

THE SHOEHORN SUPPLEMENT

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Our Family of Families Stateside

We asked Pat Costigan to share with us her family's deep commitment to the Center in her own words...

The Working Boys' Center – A Family of Families has been part of the Costigan family since 2005. Clare, our oldest, volunteered at the Notre Dame Middle School while at Marquette University. When the president of the school asked what she was planning to do after graduating, Clare replied that she was looking for a place to volunteer internationally and speak Spanish. He said: "I have the perfect place for you." He proceeded to tell her about the Center where he and his wife had previously volunteered.

Bob and I have four daughters, Clare, Beth, Anne and Irene. When the girls were growing up they heard us talk about our interesting and rewarding Jesuit Volunteer days in the early 1970's. Those stories sparked their interest for volunteering someday.

Raising our children was always a priority for me, and I always made art. Last year I had a painting exhibit about Hope. One of the greatest witnesses to hope that our family has had is the Center. Having been exposed to the transformation of lives through our children's stories and experiences with the Center families, I see hope actualized. I appreciate the exhaustive work needed to transform families who otherwise would not have hope. To witness God's bountiful Grace in action through the trust they have in our God has made my faith stronger. It has been a tremendous gift to have experienced the network of individuals and families who believe in and have committed themselves to the Center.

Bob is a college professor. "I can't give a testimonial on the Center without choking up...it has meant that much to me and my family. The Center has given our family a common experience and a common goal. Our daughters were profoundly engaged in the lives of wonderful Ecuadorians. To see what the Center has given to our daughters is amazing. It is a lasting commitment for them – they keep looking for ways to help the Center, even after their volunteer days have ended. It would be difficult for me not to contribute in some way after witnessing their zeal for the Center."

Clare volunteered two years at the Center. "How I first heard about the Center was not a coincidence. While volunteering, I would never have known that the Center

would provide me with my closest friends and lead to a rewarding occupation due to my Special Education experience at the Center. As my parents always said of their own volunteer experiences, I have been "ruined for life." Each day that goes by I think about my kids at the Center and how much I loved hearing the squeak of the swings outside my window. Returning and visiting my old students and families, I see how much it has improved their lives. To see families become leaders – guiding the newer families during la merienda or la misa is inspiring. Through hard work, prayer, and staying together with their family, transformation happens."



*Costigan Family
On couch:
Anne, Pat,
Bob
Standing:
Beth, Clare,
Irene.*

Beth reflects, "The Center has been an important place for my family; additionally, it has brought incredibly special people into my life. I look forward to visiting Irene this coming year at the Center."

Anne volunteered in 2010-2011. "The Center is a community that has welcomed my family with open arms as, one by one, it impacted us and we became one of the many members of the Family of Families. It influenced me in too many ways to count, but one thing keeps popping into my mind: Those little shoeshine and candy-selling boys are natural born sales people! They are not afraid of rejection and are confident in their product. These boys are some of the most influential sales people in my life, and I am blessed to have these little role models in my heart."

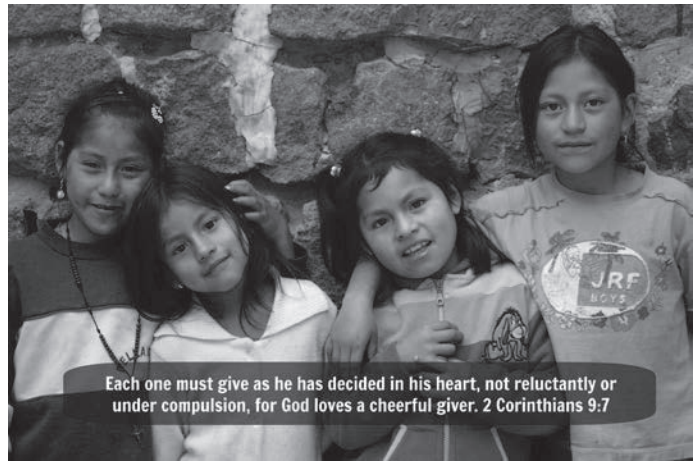
Irene is presently enjoying volunteering at the Center. She has just begun her second year of service. "Everyday at the Center I see the resilience of the human spirit and am inspired by the strength my students possess."

The Costigan family believes: The Working Boys' Center – A Family of Families works. It works, because everyone works together for Love. ♥

To see more photos of the Costigan family, check out this link: www.workingboyscenter.org/profiles-of-support

Critical Need for Donations

We urgently need your help! Our 2013 budget is over \$2 million. To date we have collected nearly \$673,000 in generous donations. We thank all of you who have gotten us to this point. However, this puts us over \$1 million behind our goal. Of course, the Christmas giving season is our most profitable time of year but projections based on previous years do not look good. We need everyone to reach a little deeper into your pocket. We are asking you to please give more than you typically give in order to make up this deficit. Remember that every donation of every amount will make a difference! Can you help out?



Padre circa 1965

This quote from a 1965 letter written by Padre to prospective donors still applies today: *"It began with no financial backing and it continues to operate on a hand-to-mouth basis. The idea (at least in my soft head) is that somehow God will provide what we need for these kids. If He inspires the kids with the notion of coming to the Center, then the least He should do is inspire somebody else to provide the finances."* As you know, since 1965 our needs have grown significantly as a result of the addition of programs for the entire family, we have become much more sophisticated in our donation mechanisms and we are collecting many more gifts from a larger base of supporters. However, two things have not changed – Padre still has a soft head and we need more cash.

Madre circa 1967

Back in 1967, Madre reflected on the struggles of covering the ongoing expenses at the Center, *"We go on spending and wondering where the money will come from once what we have is gone. We also go on praying that God will inspire someone to send us a generous sum or lead us to someone else who will. We figure, when we are doing that, we are praying for you."* In 2013 we find ourselves saying similar prayers of hope as we begin another school year with our families in Quito...



50th Anniversary Celebration!

We are already beginning to make plans for the world's biggest family reunion in Milwaukee, WI the weekend of August 8-10, 2014. Throughout 2014, watch our website and your Shoehorn Supplement for developing details. Mark your calendars now and plan to join everyone in our huge Family of Families as we reminisce together. Of course Padre, the Madres, former volunteers and hundreds of loyal supporters will be in attendance. You do not want to miss this!

To ensure you get all the latest up-to-date information, please send your current email address and let us know if your address has changed. If you want to help, let us know that too. Send info to: patricia.jessup@workingboyscenter.org