

THE SHOEHORN SUPPLEMENT

NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE • BROOKFIELD, WI • SPRING 2013



Reflections of a WBC Volunteer

Meredith Fisher was a year long volunteer in 2011-2012. In her own words...

As I am currently sitting at my parent's home, drinking freshly brewed coffee reflecting on my last year as a volunteer at the WBC, I am struck by the complete transformation that took place.

One year ago, I would have been sitting on the cramped Metro bus, drinking instant coffee, working on endless lesson plans. I am the first to admit that at the beginning of my volunteer year, the twelve hour work days and long commutes between Centers were quite an adjustment. While I loved my Ecuadorian students, I was always exhausted and counting down the days until the weekend.

I had this mindset one November day as I made bracelets with my group in Girl's Program. Then, a fifth grade girl named Carolina showed me her permission slip for a field trip with her English class on Saturday morning to go to the pool. The words *SLEEP IN* were flashing in bold red letters across my mind as she asked, "Do you want to go with us? Our teacher Elizabeth thought you had other plans but can you come? I know you have *your own life* but..."

..."*You are my life now.*" my heart replied aloud before my mind could discourage this commitment. As I realized the weighty implications of the words I blurted out, I looked up to see a surprised smile creep onto Carolina's face. And Gretty's face. And Nayelli's face. And as I smiled back at all the girls in my group, I imagine there may have been an audible clunk as the gears in my mind finally snapped into place and started turning with my heart in unison. I not only agreed to go along on the field trip but I also began to understand that I was not at the WBC to merely teach English or Art or Adult Education. I was there to be taught how to live a selfless, generous, and moral life.

Soon, every free moment I had was filled with *mingas*, field trips to the ice skating rink, house visits and dinners with families from the Center, throwing a Girl's Program birthday party, play dates at the park, writing letters to students, planning for summer games, and attending events at the school such as open houses, talent shows, first communion, holidays, and graduation. It was a far cry from the world I lived in just months before. I saw the world around me transforming from a place of crushing obligations into one beautiful opportunity. Every moment that I filled at the WBC was a moment filled with joy and love.

I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to learn and grow at the WBC and I appreciate the opportunity to share my experience with you here. My heart is filled with gratitude!



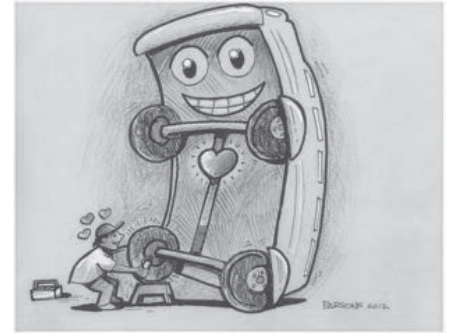
Meredith enjoys time with one of her young students.

Looking for Volunteers

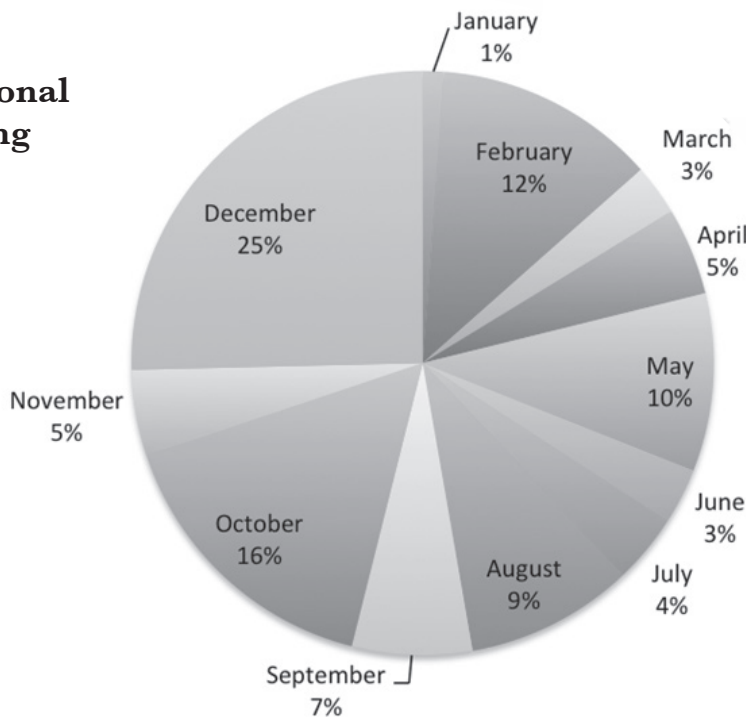
It's that time of year again to recruit young college graduates to commit one year of service to our WBC Family of Families. If you or someone you know may be a good candidate, please refer to the volunteer section of our website for information on the requirements in addition to the application process. Our volunteer family is a critical part of our WBC Family of Families. As you can tell based on Meredith's reflection, we can 100% guarantee you will be changed by your service experience for the good!

New Bus Needed!

Our WBC forty-person bus is rapidly approaching its final days and we need your help to replace it! Our wonderful supporter, Pat Costigan, is leading the campaign to raise the \$120,000 necessary to make this dream a reality. Due to her efforts, we are nearly 30% of the way to our goal with more than \$33,500 raised! If you've been lucky enough to visit our WBC Family of Families, you have surely taken a free ride in the big old bus between Center #1 and #2 or out to Otavalo to shop in the artisan market. Our kids, teens, adults, and long term volunteers rely on this mode of transportation each day.



2012 Seasonal Giving Data



Monthly Gifts Help Us Budget Wisely

This past December we collected 25% of our total annual gifts, which made for a very Merry Christmas at the WBC! Thanks to you for your charitable spirit!

However, in order for us to budget throughout the year, it would be very helpful for us to increase our base of monthly commitments to our vital work. Could you add our WBC Family of Families to your monthly to-do list? We hope you'll consider it!

2012 Donation Trends

Our annual budget of roughly \$2 million is accomplished in most part through personal donations from our loyal supporters throughout the United States.

Every gift of every size plays a part in sustaining the services – education, meals, technical training, health care, recreation, etc. – we provide to our families.

Note that 60% of our 2012 donations (849 gifts) were \$100 or less. Conversely, 11 generous individuals donated 2/3 of our total collected gifts.

2012 Donations by Individuals

