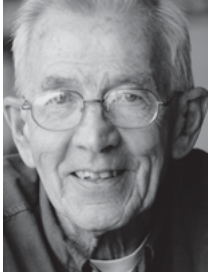


THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS' CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • FALL 2014



Padre's Message



DEAR FOLKS,

The Lord's peace be with you.

Most of you were there and already know the Working Boy's Center's 50th Anniversary party was a spectacular event with, I'm guessing, fifty million guests

in attendance. No one of us got to meet and greet everybody else. But that wasn't even necessary. The very assembling together of so many friends who have supported and/or volunteered to serve on site during these past fifty years was a magic unification without many words or gestures needed. The party turned out to be one of those out-of-this-world experiences of God and all of us meshing in our experience of the Working Boys' Center as one of the best parts of our existences. At one point in the festivities, a memory flashed in my mind of one of my Theology professors, a good friend with a great mind, who occasionally babbled about the reality of

unexplained ecstasies God uses in our lives. It never bothered the professor even a little bit that I was able, as a good friend, to tell him I thought he was a bit loopy. Anyway, that memory flash has turned into ongoing second thoughts.

As a matter of fact, I'm still ecstatic or loopy about that party even after all these weeks. So I have asked some companions who went to the celebration with me from Ecuador to give me a down to earth evaluation of the event. They don't have to know this is part of a rehab procedure for me. In my job, I have to meet occasionally with serious and important people and I have to get this idiot's grin off my face. It dazzles even when a benefactor is expecting me to join in the lamenting of the stocks going down.

We ask God's blessing on you.

John J. Halligan, S.J.

Judy Conway – Model Volunteer



At the big celebration of 50 years of the Working Boys' Center in Milwaukee, we honored Judy Conway as the MODEL VOLUNTEER. In her lifetime, Judy has had a lot of titles indicating her management of various programs in government and in the business world. But we know her affectionately and love her as Señorita Julia, our

model volunteer, with many valuable years of service and dedication.

Since 1969 when she paid her first visit to the Center, Judy got hooked on the work. Her first assignment was to be the chief designer of Christmas cards for the Center and the supervisor of their silk screening by family "volunteers".

After giving it some thought she decided to give up her job and come to volunteer in the Center in the middle 70s. Since then, Judy has served in many capacities, not the

least of which was to have introduced the very first Human Relations Training course to Ecuador. She also helped young artists develop their talents with the Center's art program. Along with Marco Polo she coordinated the first subscription service of a local newspaper called HOY. That was definitely not a "behind the desk" job. Judy and Marco went with the kids every morning at 3:00 AM and taught them how to deliver the papers in the neighborhoods. (I'm sure they're saddened to know that government regulations have recently closed down their beloved newspaper.)

Most recently, young "short-term" volunteers know Judy as the wizard who achieves smooth running schedules for all during the entire summer program. She manages not only to look happy, but to be happy, working long hours and coordinating multiple activities with numerous people so that all will have a fruitful experience.

So, we celebrate Judy too. She is a MODEL VOLUNTEER, an example of a response to God's invitation to work for the poor. Thanks, Señorita Julia!

This Glorious Celebration Continues

Almost all of us Center Directors in Quito traveled to attend the anniversary celebrations in Milwaukee. BVM Sisters, Cindy and Miguel, and Jesuit John Halligan were accompanied by Marco Polo (Education), Giuliana Hidalgo (Health), Carlos Gomez (General Formation) and his wife Rocio, Rodolfo and Maria Chin (Directors of WBC # 2) and Miriam Chiluusa with Rocio Barrera (Directors of WBC #1). In the reports about the celebration they were each asked to contribute, they all agree strongly that God was there in all the various events providing and guaranteeing the necessary power required to move our movement. Following are some highpoints in their reports on the event.



(l to r) Marco Polo, Giuliana Hidalgo, Carlos Gomez, Rocio Barrera, Rodolfo Chin, Miriam Chasiluisa, Maria Buñay, Rocio Fraga



"All the love and laughs are memorable." Who said it? Carlos, Giuliana, Miriam

First off, all North Americans can take a bow and smile modestly because we are so very generous. The Ecuadorian visitors cite, among many examples of this, the experience of working very hard side by side with the USA celebration committee. It took most of a day for a large volunteer work crew to make the floral arrangements in shoeshine boxes for each table and place our literature at each place setting. Both groups overworked themselves equally, obviously not giving it a second thought. But this exceptionally generous hands on labor by the USA folks was, in its simple way, a proof positive of our USA solid commitment to work with Ecuadorians to keep the WBC alive, well and getting stronger as a movement of change from poverty to prosperity. It turns out that the USA attitude is that both North and South Americans carry the same ID's as all God's people who put out for each other's good.

The folks from Ecuador describe the hospitality and openness shown to them by everybody they met as a big and joyous surprise. They expected the welcome and the generous hospitality that had been promised them. They didn't expect to be practically adopted as long lost family members, which is precisely what happened to all of them. The visit was a full week long and the hosts provided meals fit for royalty and chauffeuring around to sightsee and to happily, without any jealousy, exclaim over the nifty life style reflected in store windows, gigantic lawns in front of nice houses, no fences and cars staying in lanes and waiting for the light to turn all the way green. One of the visitors says that the first day there she thought the whole country was putting her on. She couldn't sight any graffiti on walls or trash in the streets. She says admiringly that she could get used to living where people are considerate like that.



"The camaraderie and generosity were impressive." Who said it? Marco, Maria, Rocio F.



Before the anniversary banquet started, all of the travelers from Ecuador joined some former volunteers, including WBC's very first long term volunteer, Mary Lou Pelland, in the choir at a mass of thanks. Mary Lou and the other volunteers very clearly hadn't forgotten their Spanish or the hymns we sing at mass in Quito. That meant an awesome lot to the travelers who, at every turn, wished they had better command of English to express all the good emotions stirring around inside.

After mass came the anniversary banquet. It turned out that packed into Marquette University's Monaghan Ballroom there were only 550 guests, 10 at each of 55 tables, not the 50 million I and all of us travelers at first look thought were there. Nevertheless it was obvious that Patricia Jessup had enlisted an army of workers to prepare a huge celebration that will be remembered and commented on by a lot more than 550 persons on both continents. Former volunteers from all the years back with their husbands or wives and families made up more than half the crowd. They came from all parts of USA, from England, Germany, China and other places where they are now stationed but couldn't miss this party. So the folks from Ecuador had a long round of pleasures, overlooking the scene, squealing with the delights at reuniting one after another with co-workers from long ago and watching the affection directed at anyone at the microphone. They all comment on the genuine love all our benefactors have for all of us who work in Ecuador at the Working Boys' Center – A Family of Families.



"We were wined and dined like royalty. Who said it? Rodolfo, Rocio B."



A happy ending to a great event.

There's the following bottom line to the experience of our Ecuadorian companions at the 50th anniversary of the Working Boys' Center. They saw a whole world of people who are really concerned about other people who need help.

Come Celebrate in Quito!

If there is one thing we know how to do well, it is to celebrate. We only just began when we gathered in Milwaukee. The next invitations are to events here in Quito.

There will be **THREE** celebrations here:

OCTOBER 4 - A celebration with all Center graduates and their families. This will be an afternoon program of music and sociability and re-encounter for those who have gone through the Center's programs over the 50 years.

NOVEMBER 13 - A solemn civic celebration to pay tribute to one of the most effective programs ever created to conquer poverty. A brief evening program in the famous Church of the Compañía will be followed by an invitation to visit the original site of the Center, in the attic behind the Church.

DECEMBER 5 - The Center's 50th Birthday celebration with the entire Family of Families. It will be a day of fun and games, dancing and good food for all. Of course, we'll cut the biggest birthday cake ever!

COME ONE! COME ALL!

