

# Cycle of despair

Most mothers try to offer their children a better life.

But a poverty-stricken mother grieves because she's helpless to do so.

*Rosaelena holds a photo of her family's shack engulfed by recent floodwaters.*

**“W**e live in very, very terrible conditions,” said Rosileni Enrique, using the ends of her T-shirt to wipe away tears. “I know one day God will help me.”

In the Dominican Republic, Rosileni attempts to raise her three children in the same ghetto where she grew up. The low-lying slum is a cesspool of refuse and mud that collects from higher grounds. When frequent storms hit the area, floodwaters engulf each family's hut, bringing mosquitoes and turning the area into a hotbed of diseases like dengue.

“I ask God to take me out of this poverty,” said Rosaelena, Rosileni's sullen 9-year-old daughter. This little girl's numb demeanor is as heartbreaking as her mother's tears.

*“I ask God to take me out of this poverty.”*

With her head hung low, young Rosaelena sits on the edge of a rotted piece of foam. “You can get really sick in this house,” she says. Staring at the ground, the girl talks about her plan to escape the situation: “I'm going to school to be a professional. If you don't study, you're nobody.”

Behind the young girl sits a wheelbarrow; her mother uses it to transport mounds of dirt that she packs into the lower ends of her hut's walls. This is Rosileni's futile attempt to protect her children from the floodwaters that will soon rise. But it's the only thing this desperate mother can do to offer her children a better home.

Food For The Poor is committed to shedding the light of hope into the darkness of poverty. Your gifts for housing can help break generational poverty for a suffering family like Rosileni's.





# Searching for a future

Every day in Honduras, Maria Zepeda sifts through a garbage dump, searching for hope for her children. “Life is hard here,” she laments. “Sometimes we find things, sometimes we don’t.”

After losing her job as a cleaning lady, Maria has resorted to scouring a local dumpsite for recyclable items, raw materials and food. If she’s lucky, she can earn \$10 a week.

For Maria and her 8-year-old daughter Carolina, life at the dump is demeaning and dangerous. Because the family is too poor to afford paying for school, Carolina spends her days following her mother, digging through trash. Carolina finds and eats what you and I might throw away... scraps of food that are unfit for a growing child.

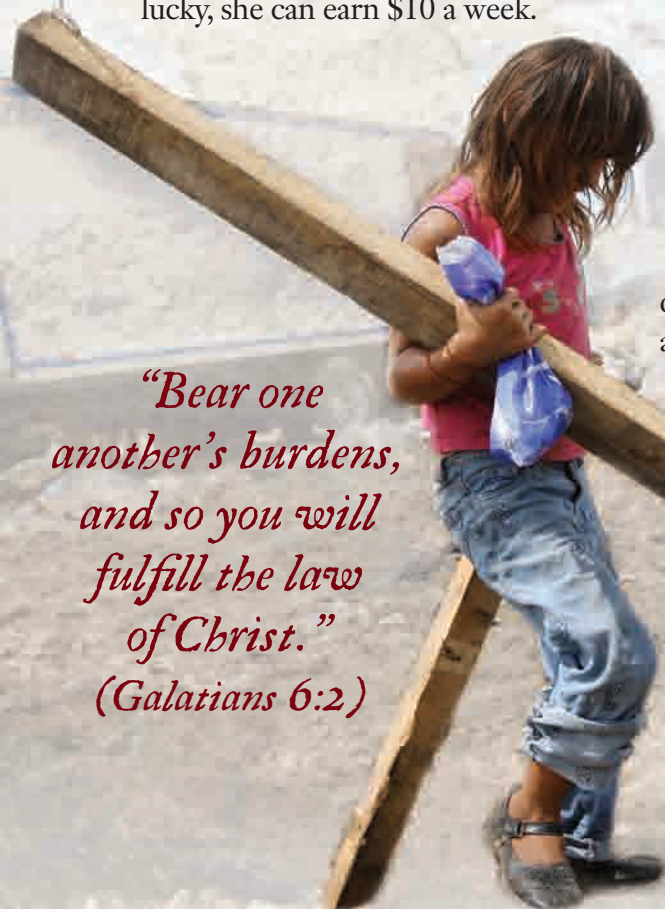
Whether food or toys, all of Carolina’s meager belongings come from the dump. Maria prays for the day when she no longer has to bring her daughter here — but with no source of income, that day is in the distant future. As her children grow older, Maria can only hope and pray that they will somehow be able to break free from the cycle of poverty that currently plagues her family.

As Maria spoke with our staff, Carolina started blowing soap bubbles from a jar she found in the dump. As her daughter played innocently, Maria explained why she needs so much help for her children. “So they can go forward in life,” she said.



*Little Carolina drinks from a discarded bottle of iced tea she found at the dump. Many poor families scour dumpsites for recyclable items and food to eat.*

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”  
(Galatians 6:2)*



# A change in spirit

**A**nile was unrecognizable at first. The young girl who used to have an unforgettably solemn look on her face was now neatly dressed in her school uniform and giggling.

You may remember Anile from our January 2007 newsletter, which focused on the needs of families like hers living in dire poverty across the border region between the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Anile was depicted on the back cover of that newsletter looking heartbreakingly somber. But when our staff revisited her, the changes in Anile's spirit were remarkable... and they were produced through the compassion of people like you.

Recently, poor families living in decaying mud huts along this impoverished border area were moved into new Food For The Poor homes. Anile's family was very thankful to receive safe shelter. "I never envisioned a house like this," said Anile's mother, Yanna. "We are very grateful to God. We feel so happy."

Because of their new home, Anile now sleeps well and studies properly. Yanna is happy to report that her daughter is much happier and is doing better in school.

Before Food For The Poor began working in her area, Yanna told us, "Nobody comes out here [to the border area]. No one can help." Yet when God works in the hearts of donors like you, anything is possible. Just ask Anile.



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*"...The needy will never  
be forgotten,  
nor will the hope of the  
afflicted ever fade."  
(Psalm 9:19)*

