

## Our Christmas Miracle

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year! Throughout the advent season, we have been preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Now, He is here - hark the herald angels sing! However, we would like to turn the focus back to when Mary and Joseph found out they were to be the parents. There was fear, there was doubt, there were many unknowns...yet, despite it all, there was faith.

This faith has been with each and every one of us this past year and a half. There was so much fear and uncertainty - especially here in Quito - but we chose to focus on our faith, and we are so glad we did!

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we knew that we had to continue with our mission to accompany and serve the most vulnerable families. We took a leap of faith and found how to continue working to ensure that our families felt they were a part of a community and that they had food on the table. We used every method possible to keep our "Family of Families" together and continue to provide community to those who need it most.

Our 349 Center students have continued their educational journeys despite the lack of technology and internet access.

We celebrated our first-ever high school graduating class.

There are more options for skills training to empower our families so that they have more economic independence.

We have been able to connect with and serve not only our 300+ families, but many other vulnerable communities throughout Quito.

Our community is coming back together again after more than 600 days of being apart.

To be able to celebrate our 57th anniversary this year exemplifies that having faith makes the impossible possible.

This year (and a half) has been our Christmas miracle and it's because of generous donors like you that we've been able to continue our apostolic work! Our "Family of Families" is truly blessed to have you as a part of this Center community.

May God continue to bless you and yours during this holiday season and always!



With faith-filled hearts,  
Your Center Friends

# I'm Thankful For...

Nine years ago, I didn't have any hope for my life nor for my children. That's when I found the Center, and it was like a door opened to a new life. It's been nine years to get to this point, and my family and I have taken advantage of all of the opportunities that the Center has to offer. The Center really is a 'Family of Families.' Two years ago, I received a call to be a part of the Sewing Workshop - I didn't know how to sew but I knew that I had to take a chance. It was always a dream of mine to sew, but because of a lack of resources, my parents couldn't make that happen for me when I was younger. But now, the Center made it a possibility and I made it happen for me! Today, I can work on 4 different types of machines. I thank the Center and Silvia Pesantez, who is in charge of the Center's sewing workshop, for making my dream a reality! The Center really is the hope for those who don't believe their lives could ever change. Even during the pandemic - when there was fear and unemployment - the Center supported us. I'm the head

of my household and with the paycheck I made, my family had food on the table. The Center provided a sense of security - they gave us food kits, emotional and spiritual support, education, and I have a stable job. Throughout all of this craziness of the past two years, the Center never forgot about us, the families. As a Center employee, I can say that one of the things I am most thankful for was the opportunity to be a part of this workshop. I don't have much formal education, so looking for a job was very difficult. Here at the Center, they believed in me. I achieved my dream and I know now that nothing is impossible!



**Throughout the pandemic,  
the Center has supported**

**2,605**

individuals in health and  
wellness check-ups.



And has facilitated

**400**

immunizations for our students.



*Verónica Elizabeth Tibán Narvaez, mother of the Juella Tibán family is 35 years old and has four children that are center members.*



# Welcoming back Visitors Soon!

In the summer of 1995, following my sophomore year at Regis High School, I had the opportunity to take part in a trip to the WBC - A Family of Families. Those few weeks I spent in Quito that summer had a proud impact on me by bringing to life the Jesuit motto of being “men and women for and with others.” As a teacher at Fordham Prep, I have enjoyed sharing this same life-changing experience with my students every summer for the past 11 years.

With the pandemic making travel to Ecuador not possible for the past two years, we’re

thrilled that they have officially opened up the Service Learning Visitors Program for Spring/Summer 2022! This year’s service experience will most definitely be different than years past, as Ecuador is still combatting the challenges brought on by COVID, but we are eager for this opportunity to reconnect with the mission and help the Center continue to accompany and serve Quito’s most vulnerable families.

\*For any school (or parish) communities interested, please reach out to Olivia Young, our Community Director for more information!



# Meet C4WF's New Development Director!

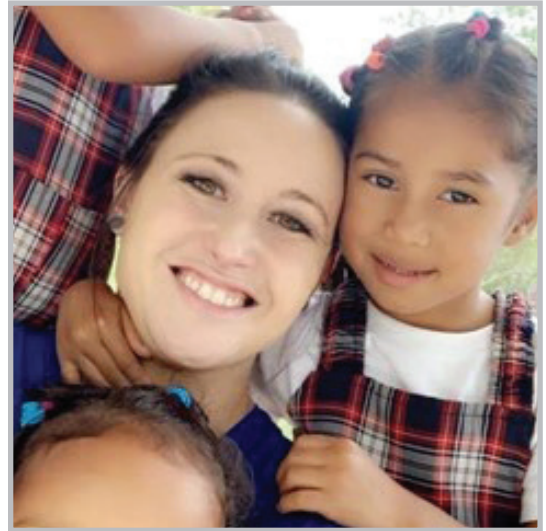
Greetings,

My name is Serena Steele, and I am so excited to be a part of such an incredible mission, and have really enjoyed jumping in these past few weeks.

A little about me... I have lived in seven states in the past 13 years, but am back home in Michigan, where I grew up. My husband of 10 years is also from Michigan, so we are excited to be back by our very large family. I'm an aunt to 13 nieces and nephews, and have a Boston terrier, Breslin. I have two goats that live on my brother's farm a few miles away, so I spend a lot of time with them. I also love hiking, traveling, cooking, hosting theme parties, and kayaking.

As far back as I can remember, I've always worked with or volunteered with nonprofits. My undergrad is in special education and marketing, and I've had a variety of roles in for profits, education, city government, real estate, and hospitality. The nonprofit world is where my passion and heart lie, though.

The joy that is received when one helps others, serves, or gives, is limitless, and in this role, I will be helping others do just that. In order to do this, I will need to learn as much about our supporters (you!), volunteers, and families we serve, as possible. I hope you will help me in doing that by sharing your stories, insight, expertise, and experiences. I really look forward to connecting and partnering with you to help break the cycle of poverty together!



*Everyone can experience the joy and blessing of generosity; because everyone has something to give. ~Jan Grace*



Since March 2020, the Center has served:

**124,716**

individuals



**243**

tons of food



**105**

local organizations



## Please mail contributions to

Center for Working Families (C4WF)  
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Brookfield, WI. 53005-4629

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