TRANSFORMATIONAL PASTORAL CARE

Every Tuesday, Madre Miguel and Padre Juan have been assisting with our pastoral formation program for teens. To break the ice and set the stage for the themes of the day, our dedicated staff acts out some of Jesus’ parables – sometimes they even dress up like the kids themselves to keep the engagement flowing! Just the other day program leaders Myriam, Rocío, Maria, and Rodolfo could have been mistaken for any of the earbud wearing, backpack toting teenagers roaming the third floor outside the high school classrooms. After a few skits, Madre and Padre open up discussion on different topics with open ears and hearts to encourage the spiritual and religious life of our young people.

Vilma’s Testimony

Vilma Bravo and her family joined us from Pillaro, a rural area in the Province of Tungurahua located in the center of the country. She was the victim of domestic abuse, and she and her daughters consistently suffered from lack of economic and emotional support. Living in deep poverty and lacking proper nutrition, Vilma’s daughters, Anahi, 7 years old, and Karen, 2 years old, were diagnosed with anemia.

Vilma had heard from her younger sister about the transformational opportunities at the Working Boys’ Center. After learning about the WBC, Vilma decided to separate from her husband and move to Quito for a better life for her daughters and herself. In August 2017, her bravery and fortitude brought her to our door. Receiving assistance and support from our staff, Vilma began to feel confident in her decision to change her life forever through our values-based program, and enrolled her family.

Vilma and her sister live in the same home in different rooms as they work to get back on their feet. Both support their families by selling meat kebabs on the north side of the rooms as they work to get back on their feet. Both support themselves and become builders of a more just, solidary, and fraternal world. These discussions about bringing the parables of Jesus to life and applying it to our world encourages introspection and prepares the students for their sacraments.

From personal reflection, our students can empower themselves and become builders of a more just, solidary, and fraternal world. This allows us to see that small brains illuminate more and more, which in turn illuminates us and their future. We can’t wait to see what our young ones achieve as they continue to grow spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally in our family of families!

WBC NEWS

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS’ CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • SPRING 2018

A Journey Within

Vilma and her girls now have a new routine: arrive around 6:20 AM to the WBC, have breakfast, take a shower, then on to study for the girls and Vilma goes to work selling food in the streets. She returns around 5:00 PM to share in an evening snack with her daughters.

On Mondays at 5:30 PM, Vilma participates in training given to parents of the childcare center. There, she learns about the concepts of appropriate height and weight standards, hygiene, nutrition, and basic care. Anahi and Karen have overcome the chronic malnutrition they had, and thanks to knowing more about the essential tools to grow up healthy, Vilma knows what foods she can give her children at home to continue to recuperate from their former situation.

Vilma has greatly improved her state of mind, and sees a future for her daughters in a safe, healthy environment. Vilma’s story is one example of how safe, supportive and constructive spaces give families the tools to overcome former trauma and difficulties and find true prosperity. We are grateful to support Vilma in her journey of empowerment and the future of her family.

Every family that joins us is another divine sign of God’s nudges which continue to guide us in serving and providing the best care, such as education and hygiene, it can cause dramatic, lifelong damage.

In our childcare center, 4 out of 10 children enter with serious nutrition problems, which is why we have focused our efforts to create opportunities for growth and education among our members.

At the WBC, we want to be a family that desires to give testimony to the gospel; to know Jesus better and better, and understand His motivations for loving the way He loved. We have wanted to communicate that same spirit to everyone, especially to our kids and young adults, who have had the opportunity to live Lent in the Eucharist celebrated by Padre Juan, the catechism, and pastoral activities. This is the reason we take a journey inside ourselves. In the depths of our lives, to go before Jesus in the things we do well, and those in which we fail. It is time of reconciliation with God, with oneself, with others, and to become more aware of how we treat the world we live in, and be at peace with Nature. With deep affection, Happy Easter!

Jim Parks, Board President C4WF: boardpres@c4wf.org
Caitlin McGuire Development Director: cmcguire@c4wf.org
Pat Parks, Director of Jesus C4WF: patparks@wi.rr.com
Jim Parks, Board President C4WF: boardpres@jc4wf.org
Drawing what we like about our family, doing small plays about what Jesus thinks about our actions, reflecting on our work, and preparing family prayers are some of the activities we do every week so that Center parents are formed in our values.

This very important work is predicated upon ten fundamental values that enable self-management and improvement in the lives of the beneficiaries, our dear families: loyalty, personal formation, family, religion, education, economy, work, recreation, health and housing.

In this context, the WBC is not only a support program for working families, it is a foundation for human and spiritual development in which all members of the family, including children, are called to participate. Being that the family is the essential component of the WBC, our accompaniment program works to strengthen the union, mutual support and solidarity within each family and the community of the WBC through weekly training sessions.

Formerly known as the ‘Leaders’ program (now known as ‘Accompaniment Program’), this team comprised of member parents, staff, and Year-Long Volunteers, aims to accompany Center families on their spiritual, personal, academic, and professional formation journey. By asking the right questions, those who accompany can guide without passing judgement or giving families direct demands. They seek to assist families to use their inner divine voice to guide them on their journey and to eventually find auto sufficiency and trust within themselves.

As Padre Juan says, poverty is a spiritual problem, and the Accompaniment Program seeks to address the divinity within every CMT member that may be buried by years of trauma, distrust, negativity, and bad habits and create a place for new experiences filled with opportunity, trust, and prosperity through Christ’s love.

What are the challenges to maintain CMT innovation in the 21st century?

In 2010, an investigation by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston analyzed the brain activity of a 19-year-old university student 24 hours a day for seven days. The experiment yielded an unexpected result: the student’s brain activity when attending a master class was the same as when he watched television; practically nothing. The scientists proved that the pedagogical model based on a student as a passive receiver does not work.

On the contrary, if a student is motivated to learn, he or she acquires naturally the skills they need to carry out what is proposed. If your creativity grows your knowledge expands.

This is the foundation of the new educational model applied at the WBC: Innovation XXI (Innovate + action in the 21st century)

In this context, the WBC is not only a support program for working families, it is a foundation for human and spiritual development in which