

## Donations

The plight of the children of Colombia is critical and your help is urgently needed. Your tax deductible donation will help to make the La Cruz school a reality. Please make the check to Colombiacare and send your donations to:

Colombiacare  
P.O. Box 254  
Lincroft, NJ 07738-0254  
USA

## Volunteers

You can also help us as a volunteer. We need volunteers for fundraising and at the time of the construction, we will need volunteers for that purpose. Please let us know if you will be interested in participating in those activities. Contact us by sending us an e-mail at:

[contact@colombiacare.org](mailto:contact@colombiacare.org)



*Helping The Children Of  
Colombia*



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*A non-profit organization*

**[www.colombiacare.org](http://www.colombiacare.org)**

## Situation

The 50 year civil war in Colombia has created a very serious humanitarian crisis with 2 to 3 million people displaced from their homes. Most of the desplazados - the displaced, are forced to take refuge in over-crowded cities living in abandoned buildings or make-shift shacks.



The commune of Altos de la Cruz in Cali, is typical of the areas where the desplazados live. This squatters' community sprang up with the sudden influx of desperate displaced families. Basic sanitary services are scarce. Perhaps most heart breaking are the children who wander the streets with little food and no hope of an education. In 1999 missionaries of the Divino Salvador built a rudimentary school to try and start to address the needs of Altos de la Cruz. The school lacks running water, toilets, a cafeteria, a kitchen or a teachers' room. The school is only large enough to house four grades. A local government organization provides breakfast for some of the children. Despite the meagerness of the facility, it does provide hope to the residents of this community.



*Children in La Cruz school*

Typical of the students who attend the La Cruz School is four year old José. His family arrived two years ago and they live with José's uncle. José's father and mother occasionally find work, but in general, the family lives in grinding poverty so severe that they can't afford to give José the 10 cents needed per day to provide him with lunch.



*José*

Diana is another student at the school. Her family came to Altos de la Cruz looking for better opportunities. Right now, her dad works as a construction contractor,

earning \$143.00 a month. Diana is one of the lucky ones. She lives with both parents and all her siblings are alive. Still, Diana, her mother, father her two sisters and brother live in a two room house without running water.



*Diana*



*A class room in la Cruz school*

**ColombiaCare's** mission is to help children like Jose and Diana. Our first project is to improve the facilities at the La Cruz School. Read more about this project in our page [www.colombiacare.org](http://www.colombiacare.org). You can help by contributing your time or money to ColombiaCare. By contributing a little, you will be making a big impact in the lives of children like Jose and Diana.