



Ministry of the GOOD SHEPHERD

Thanksgiving 2025



Care Center Trujillo, Peru

Tzedakah is a Hebrew word that refers to what we call in English "charity," meaning the act of giving aid, assistance, and money to those experiencing poverty, those in need, and other worthy causes. The word is actually derived from words meaning "justice" and "righteousness." In Judaism, Tzedakah is considered one of three acts that can gain us forgiveness of our sins; repentance and prayer are the other two. Some sages refer to it as the greatest commandment. For Christians, it is worth noting a strong emphasis on almsgiving in the Gospels!




It is worth noting that in Judaism, there are different levels of Tzedakah. It begins with giving grudgingly, then giving less than you can, but joyfully; then giving after you have been asked; then giving without being asked; then giving when the recipient knows, when the recipient doesn't know, and when neither knows the donor's name. Finally, the highest level of Tzedakah is giving that enables the recipient to become self-reliant! The projects that you support through the Ministry of Good Shepherd - CETPRO, Care Centers, Scholarships, and Send a Child to School- are especially focused on that last motive!

TZEDAKAH AT ITS BEST!


Thank you for your generosity!
Marjorie O'Sullivan

Thankful and Blessed



**JERRY FICKEL
IN MEMORIAM**

In August 2024, Jerry visited Alto Trujillo for the last time. It was a true privilege to have Jerry among us; his generosity and heart for the poor were truly inspiring. In addition to his acts of beneficence, he devoted his time, energy, and resources to many youths in Mache and Alto Trujillo.



During the memorial service, the Sisters of Mercy and the project's leaders from Alto Trujillo expressed their gratitude to Jerry's family for the time they shared with him and how blessed they were to have known him. Rest in peace, Jerry. May our Lord embrace you with open arms.



Our Lady of Fatima Church Trujillo - Peru

If you are interested in visiting Alto Trujillo, please contact our board members directly or at info@ministryofthegoodshepherd.org



In 2025, 144 children were registered in the Reading Plan at the San Jose Library to foster a love of reading. Its objective is to promote daily reading across all subject areas, including diverse types of texts, and to strengthen reading comprehension. Congratulations to our Librarian, Lilian Zavaleta, for her tireless effort and dedication to her community.

More than 20 years ago, with enthusiasm and lots of faith, the Sisters of Mercy and members of the Community in Alto Trujillo broke ground for the San Jose Library. None of the enthusiastic members of the Ministry even dreamed about the continuation of this mission for decades. This mission was initiated with the goal of providing people in need with the opportunity for a better future. Alto Trujillo is no longer what it was 30 years ago; the community has grown, and with that, the demand for the programs offered by the Sisters has also increased. It is not only the reading plan, religious education, or assistance with homework, but what the community mainly values is a safe environment, learning opportunities, and protection from the dangers of the street, offered to the kids and youths.

One of the challenges in recent years has been the limited space, resulting from high demand for programs. Just as 30 years ago, we now have a new dream: to expand the existing construction and add new areas for our programs. Your generosity towards this project will be much appreciated. We will keep you informed about our progress.

The Lord of the Miracles is Peru's most revered religious icon and a major national symbol. The annual commemoration in October is one of the largest religious processions in the world and a cornerstone of Peruvian cultural identity. It has been held every October since 1687. Saint Joan of Arc Parish held the procession in Florida, followed by a Peruvian dessert celebration. All the profits were to benefit the Ministry of the Good Shepherd. Infinite thanks to all our volunteers who make this event possible.



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