

The Center Chronicles



NEWS FROM THE CENTER - A FAMILY OF FAMILIES • QUITO, ECUADOR • SUMMER 2022

Sip for the Center!

Center supporters in the Milwaukee area had a chance to reconnect this spring at our first fundraiser of the year. 'Sip for the Center' took place at Sip MKE, in Mequon, Wisconsin. The space was not only generously provided by Sip, MKE, but SIP also donated a percentage of bar sales to the Center.

Guests danced the night away to the music of MissionRiver Band, who donated their time and talents for the evening as well.

The event was made possible with the help from longtime supporter, Kay Newell, who not only had the idea and helped plan the event, but also donated all of the food for the night. Linda and Don McCann graciously pitched in their time and efforts as well. We are so grateful to have such wonderful supporters that came together to support our families.

We are excited to be able to safely gather, and share all the great things happening at the Center. Some of our students even recorded messages of gratitude and cheer for our guests.

We look forward to continuing to gather and share in and help support all the work being done at the Center.

Do you have an idea for an event, or virtual campaign, and want to help our families? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Serena Steele at development@c4wf.org or 269.615.7291.



BECOME A CENTER YLV!

- WANTING TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER?
- INTERESTED IN ACCOMPANYING & EMPOWERING FAMILIES IN NEED?
- READY TO OPEN YOUR HEART AND SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE & GIFTS?
- EXCITED TO LIVE IN AN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY IN QUITO, ECUADOR?



Reach out to Olivia Young, Community Director for more information:
communityoutreach@c4wf.org

Fordham Prep and the Center's Founding Values

In mid-June, we had the pleasure of hosting a service learning group of 14 students from Fordham Preparatory School in the Bronx, New York City. Fordham Prep has accompanied and supported the Center for more than a decade and we were absolutely *thrilled* they were our first group since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Our FP group learned about the Center's 57+ year history and our 10 foundational values, with also being able to witness our current services and how our Center team continues to accompany and empower our "Family of Families." Over the course of their 9 days at the Center, this group of young men had the opportunity to serve our community in various ways. They eagerly participated in various onsite projects, visited with Center families and got to know their stories, as well as took part in a two-day *minga* that helped rebuild Verónica's family home that collapsed due to poor construction.



On their final day, our Community Director created a "Center Scavenger Hunt" based on the 10 foundational values and what they've learned and seen during their time at the Center. Here's what Andrew and Luke had to share:

"One of the values that really sticks out to me is the value of **family**. During my time in Ecuador and at the Center, I've really seen this firsthand and just how this community runs and operates as a family... Back home, I have a really, really big family, and so seeing this work and seeing what these people do is just really inspiring and it makes me want to go back to my family and do everything I can to help them."
- Andrew, age 17

"I feel **education** is the most important value that the Center holds because without education we are unable to grow from the confines of the environment we're born into. With education, we're able to expand our minds and our opinions, and we're able to help those around us. Education gives us the tools to prepare for the future, and with education, we're able to become more than what people might think we are to be."
- Luke, age 17

Dear Aldo, Andrew, Brian, Cameron, CJ, Coakley, Daniel, David, Hudson, Jack, Jay, Lucas, Luke, Sean, and your fearless leaders - Conan, Jos , and Pierre. ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! You all were an outstanding group; you were ready to learn and to serve in whatever way possible. You were able to see how the foundational values have impacted the lives of our families and you found those connections to your lives, too! We pray that you continue to show up for those most vulnerable and lend a helping hand however you can. May your kindness, your faith and your experience at the Center shape the way you go forth and share your gifts with the world!

Our YLV's Final Reflection

Dreams, both old and nascent, have been realized in my time here at the Center.

I embody two separate roles here: agricultural engineer-in-training and high school English teacher.

A recent tromp around the Center's urban garden, discussing the basics of permaculture gardening with my student Diego, envelopes the intersection of these dualistic functions. This terraced swath of land behind our warehouse, once overgrown and garbage-strewn, now teems with organic (and edible!) life.

We chatter in Spanglish about vegetables and I see Diego's eyes spark with the twinkle of a learning mind.

Building the terrace system - based on ancient Incan agricultural practice - is one of many tasks that has been realized outside the classroom; a separate, abandoned plot, since converted into a permaculture garden teeming with corn, fava beans, and zucchini (native crops that grow symbiotically when planted together—the objective of permaculture!), stands next to a new compost system and recently constructed greenhouse, designed to house tomatoes.



I am excited to share this space with Diego, whose life, along with many peers, has changed upon the reopening of presential school after more than two years at home. Issues with wireless connection, material distribution and, of course, screen attention are but few of the difficulties that these students faced.

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This academic year, we have served...

153 1-3 year olds in our Early Childhood Development Centers	312 K4 - High School students
138 Center parents and young adults who participated in...	14 Skills-training courses with more than 476 hours of training + certifications

Our Center community is made up of more than **300 families** & it's because of your help that we can support them on their journeys of empowerment!

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The transition to in-person learning, of which I have helped to usher in, has not been easy. Yet I am filled with joy watching Diego evolve into a chatty, curious student ready to take on the world that lies ahead.

Looking over a sea of green plant life, a dream has been realized: constructing a full-suite permaculture landscape—a setting in which we can cultivate a learning environment and, of course, food!

My sincerest thank you to all whom have helped make the dream a reality for this “Family of Families.”

- Collin Hennessey



Please mail contributions to:

Center for Working Families (C4WF)

12605 W. North Ave. #130
Brookfield, WI. 53005-4629

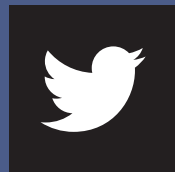
Serena Steele, Development Director

Phone: 269-615-7291

Email: development@c4wf.org

Jim Parks, C4WF Board President

Email: boardpres@c4wf.org



WE NEED YOU!

Would you like to get more involved?
Do you want to help our Center families?

We're seeking volunteers to help in a various capacities!

Interested in learning more? Contact
Serena Steele at
development@c4wf.org or
269.615.7291