

The Center Chronicles



NEWS FROM THE CENTER - A FAMILY OF FAMILIES • QUITO, ECUADOR • SPRING 2023



"LOVE IS SHOWN MORE IN DEEDS THAN IN WORDS."

-ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



2022 IMPACT REPORT

By the numbers

- 664 Child Wellness Checkups
- 4,087 Medical visits
- 813 People attended Health Workshops
- 12 Mingas (home improvement projects for families). 552 Mingas have been completed since 1995
- 22,080 Hours of Social Work
- 11,040 Hours of Pastoral Care
- 151 Pre-primary children in our care
- Over \$740,000 raised in the US
- Over 1100 individual US donations

180	People Completed Career Workshops
20+	Local Partnerships
24	High School Graduates
231+	Families Served
44	TONS of food provided
334	Students Educated

2022 IMPACT REPORT

2022 marked the first year that our students were able to attend in-person classes for the first day of school, since the pandemic. We ended 2022 with an ease on covid restrictions, allowing us to celebrate together, as well as mourn together over the loss of Padre. While we continue to mourn, but honor Padre's legacy, his work continues at The Center.

Quito experienced protesting and political unrest during the summer, that led to closures and a halt on public transit, which created a lack of access to food, employment, and school.

Despite all the challenges that 2022 brought, The Center was able to host our first-ever fashion show fundraising event in Quito, highlighting the amazing work of our sewing team.

It brings us joy to mention that we were able to reconnect in person at The Center, and stateside. Visiting groups were welcomed back, Fordham Prep being our first group since 2020. A fashion show highlighting our amazing sewing team was The Center's first ever local fundraising event and was a huge hit! Stateside fundraising events also took place in Milwaukee, and with the Lumen Christi, St Mary's Visitation, and St Gabriel's parishes coming together to raise funds for our families.

Our Service Learning Experience is Back!

After a long hiatus, our visiting group program is up and running! Since early January, we have hosted 6 amazing groups here at the Center.

Muchísimas gracias to: Fairfield University, University of St. Thomas, Regis Jesuit High School, Spring Hill College, Loyola Marymount University and The Catholic University of America for your eagerness to learn about our mission, your presence with our community and for being men and women with and for others! We pray that your Service Learning Experience here at the Center has given you an insight of what community accompaniment and empowerment can look like. May your time here help shape your futures and may you always remember you have a home here in Quito with the largest “Family of Families.”

Throughout the spring and summer, we will have the pleasure of hosting 13 high school and university groups and we are greatly looking forward to sharing in community with each and every participant!

**If you're interested in a Center Service Learning Experience, please reach out to our Community Director, Olivia Young, at communityoutreach@c4wf.org for more information.*



Our Year Long Volunteers!

In February, we gained 5 YLVs who were serving with Rostro de Cristo based on the coast of Ecuador as well as a volunteer from Entre Culturas, an international Jesuit volunteer program.

Please join us in welcoming Lilly, Maggie, Nicole, Pilar, Mark and Steven to our “Family of Families!”

Lilly Williams is from Louisville, KY and recently graduated from Saint Louis University with degrees in Spanish and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.

Maggie Koch is from Boyds, MD and received a degree in Leadership, Ethics, and Organizational Sustainability from Saint Joseph’s University.

Nicole VanVoorhis is from Dayton, Ohio and attended the University of Dayton.

Pilar García Gómez-Luengo is from Córdoba, Spain and received her degree in Psychology from Universidad Loyola Córdoba.

Mark Cheffers is from Worcester MA, and graduated from Catholic University of America in DC.

Steven Zichichi is from Healdsburg, CA and received a B.A. degree from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA in History (and minor in Economics & Business).

These incredible young women and men are accompanying our Social Team on family visits, serving in our pastoral care, assisting in the Center’s urban garden project, providing aid in our kinder care as well as teaching English to our students in grade school and middle school!



Welcome to our community, Nicole, Mark, Maggie, Lilly, Steven and Pilar!

Please mail contributions to:

Center for Working Families (C4WF)
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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

WHAT'S EXCITING IN 2023

2023 brings us hope and new opportunities. We are excited to be hosting dozens of visiting groups and welcoming many year-long volunteers. There are fundraising events scheduled both in Quito, and stateside this year.

We are extremely grateful that The Papal Foundation was generous enough to invite us to participate in a documentary with them, highlighting the work of an organization they support

Letters that were written as a part of this project have already been hand delivered to the Pope!

With your support, we are optimistic 2023 will be a great year for our staff and families!

Love is a Decision

When I was a volunteer here, during one of our Tuesday night group reflections, Padre said that “to love is a decision...every day we have to choose to love.”

This idea for me was beyond transformative, and I have thought about that each and every day since. Padre was a very simple man - intelligent and witty, a funny guy when he wanted to be, a true believer in “God will provide,” and had a no-nonsense attitude with one of the kindest hearts. Through his example - both in his daily actions as well as his awe-inspiring legacy he left with the Center - I witnessed what he meant by love being a decision. He shared love in the little things but his love was big; and he chose that each and every day. I tried to emulate this way of showing up in the world in the classroom with my students (especially when they had a rough day), with my community as well as in my spiritual life. And despite challenges, frustrations and stress that may arise, I vow to start each day choosing love.

May we all follow Padre Juan’s example and show up every morning ready to share love with those around us!

With gratitude and admiration,
Olivia

