At the start of 2020, Food For The Poor was preparing for a dynamic 38th year under our new CEO, Ed Raine. Ed had spent two years working with one of our founders, Robin Mahfood, to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Department and build alliances in international development, and excitement was growing about the initial success of new programs to build self-sufficiency in our hemisphere’s most impoverished places.

Then, in March, everything changed ...
Response efforts continue...

As we braced ourselves for a financial crisis coupled with a health disaster that would ripple through the impoverished communities we love, we planned a “work-from-home trial day.”

Three days before the trial, our offices closed for an indefinite period, as our Purchasing Department worked overtime to meet the needs of healthcare facilities in the Caribbean and Latin America. It was difficult to obtain masks and respirators in the United States, and it was heartbreaking that we sometimes couldn’t provide those lifesaving basics in places like Haiti.

Church fundraising, which typically provides $10 million annually, stopped. Fundraisers’ travel to see and share needs with donors ground to a halt, and we prayed with donors and beneficiaries who were touched by the COVID-19 pandemic and overwhelmed by financial insecurity.

Food For The Poor is unlike most other charities in that we lack a substantial endowment to cushion economic shocks, but we have always benefited from a lean budget and loyal donors. Faithfully, we launched a multimillion-dollar campaign for food, as most of the countries we serve enacted strict shelter-in-place orders that plunged millions of subsistence earners into starvation.

The heart of this Midyear Report is the generosity of donors like you who responded to the overwhelming need of friends beyond our borders to join our effort to confront a historic health and financial crisis.

Thank you.

A Special Gift: Reuniting Families

Kathy and Stephen Pryor of Naples, Florida, made a special contribution in March through their Charitable Gift Fund for our unique Prisoner Release Program. The program, which has operated for decades in Guyana, Haiti, Honduras and Jamaica, covers nonviolent offenders’ fines and provides basic supplies so they can get a fresh start. Most of the participants have been incarcerated for stealing food, and they’re released in ceremonies at Easter and Christmas. Many are joyfully surprised as they reunite with loved ones!

Last spring, the program was lifesaving as the Easter release spared dozens of men and women from crowded facilities that are breeding grounds for the coronavirus.

The Pryors’ initial gifts to Food For The Poor provided water wells and housing. As they became more familiar with the scope of Food For The Poor’s work, they agreed to support a larger infrastructure project in Guatemala. These challenging projects require gifts from multiple funds and foundations but permit us to scale projects at great savings – and to benefit entire communities in a lasting way.

Prison Ministry is a project few family foundations can fully fund, but because it has been one of Stephen’s passions, the Pryors knew that they wanted to direct their planned 2020 distribution for it – and many reunited families are thanking God that they did!

Thank you.
The Simón Bolívar Foundation, a private foundation of CITGO Petroleum Corporation, addressed both the COVID-19 and Venezuelan crises by safely providing millions of meals to Venezuelan refugee families in Colombia. This emergency is the largest humanitarian crisis in history, and the Foundation generously – and safely – distributed 8,500 packages that sustained quarantined families.

The packages given by the Simón Bolívar Foundation included specially designed kits for homeless families. Thanks to our bulk purchasing in Colombia – the gift provided more than 2 million meals – local businesses benefited.

We rejoice that we were also able to ship containers of nutritional supplements, medical equipment, and children’s clothing directly to Venezuela.

The Simón Bolívar Foundation has been alerting Americans to the Venezuelan crisis over the last few years as almost all of the schools, hospitals and businesses there closed. Widespread power outages have limited Venezuelans’ access to clean water and sanitation, and the nation has the highest crime rate in South America.

UpMobility Partners with FFTP to Restore Bahamian Economy

After watching Hurricane Dorian pummel the Bahamas in September 2019, Martin Babinec, Founder of UpMobility Foundation and nonprofit Entrepreneurs Across Borders, wanted to help. It made sense to partner with Food For The Poor to address the most urgent needs that align with both organizations’ capabilities.

UpMobility provided key funding for one of Food For The Poor’s reverse-osmosis water purification systems on Grand Bahama Island. The facility was completed just before COVID-19 quarantines began taking effect and before the crisis in the travel industry decimated business in the Bahamas.

“The pandemic has demonstrated the urgency of economic sustainability,” Babinec observed. “People need local sources of food and water now more than ever. We’ve had a long relationship with Food For The Poor doing projects in Jamaica and are committed to assisting them in building up the Bahamian economy in the wake of Hurricane Dorian on top of providing short-term relief efforts.”
Light A Single Candle Foundation has been a leading partner in Food For The Poor’s effort to build economic sustainability. The Foundation’s President, Pat Tracy, and Executive Director, Pat Smith, have brought private-sector tools to us for defining and implementing best practices for sustainable food security and income-generating projects.

Charitable agricultural activities have always been implemented by Food For The Poor in politically unstable and remote places. Light A Single Candle Foundation’s “two Pats” challenged us to improve goal-setting and evaluation of those activities to better serve families living in poverty. This year, when COVID-19 trade and travel restrictions threatened an even greater number of communities’ access to nutrition, the effective projects Light A Single Candle Foundation had funded saved thousands of lives.

Thanks to a 2019 grant, a Light A Single Candle Foundation agricultural project is underway in Somoto, Nicaragua. Agronomists there are training farmers to diversify their production with higher-value crops. Fifteen farming families have started growing watermelons, onions, peppers, tomatoes and plantains, and the produce has been crucial for health after the Nicaraguan government stopped allowing charitable food shipments.

An anonymous donor-advised fund established by loving friends of Haiti generously committed to building and furnishing a prosthetics center in Port-au-Prince.

When COVID-19 restrictions halted construction of the center for three months, personnel from Memorial Hospital Outpatient Surgery Center in Jasper, Indiana, helped with funds for renting a vehicle for our partner, Bernard Mevs Hospital, so their technician could visit patients in their homes. The fittings were opportunities for the technician, amputee Wilfred Macena, to talk about his own success with a prosthetic limb and provide facts about the virus and basic hygiene supplies. Now that construction on the center has started, we look forward to providing hundreds of prosthetic limbs at no charge every year.

The Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation has been a generous neighbor of Food For The Poor for decades. We are honored that a member of the family has volunteered many hours on our Audit Committee.

As soon as the COVID-19 crisis emerged, the Foundation’s leadership supported and encouraged our work to help those in our own area – South Florida – who were hard hit by the crisis. We first provided PPE to local fire-rescue teams, and stepped up our work throughout the state so that, by June 30, we had shipped 19 containers of necessities for partner charities to distribute.

In that work, Food For The Poor has been honored to enjoy the partnership of the Knights of Columbus, Matthew 25: Ministries, and dozens of churches of various denominations. As we go to press, we are serving those in need in Maryland, Texas and Louisiana with containers of goods – including diapers, baby wipes and cleaning supplies – requested by churches there.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

I am so grateful for all that we have accomplished together during this pandemic crisis to meet basic human needs. Teams across Food For The Poor have worked tirelessly coordinating, purchasing and distributing aid.

Charities played a key role in the steady, miraculous progress we made toward ending global poverty, but the COVID-19 crisis threatens to undo the last decade’s progress. I’m speaking in terms of enormous numbers, but in the end it comes down to helping each person who needs us – lifting up one community, one family at a time.

The continued support we’ve been able to provide for our in-country partners is critical during this time of limited access and resources. I cannot emphasize enough that it is our extraordinary partnership with you that makes this all possible. We are delivering aid directly where it’s needed because of your investment in the work that continues today.

We will never know the full impact of COVID-19 in the countries where we work, but certainly the healthcare systems are overwhelmed and unemployment has skyrocketed. People are misinformed, hungry, sick and afraid. But because of you, the urgent needs of vulnerable families and communities are being met. The impact achieved is because of you.

Thank you again for your extraordinary partnership.

Ed Raine

OUR IMPACT: JANUARY - JUNE 2020

Food For The Poor distributed 1,585 tractor-trailers of aid worth $497,664,375. Since inception, the charity has shipped more than 91,500 tractor-trailer loads of aid. Since its creation, FFTP has provided more than $16.6 billion in aid.

Caring donors sponsored 7,001 orphaned and abandoned children in 176 children’s homes.

FFTP installed 96 water wells. Also during that time, FFTP installed one water filtration unit for a total of 192 water filtration units since 2008. Each unit purifies and chlorinates up to 10,000 gallons of water a day. Since 1998, the organization has completed 2,703 water projects.

A total of 256 tractor-trailer loads of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, medical furniture and medical equipment were sent to help care for the sick in the countries where we serve.

More than 117 million nourishing meals to hungry children and families.

Food For The Poor built 1,129 homes for families in need of safe shelter. Since our founding, FFTP has built more than 87,700 homes for impoverished families.

FFTP built, repaired or expanded 21 schools, and shipped 133 tractor-trailer loads of school furniture, books and educational supplies to schools, providing children with valuable tools for learning.