

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Thank you for giving alms with your community this Lent!**

**Catholic Relief Services** is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. For more than 75 years, CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our sisters and brothers in more than 120 countries on five continents. Our work provides food to families in need, brings health care and clean water to remote villages, trains farmers how to grow better crops and preserve the land, protects children without families, and delivers immediate humanitarian assistance in emergencies. CRS programs touch more than 200 million lives without regard to race, religion or nationality.

- How much money do I need to raise?
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- Does Catholic Relief Services provide any financial support to cover expenses associated with my fundraiser?
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- To whom should donors write their checks?
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- Where should I mail offline donations raised through my community's CRS Rice Bowl efforts?
- Can I count offline donations—checks and cash—on my community giving page?
- Are donations collected through my CRS Rice Bowl community giving page tax deductible?
- Can I use a mobile payment service like Venmo, PayPal or Cash App, or third-party websites like GoFundMe or Facebook, to collect donations for my event?
- Will CRS accept non-monetary contributions, like clothing?
- How quickly should I send in the donations?
- Are there other ways to support Catholic Relief Services?
- Is there someone I can talk to if I have questions?

How much money do I need to raise?

There is no minimum requirement for your fundraiser. All the money you raise supports CRS' mission to serve people in need around the world, so even a small amount is valuable. But don't be afraid to be ambitious when setting your fundraising goal.

What happens to the money given by my community?

CRS Rice Bowl Lenten alms go to alleviating hunger and poverty in communities around the world and in the United States: 75% of gifts support CRS' humanitarian programs, including in the countries featured in the Lenten calendar. Some examples include:

- Agriculture projects that help farmers improve harvests.
- Sanitation projects that bring clean water to rural communities.
- Microfinance projects that support small businesses.
- Health projects that provide medical care and nutrition services to mothers and children.
- Education projects that provide resources and training to youth.

Twenty-five percent of gifts remain in each U.S. diocese, where they are given to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in those communities. Each diocese uses their gifts differently. **Contact your local CRS diocesan director to find out how gifts are used in your diocese.**

Can I specify which project I want my donations to support?

All donations to CRS Rice Bowl are directed to where they are needed most in programs around the world. This allows CRS to respond immediately where the need is greatest.

Are there any guidelines I should be aware of before planning my community's virtual CRS Rice Bowl giving opportunity?

Yes. Please be sure to review and adhere to **CRS' Fundraising Guidelines**.

What is my "dashboard"?

Your dashboard is where you'll set up and manage your community's CRS Rice Bowl giving page. Your dashboard is the first page you see each time you log in. From the dashboard, you can customize your page, see who has donated to your community's CRS Rice Bowl offering, find other resources to make your community's Lenten almsgiving a success.

How do I customize my community's CRS Rice Bowl giving page?

When you first set up a CRS Rice Bowl community giving page, it will be filled with generic text. Feel free to customize this page so those supporting your team know why you're participating and why you're passionate about CRS Rice Bowl. You can edit the text and photos on your page from

your dashboard. From the dashboard, click on the “Edit Your Page” link to the left. From there, you can create a custom URL for your page, add a photo, change your fundraising goal and edit page content and settings.

Can I use Catholic Relief Services’ name on my CRS Rice Bowl community giving page, promotional materials, or other events or activities?

Yes. You may use the CRS name in connection with your community’s Lenten giving, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- If you solicit donations of goods and/or services for an auction or other event, clearly state that you are soliciting for an event that will benefit CRS, and that you are hosting the event—not CRS.
- When promoting an event or sale, all promotional materials must clearly state what percentage or dollar amount of sales or admission price will be donated to CRS. You must state that your event is “benefiting CRS” or a “donation will be made to CRS.” Do not state that “a portion of the proceeds will support CRS.”

Can I use Catholic Relief Services and CRS Rice Bowl logos on my community giving page and promotional materials?

Yes. You may use the CRS and CRS Rice Bowl logos, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- You may not change or alter the logo in any way.
- If the event benefits more than one charity, the CRS logo should appear in the same size as the other charity logo.
- CRS reserves the right to revoke the use of the logo at any time.

Does Catholic Relief Services provide any financial support to cover expenses associated with my fundraiser?

No. CRS does not fund expenses incurred in connection with your fundraising campaign or event. If you anticipate any expenses, we suggest that you seek out local sponsors.

Can I use some of the money from donations to cover expenses?

No. Donations cannot be used to cover expenses. However, local sponsorships are a great way to offset costs associated with your fundraiser. One hundred percent of donations made to an online fundraising page are tax deductible.

To whom should donors write their checks?

Check should be written directly to Catholic Relief Services. Please write “**CRS Rice Bowl**” in the memo line.

What should I do if someone donates cash?

Please convert all cash donations to a check before mailing to CRS. This will ensure you receive a tax receipt. Tax receipts can only be sent to the names and addresses on the check.

Where should I mail offline donations raised through my community's CRS Rice Bowl efforts?

Please write **"CRS Rice Bowl"** in the memo line and send them to:  
Catholic Relief Services  
CRS Rice Bowl  
P.O. Box 5200  
Harlan, IA 51593-0700

Can I count offline donations—checks and cash—on my community giving page?

Yes. When you're logged into your account, click on "Donations" in the top navigation bar. Go to the "Add Offline Donation" tab to enter check and cash donations. You can include the donor's name, so they are credited on your page. You will still need to send the check to CRS.

Are donations collected through my CRS Rice Bowl community giving page tax deductible?

Yes, but only for monetary donations given directly to CRS. This includes credit card donations made through the CRS Rice Bowl community giving platform, checks made payable to CRS and cash donations linked to an individual. If you are sending multiple checks to CRS at one time, tax receipts will be sent to the name and address listed on each check. For cash donations submitted by check, tax receipts will be sent to the names and addresses included on the checks. CRS cannot provide tax receipts for goods, like items for auction, or services, like advertisements and printing, donated to your event.

Can I use a mobile payment service like Venmo, PayPal or Cash App, or third-party websites like GoFundMe or Facebook, to collect donations for my event?

CRS recognizes that these options appear easier, but they do not allow us to issue tax receipts or allow the donor to claim the gift as a charitable contribution. We encourage the use of CRS Rice Bowl's community giving platform for virtual donations so that they can be accurately tracked and tax receipts can be issued.

If you use a mobile payment app or third-party website:

- You must inform participants that they will not receive a tax receipt by giving alms through this platform.
- You must inform participants that you, as the individual, are collecting funds to send to CRS.
- Do not use the CRS or CRS Rice Bowl logos in any way that makes it appear that a third-party site is an official CRS donation channel. If you use the CRS or CRS Rice Bowl logos, please make it clear that the funds are coming to your private account and the total amount will be donated to CRS.



Will CRS accept non-monetary contributions, like clothing?

No. CRS cannot accept nonmonetary contributions.

How quickly should I send in the donations?

Please mail any donations to CRS as soon as you can. The sooner we receive them, the faster we can process them and send acknowledgements and tax receipts to donors.

Are there other ways to support Catholic Relief Services?

Put your faith into action through prayer, advocacy and giving to alleviate hunger and poverty in communities around the world and in the United States. Visit [crs.org/act](https://crs.org/act) to learn more.

Is there someone I can talk to if I have questions?

Yes. You can contact CRS Community Support at [iis@crs.org](mailto:iis@crs.org).

**Thank you for your work on behalf of CRS!**