ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Working Boys' Center – A Family of Families in Quito, Ecuador was founded in 1964 to address the educational needs of boys working on the streets shining shoes. Since its inception, the Center program’s objective has been to eliminate poverty among working boys and their families.

At any given time, the Center has hundreds of families in very active membership at its three sites. The program provides meals, medical and dental care, formal education, and other formation programs to all members free of charge.

The Center’s mission is a unique agent for social change. By focusing on the entire family with an emphasis on its ten core values (shown above), the Center seeks to strengthen, unite and foster mutual respect and solidarity within the family and the community. The strength of a society depends on the welfare of the whole family.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Length of Service Volunteers are expected to give a minimum of a year of service to the Center. Their primary role is as educators in the grade school, high school, or adult or special education programs.

Volunteer service runs annually from mid-August through August 1st of the following year. All volunteers are expected to serve one year of uninterrupted service. Though not required, many volunteers decide to stay on for a second year of service. Most volunteers return to their home countries during the month of August for vacation. During that time, the volunteer house is closed for cleaning and preparation for the new academic year. No early arrivals are allowed.

Age Full time volunteers must be single, at least 21 years of age and in good health.

Language & Education Requirements Volunteers must speak Spanish as college graduates or have equivalent work experience.

Financial Responsibility Room and board is provided for all volunteers. Volunteers are expected to pay travel expenses to and from Quito, health insurance expenses and all miscellaneous expenses while in the country. Most volunteers fundraise for their living expenses prior to coming to Quito.

Spiritual Commitment All volunteers are expected to be practicing Christians who agree to attend Mass with the people at the Center at least twice a week. All volunteers must live in our volunteer house and help create a Christian community with high moral standards. It is not necessary for a volunteer to be Catholic.

Moral Conduct All volunteers are expected to serve as role models for the people they serve, particularly for the young people who are Center members. In keeping with this status as role models, volunteers must conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner. We also reserve the right to dismiss a volunteer who breaks the Volunteer Code of Conduct contract.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What kind of work will I do? Volunteers work in a variety of areas including the day care center, accredited school education program, vocational training, small business management, and home building. Though most volunteers teach, no background in education is required. Volunteers with specific training in the trades or business may focus their volunteer experience in those areas.

Can I go home for the holidays? Volunteers are encouraged to give one year of uninterrupted service. The holidays at the Center are very special and, many times, the highlight of a volunteer’s experience. We expect all volunteers to participate in holiday festivities at the Center and therefore, returning to one’s home country requires special permission.

What is volunteer housing like? The volunteer residence is very modern and comfortable. All year long volunteers have their own bedroom and private bathroom.

Is Quito safe? Volunteers are given cautions during orientation. If one takes proper precautions and heeds the recommendations given, one remains safe. Our project is in the capital city where the danger is no greater than in a large American city.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Applications are accepted beginning in January of each year with placement priority given to those who apply and are accepted before June 30.

Contact us
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Visit us on the web
www.c4wf.org

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“My year serving the Center Family of Families taught me more about SERVICE, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, PATIENCE, GENEROSITY, AND HARD WORK than I ever imagined. This TRULY TRANSFORMATIONAL year showed me the happiness that lies in LIVING FOR OTHERS.”

Meredith Fisher
Volunteer 2011-2012

“Everybody FEELS THAT someone CARES ABOUT THEM HERE.”

Madre Miguel Conway, BVM – Co-founder