



The Working Boys Center- A Family of Families

Our Ten Core Values as a Foundation

The WBC serves the working children and their entire families. Founded in 1964 by Father John Halligan, SJ, and Sister Miguel Conway, BVM, our longstanding values are a testament to our success. This characteristic makes our mission a unique agent for social change. The strength of a society depends on the welfare of the whole family. All members of the families of the working children receive the benefits provided by the Family of Families. Our **ten core values** that form the foundation of our programs to achieve the goals we propose are:

- Loyalty
- Personal Formation
- Family
- Religion
- Education
- Health
- Work
- Recreation
- Economy
- Housing

The family is the essential component of the Center, which seeks to strengthen union, mutual respect and solidarity of the family and the community.

There are weekly meetings directed at **personal formation** and strengthening families so that they may become agents of their own prosperity.

Service to the community is an important aspect of formation. Each member participates two hours daily in “family activities” aimed at strengthening commitment in this area.

Consolidation of religious formation is helped by daily **Eucharistic celebrations**, faith sharing groups and opportunities for annual reflection or “retreat experiences.”

Sunday community **minga work gangs** strengthen the commitment to the neighborhood. This program focuses on helping one another to build better housing and basic neighborhood services.

Budgeting and savings programs promote financial planning and putting money aside for housing and other family needs.

Travel to the WBC

We love hosting spiritual journey groups from parishes like SMV. This trip offers travelers the natural beauty of the Andes Mountains, the large capital city of Quito, the quaint small towns and their colorful markets as well as the poverty one finds in this breathtaking third world country. This opportunity to see how the poor live is an experience one does not get with a travel agency tour. Only a missionary can share this glimpse of reality with you. More importantly, you get insight into the Center's programs that offer those poor, who are willing to work for it, the hope and opportunity to escape their poverty and begin productive and satisfying lives.

Reflective guidance among friends, in comfortable Center surroundings, lets the group discuss what they have seen and experienced as they wind down after each busy day.

With accommodations at the Center's modern volunteer house, you will travel each day in one of the Center's buses to various locations arranged to give you a real picture of the beauty of Ecuador and the well-established family development mission that began in 1964. It's an experience you won't forget!

To see a sample itinerary of a spiritual journey trip, click the link below:

<http://www.c4wf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Spiritual-Journey-Tentative-Schedule.pdf>

Build a House with our Minga Group

Join other adults for a 9-day service trip to the Center in Quito. Your group will focus its energy on the service project of helping a family build their home, a.k.a. Minga. Minga is an indigenous word for a community work group and members help construct homes for fellow Center members every weekend through mingas. In addition, the group will have ample time to tour all three locations, visit member homes and see key Quito tourism attractions.

To see a sample itinerary of a spiritual journey trip, click the link below:

<http://www.c4wf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Minga-Tentative-Schedule.pdf>

Bringing Donations to the Center

Many times visitors ask what items they can donate to our Family of Families during their visit. Towels, sheets, gently used clothing, dishtowels and school supplies are always in demand and greatly appreciated.

Volunteer with the WBC

The Working Boys' Center – A Family of Families in Quito, Ecuador is a human development project founded in 1964 by Jesuit, Fr. John Halligan, fondly known as Padre. Today, the Center is run by a team of general directors headed by the Provincial Priest of Ecuador, Gustavo Calderón SJ, and also includes Padre Juan, Sr. Miguel (affectionately known as Madre), Carlos Gomez, Marco Polo, Dr. Giuliana Hidalgo, Edgar Andrade, Johnny Villalobos, and others. The Center operates in Cotacollao, Quito, and serves hundreds of people each day.

Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the Center's services and play a key role in assisting the Ecuadorian staff with services to families. 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 the businesses and trades run by the Center.

Most volunteer experiences are for one to two years and begin in August of every year. Volunteers typically work at each of the Center sites in Quito.

Our volunteer community is made up of individuals who are, at minimum, college graduates. Our housing facility and volunteer opportunities do not afford us the option of accepting families with children or teens as volunteers.

To apply to the Working Boys' Center Volunteer Program, please follow the steps below.

1. Contact our US Representative at communityoutreach@c4wf.org to discuss your reasons for wanting to volunteer, the volunteer requirements, and the application process.
2. [E-mail a letter addressed to Madre Miguel Conway, BVM](#) stating your volunteer qualifications, how you heard about the Center, and your reasons for wanting to serve.
3. Madre Miguel will reply to your letter by sending you detailed information on the volunteer experience along with a contract. A potential volunteer should

read this carefully. If you wish to abide by all terms in the contract and think the Center is the right volunteer experience for you, sign the contract and return it to Madre Miguel with a second letter saying that you have decided to serve in Quito under the terms prescribed in the contract.

4. Upon receipt of your signed contract, Madre Miguel will send you more volunteer information and papers you will need to get your visa.

Please note that the application process is not complete until all four steps have been completed.

If you would like to talk to a former volunteer to ask questions or receive advice once you have been accepted into the program, please contact our US Representative at communityoutreach@c4wf.org.

If you're interested in learning more, please visit our volunteer page on our website: <http://www.c4wf.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

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