

Project Essay

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The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all Member States in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The SDGs are designed to bring to the world several lifechanging "zeros", including zero poverty, zero hunger, zero AIDS, and zero discrimination against women and girls. There are 17 goals, but our work only specializes in SDG # 1 which is: End of poverty. [For this goal there is an institution called Caritas de Puerto Rico which we will be providing you with information about this institution in the following paragraphs.](#)

To start we must explain SDG # 1: No poverty. Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the main challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty more than halved between 1990 and 2019, too many still struggle to meet the most basic needs. Globally, around 936 million people still live on less than and many lack access to adequate food, clean water, and sanitation.

Caritas de Puerto Rico is synonymous with charity. They are a non-profit entity, committed to the pressing needs that the country and its people experience every day, but even more so in times of need such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and pandemics. It was incorporated into the State Department on March 26, 1969, in San Juan Puerto Rico as Catholic Social Services of Puerto Rico, Inc., then in 2008 it changed its name to Cáritas de Puerto Rico, Inc. Since 2007 it has been directed by the lawyer and priest Enrique Camacho Monserrate, better known as Father Kike, who acts as its Executive Director even before being ordained a priest, in a role that he envisions as his life mission.

There are several foundations, programs and people that help to carry out this SDG but as we mentioned in the proposal we chose to speak about the "Cáritas de Puerto Rico" Foundation. "Cáritas de Puerto Rico" officially began its operations in 1969 under the name of Catholic Social Services of Puerto Rico. In 2009 it changed its name to what is now known as "Cáritas de Puerto Rico". Every year Cáritas de Puerto Rico serves a lot of people. There are 200 parishes in 60 municipalities on the island that collaborate directly in the projects, this is in addition to the support of thousands of volunteers and 35 employees. This foundation has received the support of Caritas Española, Catholic Charities USA, Latin American Secretariat of Caritas (SELAC).

Cáritas supports its participants holistically and comprehensively, with a personal, family and community approach, since they understand that the construction of a better, more just, and peaceful society begins by making satisfactory changes in the life of the person, and their family environment and community. For more than 35 years, and more intensely in recent years after all the disasters and emergencies we have experienced, they have distributed purchases of perishable products, canned goods, and food vouchers in almost all the municipalities of Puerto Rico thanks to the support of the leaders of our Cáritas Parish. In addition, many help and support activities are carried out for homeless people, and for participants with personal emergencies. Cáritas also attends the Integrated Services Center for the Elderly Our Lady of Lourdes on Calle Las Flores, Santurce, where 20 elderly participants receive services from Monday to Friday, they also have auxiliary services at home for bedridden people in the Santurce area.

End of poverty is an initiative, focused on significantly reducing the number of people who do not have sufficient resources to meet their basic needs (food, access to water, education, sanitation). To eradicate poverty, it is necessary to enter the communities and establish public policies or different socioeconomic models that include the participation of the social groups that are affected, said the president of the Puerto Rico Community Leaders Alliance, Jorge Oyola. "There is no magic formula, but it begins by facing

poverty face to face and not holding meetings to discuss the problem only in San Juan. You must go to the communities. You must give it tools and have the genuine participation of the people. You have to listen to them first,” Oyola said in an interview with EL VOCERO. But finally, to solve poverty in Puerto Rico or in the world we could do this: Create Good Jobs and Raise the Minimum Wage.

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