

You Say Goodbye, and I Say Hello

I remember the first time I came to the Center in January of 2012- I sat in a chair in a semi circle in the library, eagerly awaiting my Center orientation with my short term service group from Le Moyne College. I never knew what the world would have in store for me, but seven and a half years later, here I am, giving the orientations in the semi circle to our 26 visiting groups from this school year. Just a short time ago, on July 5th, I gave my last one as the Community Director of the C4WF. I couldn't be more grateful for the beautiful time shared in this family of families.

My journey has taken me from visitor, to Year Long Volunteer, to US-based, to Quito-based with the Center. I've cleaned out the bodega, taught English and ventas, wrote grants, hosted groups, planned events, cleaned gum out of hair, and gone on field trips. Every action has been filled with the love and the intention to work for the greater good of our mission- which is to accompany our families on their journey from poverty to prosperity. Though the programs and services make our Center effective and overwhelmingly successful, the true magic of the WBC is that we are truly a family of families.

Our family of families is a community, it's a movement, it's a feeling. It exists with our families, faculty and staff in

Hello, hello! Once the WBC families have a hold on your heart, you're never too far away. This rings true for me as I head into my 4th year living in communion with our family of families. From teaching special education, computer classes, and English to all the high school boys, to presenting about Center news and updates and searching for additional financial support, I've loved fully and learned so very much about compassion and Christ's guidance through my connection with the WBC.

In this new position as Community Director, I am eager to carry on the torch that Caitlin - fondly known as "Cati" - has lovingly held for over 6 years in her work with the Center. As Caitlin has told all our visiting groups: keep your minds open, but keep your hearts even more open! I plan on keeping my heart open to supporting and accompanying our year long volunteers (YLVs) & visiting groups, and working alongside the WBC staff to best serve our families.

Muchas gracias, Caitlin, for being a dear friend, supportive co-worker, and guide to embodying the ser más para servir mejor (be more to serve better) ideology. You will be truly missed, but we are wishing you all the best on your new adventure.

So hello, again, WBC family of families - let's make this 55th year the best yet!

With all my love and gratitude,

Olivia

Quito, our groups in colleges, high schools, and parishes across the globe, in our former Year Long Volunteers, and in every one of our donors. Every conversation had about the Center, every hug from a child, and at every bowl of soup served up at dinner.

One of the largest contributing factors to my decision to become a part of this family of families as a Year Long Volunteer (YLV) was someone who was a YLV when I was a visitor- Olivia Young. She let me shadow her one day during my two weeks and showed me what it meant to love, care, and teach at the Center. She stayed on a second year and was my mentor during my first year. She is an example of love, compassion, and true Center spirit. Knowing Olivia Young will be the C4WF's future Community Director means I know everyone who passes through our doors is in the most capable of hands.

I look forward to continuing to stay involved in the Center and hope to see many of you in Quito or at the next fundraiser soon!

Que suerte es tener un corazón sin puertas,

Cati/Caitlin McGuire



Caitlin and Olivia teaching boys English class together on Halloween- 2013.

Please mail contributions to

Center for Working Families (C4WF)
12605 W. North Ave. #130
Brookfield, WI. 53005-4629

Olivia Young, Community Director
& Interim Development Director
Phone: 414-640-2826

Emails: communityoutreach@c4wf.org / development@c4wf.org

Jim Parks, C4WF Board President
Email: boardpres@c4wf.org



WBC NEWS

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS' CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • SUMMER 2019



A Letter from Padre Gustavo Calderón, SJ



We are very happy to arrive to summer with hearts full of beautiful works that we have done together. The Working Boys' Center has been going strong in these months and our students have just celebrated the end of the school year. To display all their hard work, we had an Open House in which they showed the learning that has been achieved in the comprehension projects that they presented to many visitors.

One of the most significant activities was the handicraft food fair that WBC mothers made as a result of what they learned in various classes with the help of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. Moms made jams, sweets, and various types of breads that delighted many people. With this endeavor, they have made some money to help themselves with their family needs. All of them say, "I did it, and I learned it at the WBC."

During these months we have had many visits from guests and volunteers. They have come from the USA from the east and west coast, from the middle of the country, from the north and from the south. Fordham, Boston College, Loyola Chicago, Spring Hill College, the parish of Saint Gabriel among others. They have participated in work at the Center, visited poor families to know their reality, and collaborated in the well-known mingas to help a family to have a more dignified life. We thank everyone for their presence and friendship.

A group of boys and girls from the Center received their First Communion and others received the sacrament

Casa Abierta 2019

Solar systems, a new Center garden, bumble bees, musical theory, facials, and electrical circuits are just a few of the incredible exhibits that were on display at the second annual summer Open House at the Working Boys' Center. Both our extracurricular and academic subjects used this opportunity to show their accomplishments this school year. With the third full year of the Jesuit education curriculum Horizon 20/20 in sight, this open house showed us more than ever how the Multiple Intelligences Model is helping our students learn and grow to become leaders of the 21st century.

Our little ones focused on themes like healthy living through fresh produce. With 30% of total new Center members entering malnourished, focusing on a healthy body, spirit, and mind continues to be a priority to the empowerment of our families. The three free meals (five for our littler ones) we offer a day work toward lowering that percentage to 0.

of Confirmation. The religious component of the Center remains central to us. That is why we have strengthened our religious and spiritual formation. The teachers and some collaborators are preparing themselves through spirituality workshops to make an Ignatian retreat in May.

Our Yearlong Volunteers have completed their year of service with us. We are very grateful to each one of them for their dedication and affection for our families at the WBC. They are in our hearts. We will miss you. Thank you Amanda Fabian, Ann Shoen, Cloë Mora, Jelani Bramble-Manning, and Richelle Brousseau. Caitlin McGuire returns home to continue her studies. We know that she must leave, but we would like her to stay with us. Thank you very much for all your effort to encourage and coordinate the work at the WBC, especially in the community. Olivia Young will replace you at the start of next year. Welcome again, Olivia! You are part of this beautiful family.

I want to end by telling you that the WBC has a beautiful choir. With the help of the Orquesta Joven del Ecuador, a group of more than one hundred, children and young people sing to life to express the most beautiful feelings through art. It is a great gift for our family of families.

We wish everyone a warm and rested summer. We always count on your prayers to continue the journey and achieve the goals we set for ourselves. Thank you,

Gustavo Calderón Schmidt, S.J.

Older students have their sights set on the future of technology, environmental conservation, technical training, and the cosmos. Our goal is to prepare our students through high school for an ever changing world. With a 97% employability rate upon graduation, our metal mechanics technical high school degree grants our students the opportunity to find real professional possibilities in just a few years. Focus on STEM ensures we foster conscientiousness as men and women for others through advances that seek to make our planet a more just and solidary place for everyone. Exhibits from students on network creation, electrical circuits, and gardening gave participants helpful takeaways on bringing these principles into their own homes.

Cultural identity remains paramount to our diverse organization. Plays, food, and dances from the Amazon, Andes Mountains, and the coast of Ecuador allowed our

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students to display their beautiful different cultural and ethnic backgrounds

Our Center moms who recently participated in an artisanal cooking course at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador sold their jams, fresh cheese, freshly baked bread, manjar, homemade potato chips, and pickled vegetables. All proceeds of the sales are distributed back to our moms who participated in the cooking course

Another special opportunity came in the form of our choir students performing with the Youth Orchestra of Ecuador. In a new collaboration, Center students receive



A Center mom serves pan de zapallo or squash bread made during entrepreneurial classes at the Universidad Católica

voice (and soon instrument) instruction from young members of the orchestra.

Other activities included facial and manicure demonstrations, a xylophone presentation, and rocket launches.

The progress and growth in our children through their academic, interpersonal, and emotional intelligence proves to us time and time again that the right tools and empowerment means there is no limit to what our students can accomplish.



Our segundo de básica (US first grade) students show us the important of healthy nutrition!

Future Physicians Support the CMT

To fulfill the practicum requirement for my Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from the Parkinson School of Health Sciences and Public Health at Loyola University Chicago, I engaged in a 4-week-long Ignatian Service Immersion (ISI) program through the Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine. The main focus of the ISI program is to promote education and programming that addresses the social determinants of health and health disparities from lenses which are grounded in social justice.

For my ISI trip, I was assigned to work with the Centro del Muchacho Trabajador (CMT) in Quito, Ecuador. During my time there, I was truly impressed with the extent to which the Center uses a multi-dimensional approach to improve the lives of the CMT families. In most of my pre-medical experiences in the United States, the treatment of a given patient began and ended, within the clinic. A physician's job was to assess the condition of the patient, make a prompt and assertive decision on how to treat this physiological condition, and then come up with a step-by-step strategy to carry out the treatment. Patients are sent home with a treatment plan, a treatment plan that focuses solely on pharmaceutical therapy to alter the patient's physiology. The CMT however, was an amazing experience because it provided me with a real-life representation of the true complexity of disease. The CMT uses a comprehensive multi-dimensional model that prevents disease and reduces further disease risk by addressing socio-cultural factors that are closely associated with pathological conditions prevalent among CMT children and families.

Child malnutrition, lice, adolescent pregnancy, adult obesity, diabetes and hypertension; for example, were very common among CMT families. These are all highly associated with low sanitation, low health literacy/

education, and diet. The Center does a truly amazing job at using the resources it has very effectively by addressing all of these conditions with approaches that go beyond individual treatment. Their main goal is to improve the quality of lives of their families, and they do so by taking a variety of approaches. The Center has various programs that teach adults skills that might give them job opportunities. They also provide healthy meals all days of the week for the families that attend the Center. This helps address the issue of malnutrition, which is associated with a wide range of disease conditions. The Center also holds three times weekly adult education sessions which aid in improving adult health literacy, promote adult education, and teach life skills that have the potential to improve the family's economic/employment status (use of computers, email workshops, resume development, reading, writing, etc.).

It is truly remarkable that despite the fact that the CMT is a promoter of population scale disease prevention because it addresses social factors that lead to disease, they are also amazing at caring for each one of the individuals and families at the Center. Behind each one of those kids that attended school at the CMT - behind



Jessica discusses health information with adult education student David

the expressions of each of those kids we interacted with during the physical therapy assessments - there was a story. The CMT helped me see first-hand the individual stories behind many of the Center's families during a series of house visits. Disease comes from a variety of causes: crowded living conditions, lack of availability of healthy food options, exposure to environmental pollutions, etc. The CMT put an effort into addressing many of these risk factors!

Being at the CMT was a truly life changing experience that went beyond giving me a glimpse of understanding of the health care system in Ecuador. It was a real-life example of how various social and cultural factors affect patterns of disease at a population wide scale. It was also an opportunity to see a model of health promotion that takes into account the importance in improving the economic, education, and living conditions of a community in order to promote their health and prevent disease.

In the future, I want to use what I learned at the CMT in my practice as a physician. I want to remember that behind the eyes of each of my patients, there is a story. If I can imagine what it is like to live a day in my patient's life...

First Communions and Confirmations at the WBC

In the countries of the northern hemisphere, May is the beginning of spring. For those of us who live on the equatorial line and do not have the four seasons, we say that May is the Month of Mary and the beginning of First Communion celebrations. In the parishes and schools all are prepared to live their first experience of contact with Jesus through the Eucharist. The atmosphere smells of flowers, sweets, joy, parents, and boys and girls of the CMT after nine months of preparation through the Catechesis that was lead this year by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Finally, it is time to receive the body and blood of Jesus in their First Communion. The children are always a little nervous about their first confession- they ask themselves: what am I going to say to the Father? They comment among themselves that they are embarrassed by their sins; and we tell them that confession is like washing your insides and celebrating becoming clean inside and out. When they finish the confessions they all have a smile on their faces and they leave with the desire not to sin again, feeling relieved and loved by God.

After meetings with the parents to coordinate the details of the celebration, everything is ready for Saturday, May 18. Our 12 communion recipients were very nervous and excited to participate in the mass until it was time to receive Jesus in the Consecrated Host. With great devotion each approached to receive it, in silence they return to their post, kneel, close their eyes and converse with Jesus from heart to heart.

At the end of the Eucharist presided over by Father Rubén Carvajal, it is time to receive diplomas, photographs, the blessing of their parents- some remain in the Center for our weekly Solidarity Pot and others have made the economic effort to prepare a meal and celebrate this moment with family and friends.

June is the month of Confirmations, and in our Center, 19 young people voluntarily decided to confirm their desire to follow Jesus in the Catholic religion, taking much time out of their Saturdays to practice and learn with Jesus.

Before their Confirmation they had a retreat workshop

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Jessica Davila (left) with fellow Loyola Chicago medical students (left to right) Paige Negoro, Diana Rodriguez, Elizabeth Nussbaum, and Cassidy Muir at the Universidad Católica Medical Student Training in which they participated

-by Jessica Davila

with their sponsors. A moment of sharing parents and godparents, there were dynamics, prayer, and valuing the importance of the godmother and godfather in this sacrament. Each had the opportunity to write a letter to their godchildren where they expressed their wishes, commitments and advice for young people.

Saturday, June 22 began the celebration of Confirmation, the space is beautifully decorated with many symbols. Godparents and godchildren sit together ready for the celebration full of symbolism- laying on of hands, anointing with the chrism, and to finish the rite of Confirmation the godparents turn their stole of their godchildren to the side that displays red- the color of Confirmation.

At the end of the long celebration that lasted approximately one hour and forty minutes, everyone leaves the heartfelt and emotional ceremony. The songs and the message of Fr. Fernando Moyota, SJ contributed so that the atmosphere of the celebration that was developed in respect, silence, faith, love. After the delivery of the Confirmation Diplomas and photos, most of the children go to their homes where the party is waiting for them.



Our décimo de básica (US 9th grade) students receive the sacrament of Confirmation

For the pastoral team it has been a time of hard work and organization, in the end we also finish happy, knowing that the fruits of our efforts have shown through, and that summer vacation is just around the corner as a time to rest and recharge!

-by Lorena Pérez