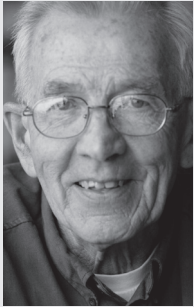


THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • SPRING 2011

Padre's Message



DEAR FOLKS,

The Lord's peace be with you.

Years ago when the Center's population was smaller, we used to invite Easter Bunny to come and hide baskets of candy for all the kids and their parents. It was a lot of fun with everybody searching and finding. Bunny always stayed dressed up for an Easter interview, shaking his head "yes" or "no" to some happy Eastertime questions.

We always asked him if Easter means that there's going to be a new creation without any of the bothersome problems for all God's friends all over the world. We asked him if all the rabbits and other animals and birds and fish in the world will be part of that new creation after all the human sins are over and done with. Our whole family of families, with the greatest of expectations, wanted the wisest possible answer to the question about us being correct in not grabbing more than one candy basket so as to make sure everybody around us has one. We also asked if Jesus gives everybody alive today the ability to enjoy life

rather than fight over it; and, the biggest question of all: if Jesus really is still in charge of the whole world and everything in it even after we discovered electricity.

We knew Bunny would answer "yes" to all the questions. Of course, a lot of other people chase rabbits away and think Bunny's in a dream world that responds to the unobtainable needs of timid souls. However, we go along with Bunny partly because he's a savvy survivor but mostly because his answers shed bright light and add fun in an otherwise grumpy and faced-off world.

Happy Easter!

John J. Halligan, S.J.



LEADERSHIP

THE EXTRAORDINARY POWER OF EXAMPLE

Leadership is our most encouraging activity in our Center. We're a kind of mutual expectations society. We watch, learn from and support each other in our smoothly functioning big family. Doctors, dentists, teachers and administrative professionals pull together with other adults who have gone through the stages of being beneficiaries and now help to direct the movement. They are Center directors, program supervisors, business managers, membership promoters and a special team of group leaders.

Our team of group leaders reflects the fact that all

of our member parents are divided into small groups for purposes of achieving knowledge and motivation in the practice of the moral values of: loyalty, personal formation, family, religion, realistic education, money management, work, healthy recreation, personal health care and decent housing. The leaders meet each week with their groups to say it like it is and leave all the rough edges knocked off each other on the floor of the meeting room as they go out for another week of trying to be better than last week about practicing the values. Our leaders don't preach the word. They live it. Meet some of them here.

Felipe Pitacuar escaped to our Center from the violence in his native Colombia. Felipe graduated in

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plumbing and is an occasional savior at both Centers. His interventions to save us from floods and draughts are a small part of his daily accomplishments. He is a natural leader for our many uprooted families.

Miriam Chasiluisa grew up in a poor family that needed and accepted the Center's value system. She and her parents, her sister, Anita, and her two brothers all achieved professional titles and good jobs. Miriam was such a powerful influence on those around her, that she became a group leader. She's still a group leader. But she is also co-director with Rocio Barrera in Center Number One. Directorship in our movement, just like leadership, isn't a power position. It's a bigger opportunity to sacrifice more time and more energy for others.

Angelica Peralta is the wife of another leader, Byran Cuesta. Their five kids have already graduated with professional skills or are in the process. Angelica is one of our graduate Nurse's Aides. A husband and five kids who are achieving prosperity and her own professional title contribute to Angelica's credentials as a group inspirer.

The co-directors of Center Number Two are Mr. and Mrs. Rodolfo and Maria Chin who started out in our movement as very young kids. They each have a small group as well as the whole family of Center Number Two to guide by example.



(Above, top to bottom) Felipe Pitacuar (standing) prepares for a weekly leadership team meeting. Miriam Chasiluisa, co-director of Center Number One, documents plans for the a Saturday session lead by the leadership team. Husband and wife team Angelica Peralta and Bryan Cuesta meet with a new family to explain the 10 values of the Center. (Left) The leadership team consists of WBC graduates and directors. The team conducts weekly sessions to help members learn and practice the moral values taught at the Working Boys' Center.

A Corporate Culture of Giving

Avalon Consulting, LLC donates nearly 660 hours to WBC website project

When Tom Reidy first met his future wife Catherine Brissette as a senior at Notre Dame University, he had no idea that marrying her included joining the Working Boys' Center family.

Catherine's parents Dick and Carol Brissette met Father Halligan over four decades ago when he preached at their church in Valparaiso, Indiana. Father Halligan had just started the WBC and the Brissette's became some of its earliest and most loyal supporters.

Tom was inspired by the Brissette's dedication to the WBC mission. One of his first conversations with Catherine's parents was about the family spending Christmas at the WBC in Quito where the Brissette children gave up their presents so the WBC children could have gifts.

Like the Brissette family, Tom quickly became an advocate of the WBC. Nearly a decade ago, Tom and Catherine introduced their parish, St. Gabriel the Archangel in McKinney, TX, to the mission of the WBC. They laid the foundation for strong support from the parishioners of St. Gabriel the Archangel which continues today.

In 2006 when Tom heard that the WBC wanted to start a professional website, he continued his generous support by volunteering the services of his Enterprise Web Presence company, Avalon Consulting, LLC.

Avalon employs roughly 50 expert-level consultants who provide technical integrations for enterprise-scale internet, intranet and extranet sites.

Nearly five years later, seven team members from Avalon have logged nearly 660 hours designing, building, maintaining and upgrading the WBC's website at www.workingboyscenter.org.

Since founding his company in 2003, Tom has encouraged his employees to give back by donating their technical talents to multiple non-profits.

"Avalon employees have really responded to the call to serve," said Reidy. "They are very proud of this work and it has built team cohesion and a culture of giving within our company."

The pro-bono service helps employees find a work-life balance. "Donating our services are threads that bind a very (geographically) distributed work force," commented Reidy. Headquartered in Plano, TX, Avalon also has an office in Washington, DC and plans to open offices in Chicago, IL and Austin, TX.

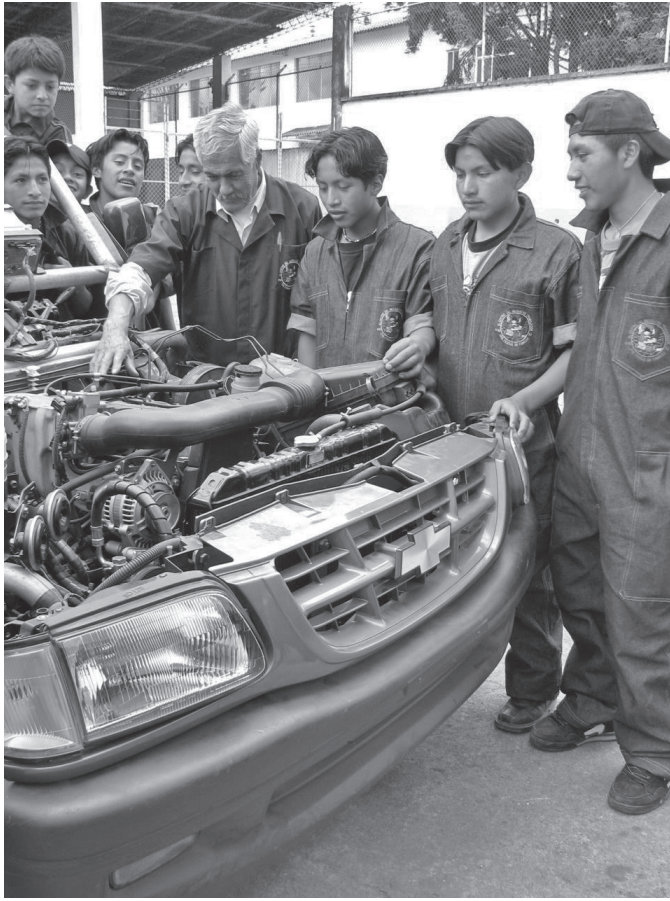
"It's been so gratifying to see the dedication that Avalon as a whole has to community projects and extremely rewarding to be so closely involved with the WBC and our other pro-bono projects," said Sable Robertson, Avalon Marketing Manager. "I consider it a privilege to have served in this role for the WBC over the last several years."



Seven Avalon team members have logged nearly 660 hours on the Working Boys' Center website over the past five years. Pictured left to right: Manjesh Reddy, Sable Robertson, Tom Reidy, Ratheesh Devadoss, and Frank Koch. WBC website project members missing from the photo include Tigran Noryan and Stan Pozmantir.

DONATE YOUR TALENTS

If you are interested in helping the WBC in the United States by donating your time and talents, please contact Jane Pruhs at 414-248-6171 or jane.pruhs@workingboyscenter.org.



OUR MEMORY OF CARLOS JACOME

After a series of attempts to contract an instructor in the area of automechanics, our education coordinator, Marco Polo, found Carlos Jacome. That was back in the early 90's and Carlos has been the faithful and dedicated teacher in that area ever since. Students respected and even loved Carlos. To his credit, all of the students who graduated from his course are now gainfully employed.

Carlos had been struggling with illness during the past couple of months and was on his way to a medical checkup when a bus broadsided his car and caused the injuries that led to his very untimely death.

We're sure that from eternity Carlos is rejoicing over the success of his students and is content that he was able to continue working with them until his last days. He will be very much missed. May he rest in peace.

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www.workingboyscenter.org

Family Unity International, Inc. is the official 501(c)3 organization representing the Working Boys' Center. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by the law.

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