

Congratulations Graduates!

“Today we came out stronger than ever, even though we started with apprehension. Today we have achieved a goal”
Kevin Aguirre, graduate.

Our third ever graduating class celebrated their accomplishments this month. We had a total of 18 students (8 young women, 10 young men). Six students graduated with a technical high school diploma, with a focus in metal mechanics, and 12 students graduated with a general studies diploma.

Seven honor roll students applied for the scholarship of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, and our metal mechanics students have internships with local companies.

We are so proud of these students' achievements, especially amidst the additional challenges they faced during the pandemic. We are excited for what the future holds for them and look forward to watching them continue to grow and learn.

Your support makes it possible for us to continue to educate and nurture these young minds; thank you for taking part in their accomplishments.



Have you heard?

The Center was the focus of a recent documentary in partnership with The Papal Foundation and EWTN Vaticano TV. It was an honor to have the work of our staff and families shared on a large international scale.

Two EWTN filmmakers joined our community director and development director at The Center for two weeks to capture as much of our work, families, staff, and Ecuadorian culture as possible. They witnessed a Minga, when a visiting group, staff, and families helped lay the foundation for a family's home, interviewed staff and families, visited an offsite health fare, spent time in classrooms, in the sewing department, visited the original Center, and much more. As a part of filming, letters were written by our staff and hand delivered to the Pope a month later. When the filmmakers returned to Rome, they were personally touched by our mission and the families that we serve.

EWTN aired the documentary in five segmented episodes, which fully captured the 30-minute film. They also posted each episode and the entire film on their website.

The premier of the film took place this spring in Rome for the Papal Foundation, and another event was hosted with an abbreviated version in Colorado.

We will never be able to fully express our gratitude to the Papal Foundation and EWTN for making this film a reality.

If you would also like to host a viewing party with full-length or abridged version, please contact Serena Steele (development@c4wf.org).



To watch the film, visit our YouTube page at [@centerfor-workingfamilies-c8784](https://www.youtube.com/@centerfor-workingfamilies-c8784) or scan the QR Code below:



OUR SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



54

Families who shared their stories with our visiting groups



18

Mingas to help with home improvement projects for our community



210

People who are now a part of our "Family of Families"

JANUARY - JULY 2023 SEASON

What an absolutely *beautiful* Service Learning Experience season here at the Center!

Since January 2023, we have hosted 17 groups that come and witness as well as participate in our mission to accompany and empower the most vulnerable. Ranging from high school to college students, our groups were given the opportunity to put their faith into action and live how Jesus did; humbly and in communion with the marginalized.

Fairfield University
 University of St. Thomas
 Regis Jesuit High School
 Spring Hill College
 Loyola Marymount University
 The Catholic University of America
 Xaverian Brothers High School
 Assumption University
 St. John Paul II School

Loyola University Chicago - Stritch School of Medicine
 John Carroll University
 Badin High School
 Loyola High School - Los Angeles
 Gonzaga College High School
 Xavier College Preparatory
 Jesuit College Preparatory - Dallas
 McQuaid Jesuit High School

Thank you for your eagerness to learn about our mission, your willingness to *lend a helping hand*, your **ministry of presence**, and your continued support. We are so thrilled you are a part of our community!



 SUMMER

Our kiddos are enjoying our summer clubs! There's dance, piano, violin & guitar, choir, soccer and drawing!



Volunteer Reflections

Faith is an essential value at The Center - A Family of Families. Its presence is found in the joy and hope of the many employees seeking to live out the Kingdom of God in Quito as well as in the homes and lives of families committed to collaborating with the Center! I feel both blessed and grateful to have been welcomed into a community that seeks to live out Christ's Gospel in a meaningful way.

- Steven Zichichi

When our dear Olivia asked me to reflect on the word *service* during my experience as a Center volunteer, I wondered what service was for me. "To love and to serve," as San Ignacio said, came to my mind. Love is to fix your eyes on others, to focus on them. Through affection, respect, and wishing their reality to be the best possible.

What is service for me? Service means loving what I do and showing love with my words, gestures, gifts, skills, and abilities. It means making the world a place where wounds are healed. It means putting in place the means by which the people around us can reach their potential.

So, I have come to realize that the question is not "What is service?" but "*How* do you serve?" It's doing things right and putting love in what you do, whatever you do, whatever you are.

I believe that the only thing that makes us serve is how, which is learned from experience. It is a how that I already have, which is not magic, which is clay yet to be molded, which will have the shape that my hands give it. *How* I serve will be the product of what the Center makes of me and how I apply that in my life.

In my own hand I have the how, the key to everything. And I realize that you can live in the "how" in a thousand ways. There is no written path.

You decide how you serve, how you love, how you talk, how you see the world. Service is in you to give freely to others.

- Pilar García

Accompaniment reframes service as a pursuit of mutual relationship through presence. When my intention is to accompany, I am focusing not on what I am doing or what results I am seeing in my work but rather on how I am being with the people around me. Am I taking time to connect with my students and community members by asking meaningful questions and actually listening to the answers? Do I share about myself in return? When I am told about or become aware of a difficult family situation, do I take a moment to enter into that sadness and challenge, so that the one experiencing it might feel a little less alone, as opposed to jumping right into discussing potential solutions? Am I allowing myself to wholeheartedly accept little daily opportunities and invitations to laugh, dance, and be myself with the people around me?

With this mindset, the service experience is deepened and takes on new meaning. It's not about just me or just you, but *us*. It is a real joy and privilege to be a part of us, something bigger than myself. And I begin to see clearly that I have just as much (if not more) to receive and learn as I have to give.

- Lilly Williams

Meet Our New Provincial!

We are excited to welcome our newly appointed Provincial of Ecuador, Fr. Daniel de Ycaza. He transitioned into this role in the beginning of 2023 and was able to jump right in by participating in our new documentary. He was already very familiar with the work at The Center and cares a great deal for our families.

Fr. Daniel was born in 1967 and joined the Society in 1986. He obtained his degree in philosophy in Argentina and theology in Chile. Later on, he did a Master's degree in spiritual accompaniment and vocational discernment and a degree in spiritual theology at the University of Comillas (Spain).

His apostolic activity has been marked above all by responsibilities in formation – as the director of the pre-novitiate and in charge of vocation promotion. He then served as the Novice Master for ten years and Delegate for Formation for five years. In addition to this, he was also actively involved in Christian Life Community.

We are excited to see what the next several years bring with Fr. Daniel leading The Center!



Thank You!

A big thank you to The Papal Foundation, EWTN, Dave Savage, Ian Rangel Kathy and Ed Bernau, Jim and Jackie Davis, Joshua Steen, and filmmakers Anthony Johnson and Gian Luca Pietro Gangemi for your parts in making this our new documentary possible!



Scan here to help support our future doctors and firefighters

A QR code that, when scanned, likely leads to a page for supporting future doctors and firefighters.

Please mail contributions to:

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