

ADVERTISEMENT

# "Wasted" Goods Could Be Rescued, Used To Help Third World's Suffering Poor

## \$100 Contributed To "Food For The Poor" Program Can Produce \$1,000 Worth Of Needed Goods & Supplies For The Poor



"Food For The Poor doesn't believe in wasting resources — we want to be good stewards and make proper use of God's blessings. That's why we are frustrated when we're offered valuable donated goods and we have to turn the gifts down because we don't have the funds available to ship them," said Ferdinand Mahfood, founder of Food For The Poor. "It's a tragedy and a sin when a business or government agency dumps things the poor could use."

Mahfood's frustration is understandable. He visits the slums and knows the extreme needs of the Third World's suffering poor. He knows how valuable dented cans of food are to a missionary's feeding programs. He realizes the value of a used wheelchair to a poor, handicapped child. He knows that giving a church-run health clinic a donated ambulance or medical equipment can save hundreds of lives.

"In the Third World, people have so little that even discards from America can be a tremendous blessing," Mahfood said. "Government agencies and U.S. businesses are constantly getting rid of products they feel are outdated, unattractive, unsellable or worn. We want to rescue those resources for the poor."



To rescue more goods for the poor, Food For The Poor needs help from benefactors who understand the value of contributing to the shipping costs needed to send those donated goods overseas.

"Frankly, our rescue program is a tremendously effective choice for anyone interested in helping the poor. Contributions made for shipping donated goods have the greatest impact," Mahfood pointed out. "A \$10 gift can ship more than \$100 worth of goods. A \$100 contribution is like giving \$1,000. A small gift can do a lot, and a large gift can have a huge effect. For \$3,000 — the cost of shipping a full trailer load — a benefactor can provide \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of goods to the poor."

Food For The Poor is very careful how it uses the contributions it receives. The organization doesn't accept or ship anything that will not benefit the poor or the clergy who serve them.

"We acquire and ship donated goods that are needed or requested — not junk or goods which would be useless in the Third World," Mahfood said. "Our search efforts focus on food, basic medical items like wheelchairs, school equipment and furniture, seeds and farming equipment, sanitary products, lumber and other building materials. Those are items the clergy and the poor always need."

Since 1982, Food For The Poor has worked hard to help the poor and to relieve the problems of the Third World missionaries doing social work in impoverished communities. In less than 15 years, the organization has managed to supply more than \$225 million worth of goods to "the poorest of the poor" in Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana and approximately 12 other Third World countries in the Caribbean region. This year, Food For The Poor will also be expanding its efforts into several Latin American countries.

"We concentrate our work in this region because we want to make a real difference in the lives of the poor. Caribbean and Latin American countries are also practical to help because it's less expensive to ship goods there from the U.S. That also makes every dollar go further," Mahfood said.

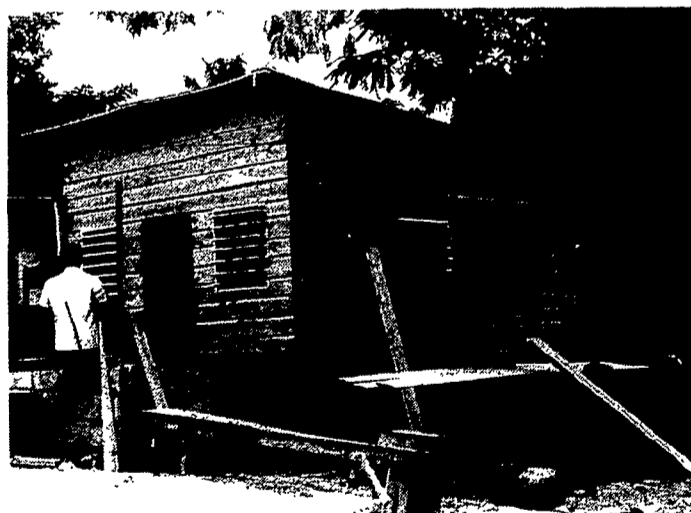
When goods arrive in a country like Haiti or Guyana, the individual items are usually distributed to the poor through a church, priest, pastor, nun or church-based social program. In this way, thousands of different ministries are empowered in thousands of different communities.

"A priest with an orphanage can receive beds and clothing. The Sisters of Charity can obtain wheelchairs for the elderly. A clinic can pick up non-prescription medications. A pastor can get food for his feeding program. The list goes on and on," Mahfood said. "The system works because it empowers the clergy who live and work among the poor. These priests and pastors want to help the poor. They simply lack resources. To get the job done, they need the kinds of goods we ship."

*Food For The Poor is attempting to "rescue" a variety of donated items on behalf of the poor. The list includes non-perishable foods, seed and tools for farmers, medications and sanitary products, lumber for housing, special vehicles, wheelchairs and other medical apparatus for the handicapped, school furniture, and appliances for institutions serving the poor (orphanages, day care centers, nursing homes, etc.). Financial contributions allow Food For The Poor to accept and ship these donated goods.*

Ultimately, Mahfood believes the greatest benefit of Food For The Poor is the way it links Christians and churches in the First World with their counterparts in the Third World. This link, Mahfood says, is at the very heart of Christ's challenge: love on another as I have loved you.

"The needs of the clergy and the poor of the Third World cry out for our attention, if we are only willing to listen," Mahfood said. "This is not a nameless, faceless problem. It is a woman with a hungry baby, a homeless man seeking shelter, a boy with no shoes to wear to school, a girl who sleeps on the floor for lack of a bed. These are people we should love, as Christ loves us."



### Will You Help?

Please give generously. Each gift can yield 10 times its cash value in goods for the poor. For example, \$50 can ship \$500 worth of food, medicines, and other critically needed items to families in desperate need.

Send your tax-deductible contributions to: Food For The Poor, Dept. 12753, 550 SW 12 Avenue, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442.