

Angelica's Dreams Are Coming True

At eight years old, young Angelica Bedon's family came to Quito from Ibarra, a town in the north of Ecuador, in search of job opportunities and a better life for their children. The only problem was all of the Quito schools had taken enrollment for the year.

Thank God for the Bedon's new neighbors who showed them the way to the WBC. At the Center, the entire Bedon family was able to enter just a few days before the school year started. The family realized they were in a distinctly different environment- people here ate meals together, played together, went to class and celebrated Mass together, and spent time with each other all day long. This was new to Angelica. She was used to keeping to herself in class and dashing home to voraciously dig into a book, do chores, or watch tv. The Center was different- here, she spent more time with her peers and other families- at Mass, extracurricular classes, meals, and meetings. In having this time, Angelica slowly but surely came out of her cocoon. She tells us, "to this day, my best friends are from the Working Boys' Center."

Since graduating first in her class from the WBC in cosmetology, Angelica graduated high school, and with a college scholarship from David's Educational Opportunity Fund (founded by Mike Byrd and Maggie Felker, two former Year Long Volunteers), is now pursuing a degree in Childhood Clinical Psychology at the Central University in Quito.



Angelica shares, "The Center did so much to help me achieve my dreams, and I want to pass along that help to families who may not have access to professional psychological services for their children." She would like to open up her own practice and pay forward the generosity she received during her time as a Center member.

Angelica's dreams are coming true, and with your support, we are creating a new generation of dreamers who, with the tools to empower themselves, can accomplish anything they set their minds and hearts to accomplish!

Please mail contributions to

Center for Working Families.
12605 W. North Ave. #130
Brookfield, WI. 53005-4629

Caitlin McGuire Community Director:
e-mail: communityoutreach@c4wf.org

Pat Parks, Director Emeritus C4WF
262-797-8988 jparks@wi.rr.com

Olivia Young, Development Director
414-640-2826 development@c4wf.org

Jim Parks, Board President C4WF: boardpres@c4wf.org



WBC NEWS

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS' CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • SUMMER 2018



Time to Share and Give Thanks



Summer has arrived! It is a time to take advantage of the sun, and the warmth of God's embrace. It is in these longer days that we enjoy time with family and make plans to see others that we may not throughout the year. It is a time to recognize the efforts made, recover strength and look towards the horizon. Summer is family time! It is time to be grateful.

In a world in such a hurry, which is constantly demanding us to reach goals to show successful results, where competition at times seems to stifle ordinary life, the Lord's message invites us to know how to press the pause button on life. The greatest thing the human being has is to appreciate the life of the other, to be with that other person, to listen to them, to get in tune with their life experience, their longings, hopes and pains. The gospel of Jesus invites us to rest and know how to recognize the great value in one another. It is the encounter with others that we want to put above all. Summer is a good time for it- take the time to enjoy it.

At the Working Boys' Center, we also give thanks for the road we have traveled during these months- many good things have happened and we feel that we are strengthening our future. We are grateful to all those who accompany our

walk and who support our programs. Our students closed the school year with a beautiful open house in which they presented their parents, families and many visitors with various themes they had learned throughout the year. We are proud of their work and congratulate their teachers for their dedication to providing a quality education. In recent weeks, volunteers from various universities and high schools have visited us. The joy in service and cultural exchange highlights our mission and who we are.

We have big plans next year and we would greatly value your collaboration to achieve our goals. A technical high school degree for those who turn 16 is a very important and unprecedented goal. We want to offer education for life and for work. We plan to continue to involve our families in new opportunities that strengthen the 10 core values of the Center. We also plan to fortify our pastoral program, which places Jesus at the foundation of our relationships.

Let's celebrate life! Let's celebrate the fraternity of meeting others! Summer is a great opportunity to do so.

Gustavo Calderón Schmidt, S.J.

Provincial

God's Gift of Sacraments

There are few ways that God enters our life more profoundly than through the blessing of holy sacraments. Our students at the WBC have the opportunity to complete four sacraments while here: Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion, and Confirmation. We had the immense joy to celebrate three of those sacraments this summer- Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.

After months of thoughtful preparation from our Pastoral team, filled with activities, reflections, prayers, and research, those who felt ready to take the next step in their faith journey came forth to become closer to our Lord.

As our students complete their sacraments with family, friends, teachers, and peers present, we hope they remember God is in and with us always. We pray that God's guidance will compel them to become advocates for what is right and good in this world- to stand up for a classmate in need, to help a neighbor, to go forth and, as Jesuit founder St. Ignatius Loyola said, "set the world on fire."

It is this fire of faith that helps our kids live their lives with Christ at their side. Through the sacraments, our

students learn that Christ is with them always. From their Baptism with the living waters of life, to Reconciliation where they learn that God always forgives, to their Communion where they take the bread that is Christ's living body, to their Confirmation that infuses them with the Holy Spirit; each sacrament helps the candidates experience the fire of their faith.

It is clear that God's love shines down on our youth at the Center. We look forward to tomorrow's leaders who will continue to shape our WBC community through their faith.



Bienvenidos a la Casa Abierta

Come one come all to the Casa Abierta! There are plenty of empanadas for everyone! In early June, the Working Boys' Center celebrated our end of the year open house. Each class from our childcare center to our décimo (US 9th grade) students organized a pertinent topic to present to audiences that included parents, family members, community members, and students, faculty, and staff from other schools.



Our students excitedly presented their end of year projects with confidence and poise with topics ranging from mitosis and meiosis to local foods from various provinces.

Using the Multiple Intelligences Model, an essential component of the Jesuit Horizon 20/20 curriculum, each classroom made their presentation unique and engaging through linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalist intelligences. A shadow silent play demonstrating unhealthy cultural norms, student-recorded and edited video

footage about the traditions of Otavalo, and a puppet play with audience participation about climate change captured important issues of today that our society confronts.

With tours through our technical education school, open house visitors "tried their hand" at sewing, carpentry, and beauty. Metal figurines adorned the metal mechanics shop, and the Center proudly presented our plans for our technical education high school degree next year!



Full bellies from local dishes, minds deep in thought from insightful presentations, and hands filled with little "recuerdos" or "memories" given as gifts to all visitors are sure to keep those who attended the casa abierta coming back year after year to get a peek into our young, brilliant minds!

A Despedida Never Means Goodbye

To all those who have stepped through the doors of the WBC, you know the magic is palpable. From the children joyfully greeting you with a hug and then "amárcame!" (pick me up) to the thoughtful parents in session to the delightful mealtime buzz, the WBC is a haven for all who enter.

Our Year Long Volunteers constitute a very special group of why the WBC is who we are today. God's love compels them to take one year (or two!) of their lives to give fully and completely of themselves in service with and for our families. They teach English, Art, Music, and PE, but they also serve as mentors, friends, Confirmation sponsors, Godparents, and offer smile during the day and a shoulder to cry on.

This year, the Center had the great fortune of the blessing of 3 Year Long Volunteers with us in our community house- Amberly Solorzano, Colin Dean, and Nathan Ezzo. Together, this dynamic trio loved, lived, and learned with our families. To work and bond so closely to those so near to you embeds you in our Family of Families forever.

On June 30th, we celebrated our dear volunteers in the tradition of the 'despedida' or 'goodbye' party.

The day began with two soccer games- moms vs. staff and volunteers and dads vs. staff and volunteers. Both games ended in a tie- much to the disappointment of all teams involved, who insisted on penalty kicks to choose a definitive winner.

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After soccer games, a special program for the volunteers from various departments in the Center brought everyone inside to the dining room. A frog dance from our little ones, a 'bomba' dance from the Accompaniment Program, salsa choke from extracurricular and an acapella song from our chorus group rounded out the day. Arguably, the favorite part for all watching was when the volunteers were brought up to the stage for participation. The seventh grade "reporters" asked the volunteers about their experiences in Ecuador, showed their dance moves, and

spoke some final words to our families. After the program, we shared in our last mass together. Nathan's guitar playing will be sincerely missed in our daily masses.

In sharing one last meal together, through the hugs, kisses and tears, we are reminded that God's love brings us together and holds us in each other's hearts forever. His love transforms us and makes us better men and women for others. Thank you Amberly, Colin, and Nathan, for being a part of this family of families.

Just Like a Little Mustard Seed

In mid-June, I had the pleasure of joining Fr. Gustavo Calderón in McKinney, Texas to celebrate Christ's teaching and love with St. Gabriel's Parish. For almost 20 years, St. Gabriel's has supported the WBC and our Family of Families - be it through Little Angels Daycare Center holding art fundraisers to the Working Boys' Ministry leading Spiritual Journey groups to visit in Quito.



The Gospel during our visit was from Saint Mark - the parable of the mustard seed: a small seed that grows to provide food and shelter for those in need. Father Gustavo shared with us that "our own faith journey started with the small seed of Baptism," which was nurtured by our families, Godparents, teachers, schools, friends, and our Church community.

Both St. Gabriel's Parish and the Working Boys' Center are perfect examples of the mustard seed. Years ago, a small group of families banded together with the Dallas Archdiocese to plant the seed of a new Catholic community in McKinney. Now, St. Gabriel's Parish is made up of thousands of members, creating a loving and supportive family for not only their fellow parishioners, but for the entire McKinney community. And in the southern hemisphere, a similar story began when a young Jesuit priest from the Bronx, with no money but with great determination to help the poor transform their lives, opened a new mission based on a novel idea, "...Poverty is not so much an economic issue but a spiritual problem...the human spirit..." Today, the Center has supported more than 6,000 families or around 30,000 individuals to leave the cycle of spiritual, educational and economic poverty and has created the largest family of families.

Each community began as a small seed of faith and hope, which was able to flourish because of the love and support of those around it. For me, it was such a beautiful experience to be a witness to and participate in each of these tight-knit communities. As a year long volunteer at the Center, my life was forever changed because of the unconditional love gifted to me by the families; they welcomed me into their homes and into their hearts. During my time in Quito, I also met two different groups from St. Gabriel's and heard such incredible stories about their parish; little did I know that I would have the honor of reconnecting and celebrating His word with them stateside. The hospitality and generosity shown to me, at the Center and at St. Gabriel's, were truly a blessing and it is all thanks to the well-tended mustard seeds that these communities nurtured with their care and love.

As the WBC families sing at Mass, "If you had faith like a little mustard seed / God says / I would tell the mountains to move / and they would move!" Let us all have faith and rejoice for being part of the Working Boys' Center - A Family of Families, and may we continue to nurture the mustard seeds that serve the working poor in Quito!

- Olivia Young, C4WF Development Director



From top left to right: John and Sue Regina, Fr. Don Zeiler, C4WF board member Tom Whalen, Fr. Gustavo Calderón, Don Holec. Bottom left to right: Marion Holec, Dorrie and John O'Mara, Olivia Young