anything that might offer additional protection for his family. The loving father explains that he's unable to build a new home. All he can do is search for materials to reinforce their current shack. "Look at the house. It's falling down," he says.



While Alcides searches in hope, Melisé remains at home with their sick daughter. The poor mother caresses Yoselina with love but is filled with worry over the family's living conditions. "I am a daughter of God," Melisé says. "He sees me here and knows what I need." The distraught mother often cries because of her daughter's health. "I talk to God," she said.

In her mother's arms, little Yoselina's eyes convey the pain and suffering that her frail body has endured in only 8 months of life. Without protective housing, this infant has little chance of survival.

Yoselina's family has no means of helping her. But we do. The \$2,600 it takes to build a Food For The Poor house would be a lifesaving miracle for this precious child. **Any gift you give will help provide safe shelter to innocent children and their families.** Working together, we can fight life-threatening poverty... and save one child at a time.

*"In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."
(Matthew 18:14)*

Please consider sending a gift today. Through your generosity, poverty-stricken families will have safe shelter for their little ones and hope for a better future. May God bless you for your compassion.

A servant of the poor,

Robin G. Mahfood

P.S. Families like the Monteros desperately want to protect their vulnerable children. They pray daily for a sturdy roof over their heads. **Please, send a gift today to help provide housing for destitute families.**