



## A message from our Board President



As we enter the Advent season, I am thankful to God for all of his mercy and grace and for all of the benefactors who make our work possible. The work at the CMT continues to transform the lives of so many underprivileged people in Ecuador, who are simply seeking an opportunity to be productive members of society. Here at C4WF, we are thrilled to announce that we have a new stateside liaison, Caitlin McGuire. Caitlin served as a year long volunteer for two years from 2013 to 2015, so she intimately understands the work of the mission in Ecuador and has been an enthusiastic advocate for us since her return to the US this past summer. With her youth, Caitlin brings incredible energy and spirit to the position and is a great addition to our team. In the coming months you will experience her energy as she dives into her role!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making it possible for us to forward over \$1,200,000.00 to Ecuador this year to fund the Working Boys Center ( Centro del Muchacho Trabajador) which has successfully empowered over 30,000 people to escape poverty since 1964. We hope you will continue to help spread the good word about this important work, so that we might increase our contribution each year.

As Mother Theresa said, *"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."*  
Merry Christmas and muchas gracias to all of you who have loved the poor people of Ecuador.

Jim Parks Jr., C4WF president, Center For Working Families, Inc.

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# Introducing Caitlin McGuire, *Stateside Liaison*

I think that my love of story telling began at the age of 5, with a bowl of Cheerios in my lap and Guiding Light on the television. As a child unaware of adult situations further dramatized by day-time soaps, I found myself totally bewildered and intrigued by these characters and their story arcs- which always contained unexpected turns. Why was Holden with Reva now?! What was going to happen to Lizzie after her injury? Why were the kids always getting kidnapped? Story telling became such a large part of my persona that while growing up I often narrated my daily life with the same dramatic tone as my cherished Guiding Light. Trips to the grocery store had never been so interesting.

Fast forward seventeen years. I'm visiting The Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador with a group from Le Moyne College, sitting at the dinner table with a few year-long volunteers who were in the middle of describing their discerning process to ultimately dedicate 12 months of their lives to serve others.

As volunteers shared their stories, one suggestion from Mike Byrd, a long-term volunteer at the Center, struck me as a mantra that I still consider one of the most profound realizations of my life. "If you feel like you can give more, do it." It was then that I instantaneously decided I could do more. I would be back.

I spent the two most transformative years of my life serving at the Working Boys' Center and learning it's rich story of love and compassion as I interwove my own story into it - creating an experience that I could only hope to share with the whole world.

I now have the privilege to work as a US representative with the Center for Working Families and continue to keep the beautiful story of the Working Boys' Center alive in the hearts of all of its current family members- and with support and faith, new family members as well. I look forward to keeping the unmatched joy of the Center alive in the hearts and minds of all who have come to know the Working Boys Center, and those who want to know more.

I can't wait to be a part of the story we'll create together. Con todo mi corazón,

*Caitlin McGuire*



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