

Your Generosity Will Continue To Work Christ's Miracles

At this June 2016 moment there are exactly 362 families or 1,718 individual persons struggling to keep their commitments with the rules and regulations in Working Boys' Centers Number One and Number Two. Without that struggle to keep commitments, there's no other way to our miraculous but also inevitable results of physical and mental health, freedom from destitution and capacity to help others, all a foretaste here on earth of our glorious self esteem in Heaven. There's no money needed in the keeping of those commitments. But it does take cash to keep bodies and souls healthily and confidently on track. The 1,718 brave and willing persons don't have that cash. We have to find it for them. Lately that hasn't been easy. The effort has been unsuccessful enough that superiors are demanding a cut back, as in "Sorry pals, we can't help you." So sad? sad? sad? No way!

Hip! Hip! Hooray! Make way! Ladies and Gentlemen, here come the new Lifelong Working Boys' Center Volunteers Committee.

They are a crew of life seasoned former year long volunteers still way down in or barely out of their twenties, able to sit up, take needed good life support from the hundreds of other former year long volunteers and pass it on to our folks here.

Here's what they are not afraid to face with the hoped for help from other former year longers. They—we need a total of two hundred thousand dollars for a month of 24 days' operations. Specifically for what? Sunlight, rain, clean air, daily mass or prayer time, belonging to the family of families and having a growing circle of friends are all free. The gas, electricity, water, cleaning supplies, repairing damages to the aging furniture and tools, salaries and supplies for

so many programs are items that have to be paid for out of the \$200,000.00. Of the 1,718 persons affiliated, some use more than others use of the two hundred thousand each month. If we took money as seriously as superiors do, we could expel the big spenders like the special or challenged members. But if we divide the two hundred thousand by all the members, the daily average cost to the benefactors of each member's daily commitment to change is a bit less than \$4.75. That is the total amount paid for each member's share in the general utilities just mentioned above plus each one's three good meals each day, education at some level from day care to adult ed, the excellent physical and mental general medical care (except for dental care which has already been ordered cut to save cash), odd family life expenses like lollipops etc. Yes, I said \$4.75. I also said "good" meals. And I said that dental attention has been cut. But we'll get all the cut necessities back for the poor as soon as the Lifelong Volunteers Committee get in touch with the others.

We do get accused of overspending on the poor people. We don't stay within a budget which would be based on a guess of what gifts we'll get in any given month. We fall way behind in paying our employees promptly. They don't complain because, poor as they are, this is their contribution to other poor people. The King that we are following says His kingdom has different rules than this world has. For example He told the disciples to feed a huge crowd of thousands with whatever they could scrounge from that kid with the five loaves and two fish he had on hand and that we can presume weren't gigantic lake water whales that would feed thousands.



Working Boys' Center Lifelong Volunteers Committee

1. Colleen Caragher 2. Rebecca Kiely 3. Sarah Bonilla 4. Olivia Young 5. Caitlin McGuire 6. Robin Phillips



Please mail contributions to:

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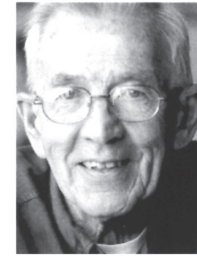
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THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS' CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • SUMMER 2016

Padre's Message



DEAR FOLKS,

It was in the third week of May this year that we celebrated the feast of the Holy Trinity. In a faith session, we got to thinking and talking about how much of scriptural revelation is about the three divine persons participating in our human affairs. We reflected on how they decided to get closer, having one of themselves live our situation, show us how to do it heroically. All of us owe it to the three of them in whose image we are created to try to feel and use their style. They're dedicated to thinking about and doing good for everybody else and in all four gospels they invite us to do the same.

It dawned on us, as we talked, that in our Working Boys' Center – A Family Of Families, we have a team of twenty-six adult "leaders" united in a mighty effort to accept that Divine invitation as a challenge to prove their love. Our leaders don't get paid anything for dedicating all their free time to the other members. They meet as a group once a week for mutual support. They don't vote each other into positions and powers in a chain

of command. They simply catch Christ's breathing the Spirit inspiring them to use each other's light and power. Like Christ with the apostles, each leader maintains a closer and often rough contact with about fifteen families keeping them alive their commitments.

They have to be simple and direct without being bossy. "The daily bath program is for every day, not for every now and then." "You missed adult ed class again." "You have to make that budget we taught you so you can save your weekly quota in the bank." "You were supposed to help in the kitchen yesterday." "I'm not a boss. I'm reminding you to change and become elegant and prosperous enough to help others like Christ wants!"

There's nothing even close to an attitude of superiority in our leaders. They feel their own childlike-ness helping the folks' guardian angels get their cooperation. We'll use space in the centerfold to meet a few of them.

God bless us all. *John J. Halligan, S.J.*
Fr. John Halligan, S.J.

God's Generosity Needs Our Activation Of It



Maria and Jose are grateful for your help.

We all know that the world's number of newly poor, either disaster survivors or fleeing immigrants is growing. But it's sadder news that the cyclic, generation to generation, always destitute are an increasing population with their kids in those new ghettos. The danger to the world's salvation is in spending surplus funds on erudite analyses of causes and effects instead of grabbing eagerly at our opportunity to join in the ongoing salvation history Christ pushed in all four gospels with a loud call to cure poverty.

In this, our second half century of miraculous survival thanks to God's providence, the Working Boys' Center is getting a brand new lease on its place in God's plan for the poor. A powerful and young group of our former volunteers featured on the back page are creating a support network of contributors all around the U.S.A. They're responding to two significant facts:

1) donations have not been keeping pace with the costs of our programs; and 2) Our support system deserves new young helpers with stronger voices.

Pope Francis wants us to know and answer the unanswered needs of the poor. He has his eyes wide open. He sees what we see. We make visits to poor ghettos where our members with our Center work gangs are turning their shacks gradually and gloriously into decent housing. But all around them are new neighborhoods of destitute families gradually scarring the hillsides with sheds that would disgrace animals. This is a downer for everybody. But it'll turn into an upper if we can invite them all into our WBC family.

Our lifelong volunteers are as simple as doves and as wise as the Serpent Satan himself. He cherishes money spent on junk or piled up high as his root of all the evil that he wants fomented and slopped around. The newly organized Lifefongers are going divert that cash out of his reach and into donations to the WBC. They themselves are still in the early stages of their life's works and far from well-off. But they're investing all the time and energy they can and inviting everybody else to join powerful, very Christian campaign. They are our new lease on our rightful place in the victory march here and hereafter.

OUR LEADERS SAY: "YOU CAN. YES, YOU CAN.

GIVE IT A TRY."

A newly invited family in the Center can't help but be favorably impressed by the three good meals available each day, the hot water in the showers, the education at every level aimed at training for good paying jobs, the welcoming attitudes of all the members, the healthy recreation, the daily mass etc. But in every case, all those attractions crash into the hard information on change of lifestyle that the Center is all about. So, it's very important that our leaders are on hand to encourage new families to give it a try. *Meet some of our very attractive leaders...*

Marcia Guerrero is the leader who lives the farthest away from Center Number One where she serves a long day. So her generosity, we can note in passing, includes a lot of tiresome bus travel. Her leadership hours are before school hours in the morning and after school until about 8:00 P.M. Marcia specializes in preparing both the parents and the kids for receiving the sacraments. She's made herself into an excellent catechist. Her best talent is in motivating the kids as well as the adults to be serious about the tenets of our religion without clinging to any of the superstitions they like to live with. If you come to visit us, Marcia is the person who'll take you on the tour to our original Center in the ancient attic of La Compania Church complex.



Vicente Romero starts each day in the Center at 6:45 A.M. and finishes every night after his final trip at about 10:00 P.M. He drives one of our busses with some of our students going back and forth between Centers for classes in their technical education specialty. He has a very special ability to civilize a whole busful of young terrorists wanting to let off steam. He also drives some folks home through dangerous neighborhoods at night after adult education classes; and he drives our many guest groups from overseas to the neighborhoods to visit our folks' homes for a close look at the destitution. He not only knows how to get a bus through traffic, Vicente is even better at guiding our folks out of the bad habits that extreme poverty promotes in teenagers. Kids imitate a tough and gentle guy.



Rodolfo Chin grew up as an orphan in the Center. He is one of the leaders besides being a director in the Center. His human relations have always been a class act. But we never expected him to be the success he is as a counselor talking to one or another family at every moment he has free from his full time job as a director. You can imagine his colossal work schedule of coordinating and also backing up the program directors of ten levels of young students and three of adults who also eat three meals, shower and play, save in the bank and maybe see the doctor. His free time hours of counseling are his biggest gift to the 230 families in Center Number Two. Rudolfo has made contact with the national police academy and has the cadets running sports programs and bull sessions with our kids on Saturdays.



Angelica Peralta drafted her husband, **Byron Cuesta** into leadership with her. She has a job in the Center teaching health classes to our kids and adults. She is studying nights for a university degree and also, with Byron her taxi driver husband, raising the four of their six kids who are still at home. Byron is very proud of Angelica's hard earned success in attracting and guiding new candidate families from many neighborhoods into the Center. He could see that she was taking on an awesome lot of responsibility and he



gladly accepted to being drafted into joining her in leadership. The both of them then drafted their four youngest kids into an ambitious campaign to create a big team of teenage leaders for the achievement of the Center's goals. Bryron and Angelica are really the best. But so are the other twenty four leaders.



Elvia Obando was one of the first generation of mothers of families in the Center. Back then, the Center didn't yet have the advantage of its adult education programs for earning a grammar school diploma. But from the Center's earliest days, Elvia took personal initiative in helping other mothers by teaching groups of kids, including her own, the prayers for mass, checking on their savings quotas in the Center's bank and making the daily bath program a fun activity with prizes for not skipping. She taught herself to read and write in order to keep records on all that. It's no surprise that she became a founding member of the recognized leaders' group. Well versed in the Bible, her shared thoughts on the passages read at the start of each leaders' meeting reveal a deeply felt happiness that we're God's kids.

Edison Alvear is our super-cop leader. He is employed at the Center forty hours of the hundred hours he puts in supervising and counseling. Before the government started chasing working kids off their street work sites and out of shops where they had jobs, Edison spent his days visiting all the work sites. Not only the kids but also the customers and employers enjoyed his approval of good work and just wages.

Now that off-campus work for kids is prohibited, Edison supervises an in-house work training program of production of items for sale. All the working boys and girls know Edison's footsteps, his voice

and his standards of conduct. They also know that just the mention of his name prevents any bad treatment they might be threatened with any place in the city. Everybody needs a big brother.

Gloria Narvaez looks every bit the quiet, artistic, culture loving person that she is. Thanks to her efforts, our walls have attractive designs and decorations accompanying the necessary notices and whatever, all elegantly executed. She adds class to all we do in the Center. That's her obvious contribution. But ever so much more valuable is Gloria's ability to attract new families into membership. In the hillside shack-towns around Center Number Two she engages folks in talk about the victory



that God expects poor people to win over the poverty and suffering He allows them to live in. She makes it beautifully obvious that, without any violence, she has won that personal battle by being a loving discipline in the Center's values. They can't help but be attracted to follow her class act.

Rocio Barrera and **Miriam Chasiluisa** have for years been co-directors of Center Number One. They're both mothers of families and have had no big problem about raising their own kids both at home and at the Center as circumstances have



Rocio and Mariam

required. One might be fooled into thinking that they are over-worked by desk work, such as keeping the families in alphabetical order: Paolosin, Pilausin, Poalisin, Pualosin etc. But such stuff is no great worry compared to keeping the families from discouragement or even desperation. They have to be alert to real tragedy, like some family's inability to come because there's no twenty five cents busfare for each kid, or no way to get a twelve year old to conquer shame and start grammar school. But Miriam and Rocio are real mothers who find just the right way to solve everything.