

In Memory of Nan Aid Mac Einri

A True WBC Champion

Remembering Nan puts a smile on our faces. From long before she came to Quito to serve, she made it clear that her heart was with us by making regular contributions to our work. Then, despite her brilliance as a linguistic teacher, she made the decision to join us and help us help kids who were having trouble learning to read (quite a jump from the world of academe.) She led more than one of them to victory before she went back to the states. Not only could they read and write, they went on to complete their education and to make a good name for the Center elsewhere.

When Nan came back a second time, she helped Marco Polo get our fledgling technical education program for girls off the ground. That involved imagining things girls might like to study other than mechanical drawing and auto mechanics. But Marco and Nan got things going and, in time, the first group from the Center to get professional certification was a group of the girls. When she thought Marco could handle it all by himself, Nan withdrew a second time. She never sought praise or any acclaim for what she accomplished.

But Nan's heart was here, so she came another time, this time with her husband Padraig. The two of them worked hand in glove to refresh our adult education program and see that the Center parents would have the same opportunities that their children have. Creating programs and seeing that everyone participating in them would grow in self-esteem was the well-met challenge. Today there are over 100 adults learning to read, write and become competent in technical skills. So, we say, Thanks Nan, and Padraig, too. Please watch over us as we continue to carry on the legacy.



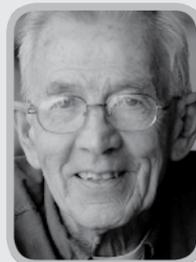
Nan, wearing a white blouse and glasses, was a WBC volunteer from 1997-1999. She is pictured here celebrating alongside Carlos Gomez, Padre, and Madre Cindy.

THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • Fall 2012



Padre's Message



Dear folks,

Pax Christi. In our Working Boys' Center - A Family Of Families, we dare not stand looking back at the dreary old paths through miserable poverty. We could get trampled by the march of our own membership of leaders laughing and cheering each other on the move to prosperity. They are so numerous in our family, that, to get some followers for our leaders, we have to attract lots of new families into our process. I hope you catch your quiet glory in that process: our using the social

assurances your generosity provides for poor folks to make the big needed changes.

The leadership starts early. In the centerfold some startlingly young examples can jump out at you. So hold the paper carefully with both hands as you turn the page after enjoying the miracle of following leadership below.

In Christ,

John J. Halligan, S.J.

John J. Halligan S.J.

Awareness of Greatness Makes It Contagious

On this first page, the leadership news spotlights Rodolfo Chin and his wife, María Buñay, and Lorena Gabriel, the oldest of their four daughters who three years ago graduated from our Center's school of Cosmetology and just this month graduated in accounting from a prestigious high school. Lorena plans to keep accounts of a very successful beauty salon she intends on creating. There's no doubt she will. The certificate in her hand indicates she is one of five who tied for first place or "top" students in her class of 400 graduates. Career success runs in her family. So, Lorena knows she will have to keep piling on coal to create steam in order to keep up with the leading style of her parents.

pursuing higher levels of education while being model parents and creating an atmosphere of love for life for everyone around them as they lead on and keep the place together.



Lorena proudly displays her certificate alongside her parents María and Rodolfo.

María and Rodolfo are still young parents with a young family. Their extraordinary capacity for serving the needs of folks around them has strengthened the resolve and inspired the success of many other young families frightened and needing confidence to face the challenges of achieving prosperity. Lorena, like all of us, is aware that she has parents who are leaders worth following.

Not too many years ago her parents, María and Rodolpho, came to the Center as babies in their own poor families. Even as kids, they excelled in serving others; and, in the course of time, were drafted into directorships of our movement. They have never stopped

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Learning to Enjoy Life With Everyone Else's Help

Career success has its own happy meaning in the minds of our kids whose first aim is to be leaders i.e. guys and gals worth hanging out and sharing with. They are used to doing everything as a big family, knowing that personal success without everybody else's success is not their success. So, they are not into huffing and

puffing themselves up to be king on the mountain or straining to have stiff necks to keep their crowns on. They dream sensibly enough about possible options and have fun dreaming the impossible ones too. The five featured here don't consider their dreams to be any nuttier than yours were at their age.

A Boy on the Stage

Often enough we have Mexican Mariachi style singers perform at the Center. Jorge wants to be one of them, specifically the loud man with the mic. Sure enough he proved himself a success as a Mexican Mariachi in last year's pre-school Christmas play. He used rock tough facial expressions to help form the notes that roared out against the walls to bounce onto the ceiling and finally tremor the floor a bit. His music is not for bedtime or early morning or if you already have a headache. There's really not a big demand for it. But artists rarely are employed full time and a serious career in the arts does not have money as a main consideration. Besides, Jorge still has time to change careers if he wants to get rich. In the meantime, he's in it for the fun of it.



With abundant confidence, Jorge belts out a song on stage.

A History Lesson Played Out

Allan's the one on the right holding the flag with his left hand. He and the pictured crew of thespians re-enacted the whole history of winning independence and starting up a proud new nation. Of course they were not up to historical research and don't even read today's political columns in the papers either. Their teachers told them the main traits of the old characters and the heroic deeds they did along with all their shenanigans that almost lost the fight. Like good modern leaders standing on the shoulders of the heroes before them, they replayed the history leaving out the sins. Then they

made us all proud posing for the victory portrait. They intend this picture to be the first of many in their acting careers. We're framing and hanging it publicly so Allan and Co. can remind us to focus on all the good in the characters who walked ahead of us.



Allan and his fellow WBC classmates pose in their period costumes which they wore for their history play.

On The Air

Leaders don't let fear prevail. Adrian was scared but he leaped at the chance to go on the radio. He has always wanted to talk to the whole world on the airwaves. We chose him to represent us on a talk show about why children should or shouldn't work and earn money for their families. Adrian hit it off with the host, a guy who had worked as a kid and, in the course of almost a whole hour of conversation and laughs, agreed with Adrian that for families hoping to move from poverty to prosperity, making money is every bit as important as all the necessary healthy recreation, three squares, school, constantly improving family living spaces, good friends and a savings account. Otherwise there's no

being what you yourself decide to be. We knew Adrian would tell it like it is; and we enjoyed the interviewer cheerfully and gradually being charmed by his guest and obviously wondering when Adrian will be replacing him on the talk show.



The listeners tuned in as Adrian made his case for working to help support his family.

An Understudy Shoeshine Boy

When thinking about a career, everybody should have a big brother like Jordan's brother, Byron. Jordan's mother is still a bit nervous about Jordan being too young to try his hand at shining shoes. But she lets him accompany big brother Byron for short stints in the work force. Jordan always wants to tag along and is very much up to whatever challenges exist. Buckles and high boots can be difficult for him to deal with; some customers aren't very



Little Jordan aspires to be as industrious as his big brother, Byron.

fun; and, making change for the customer is a challenge he cannot yet overcome. For now, however, Byron can always head off the crises. Jordan will soon enough be independent. What we already admire and appreciate about Jordan's career choice is his decision to earn his way and contribute to the folks he loves. In the picture it's clear he joins hands with the good guys.

A Dancer at Heart

Nichole is the middle child of five who, with her parents, spends most of each day selling papers and magazines on what seems to be their own corner here in Quito. The kids are all lively. But only Nichole has manifested an irrepressible penchant for professional theater. Promoting her career as an actress in our day-care graduation play wasn't just happenstance. Her need to perform came to public notice at mass one day when the "Holy, Holy, Holy" tune set her dancing over the benches. We had to use the Sacred Congregation For The Liturgy's hook on that occasion. But we have learned

to give her opportunities outside of mass and in the world at large for flamboyant expression. She expects at least that. She can see, as well as we can see in her picture here, that her future is in song and dance on stage not in hawking papers on the corner.



Nichole enthusiastically performs a dance at the WBC.