CENIT CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Dear, Collaborators, Benefactors, Volunteers and Friends,

Our Foundress of the Congregation of O.L.C. of the Good Shepherd, Saint Mary Euphrasia said: “We must recognize that our social works are maintained thanks to the spirit of solidarity of the people and institutions that support us and their phrase of recognition for the goods received and that we keep alive is: "Gratitude is the memory of the heart."

First of all, I want to thank God for these 30 years of dreams come true; goals, achievements and objectives achieved; joys celebrated; and also sorrows, mistakes and frustrations that have served as experience and opportunities to correct, learn and improve.

Today, CENIT joyfully celebrates 30 years of institutional life, fulfilling its great objective – the eradication of child labor – through prevention, restitution and enforceability of the rights of children and their families. I am pleased to extend our deep gratitude to our entire Education Community, our Benefactors, National and Foreign Organizations, Volunteers, people and public and private institutions that during this time have supported and recognized our work of welcoming and accompanying girls, boys, adolescents and families in their processes of finding new life alternatives, overcoming their difficulties, empowering themselves of their dignity as persons, ensuring that their violated rights are recognized and respected to be agents of change in their family and social environment.

Finally, with joy and hope we want to celebrate having your support and continuing to serve many girls, boys, adolescents and families so that they can fulfill their dreams. THANKS WITH ALL MY HEART.

Fraternally,

Ruth Rosero

DIRECTOR
Biography
Sister Maria Augusta Arellano,
DAUGHTER OF JOSE AUGUSTO
ARELLANO BORJA AND VICTORIA
ECHEVERIA MACIAS

Five brothers, I am the last and only girl. I grew up in the Catholic Christian faith. In my childhood, I was very happy. From kindergarten to university, I studied in the city of Guayaquil. At the age of 22, I joined the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, responding to the call that God made me to serve among the poorest. I fell in love with Jesus the Good Shepherd who looks for the lost sheep, who is vulnerable in the midst of ambushes and danger. I am happy to participate in the mission that cries out for the charism of mercy and compassion for those most in need of love, understanding and care.

1. Could you define CENIT in a sentence?
It is a place that welcomes and accompanies processes of dignifying the person.

2. Could you tell us a little about your life before the founding of CENIT?
I worked as a teacher and there I met the Congregation. I worked in the First Year of Basic Education in the mornings, and in the afternoons I was in a project for girls and teenagers with behavioral problems, and also in a situation of prostitution.

3. What is the main mission of CENIT?
Welcoming with love and tenderness, accompanying with goodness and firmness, the process of empowering people, restoring their rights and defending their dignity.

4. Who is the center for?
Girls, boys, and teens who are vulnerable in work out on the streets.

5. How was the founding process of CENIT?
We started in September 1987. An article was published in the newspaper that said "street girls". I was very impressed by this article, as before the boys were visualized, but it was not so abruptly seen the girls on the main streets of the city. This situation caught my attention and came to my heart as a consecrated woman. It was a challenge and a call to this complex reality. The markets of Iñaquito, Tejar, Chiriyacu-Camal and La Marín were addressed. And the first day that the sale of the house where the entrance of CENIT is located, we spoke with the owner and we managed to buy it. Since then we have been expanding with the help of foreign institutions.

6. Could you tell us an experience you have had with CENIT that has marked you in your life?
Many, but especially that of a crying girl who told me, "My mom wakes me up at 3 in the morning, bathes me in cold water and we go out to work." She and her family were selling garlic onions, although the girl was bathed to go to school, the smell of her product remained anyway. "When I go to school, Hermanita, the girls run, walk away from me and say, 'Here comes the garlic girl.'" From then, Manuela could no longer go to school.

7. What is your life motto?
"Nothing is impossible to love," Saint Mary Euphrasia

8. Do you consider that the contribution of volunteers is necessary? Why?
From the beginning, with the work we did, volunteers were the ones who helped us unconditionally, kids from the neighborhood who generously helped us. The first volunteer institution that helped us was the Peace Corps and then we had the volunteer Antonia, who she stated that she fell in love with CENIT. She had come to do her...
degree in public health, so with her help we were able to create the health area at CENIT, which is now known as nursing.

Without the volunteers it was very difficult to meet all the needs.

9. As Quito residents, as citizens, as human beings, how can we contribute satisfactorily with CENIT?

I think that as people, as humans, we have that sensitivity to the situation of other people, especially those who suffer the most: girls, boys. They are called to collaborate with the country, with the city, but to know the reality first. I think they should commit as volunteers or partners who really want children to have better living conditions. Raise awareness in society and demand from the government the commitment that girls and boys are from the country and the government is obliged to meet their needs.

10. CENIT celebrates 30 years of its foundation. During this time, have all the objectives that have been set been met? Is something missing to do?

Through the intervention and the work done, the goal and objectives have been met. But there will always be a lot to do, new realities will be presented. As long as there is poverty, there will be the liberation of rights and high risks for girls, boys and adolescents who are on the street, then where there is a girl, a young woman, a woman, a mother violated there will be CENIT.

“Nothing is impossible to love.”

Saint Mary Euphrasia
CENIT’S HISTORY

CENIT is part of the Congregation of Sisters of Charity of the Good Shepherd, who came to Ecuador in 1871 from Canada. They direct social, educational, and missionary works. The Apostolate is addressed to any person marginalized by society who lives in situations of risk or difficulty. Its Mission is fundamentally oriented towards Women and its Spirituality based on Jesus the Good Shepherd.

In August 1987, an article appeared in a Quito newspaper, reporting the presence of a large number of girls who were working on the streets and in the markets. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd decided to respond to this problem with the so-called "Street Girls Project."

After a year of hard work in the investigation of child labor on the streets, markets and parks of the city of Quito, the MOBUPAS Group (Movement of Good Shepherd Volunteers), through day and night tours, it was verified that 70% were working girls from the southern sector of the city of Quito, from such barrios as: El Camal, Ferroviaria Alta y Baja, La Forestal, Lucha de los Pobres, among others. The girls' families were migrants from the provinces of Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, and Imbabura.

Initially, to help the girls and boys, a place was rented near the Chiriyacu-Camal Market, where they were attended by young volunteers and one or two nuns, with the leadership of Sister María Augusta Arellano, who encouraged and lifted the spirits of the volunteers.

In 1989, other poverty-based problems of children were identified, such as malnutrition. For this new challenge, help from SUPERMAXI providers is obtained with the Its Change for Change Program, achieving, to some extent, an improvement of the health care and nutrition of children and families.

Thanks to several Benefactors such as the Church of Munich, the Netherlands and Germany, Sr. General María Gema Cadena and Sisters from other provinces, the property of an adobe hut is acquired, which is demolished to construct 3 classrooms.

In 1991, the Resolution of the Directorate for the Protection of Minors was obtained with the name of Center of the Girl Worker-CENIT as a comprehensive care center with an Educational Proposal guided by the Pedagogy of Saint Mary Euphrasia, and with Programs and Departments.

In 2016, foreign organizations that recognize our work mentioned that the name gives rise to ideas that CENIT promotes child labor. Thus, analyzing the Comprehensive Proposal of our Center, it is decided to change to the Comprehensive Center for Children and Adolescents.
At present, CENIT continues as a non-profit organization, with its Programs and Departments. It is necessary to recognize that the Benefactors, national and foreign donors and volunteers, the public and private institutions are a fundamental pillar to fulfill the objectives of eradication of child labor. Likewise, volunteers complement the work of the staff, with their human, professional and contribution contingent with financial resources. They feel the reality of the children, they are sensitized to child labor and they maintain a commitment of support from their countries of origin.

**CENIT TIME LINE**

- 1987
  “Street Girls” Project

- 1987-1989
  The Project begins in 3 stages

- October 1989
  Move to Chiriyacu Market

- 1991-1996
  20 April 1991 “CENIT” Center of the Girl Worker is inaugurated

- 20 April 1990
  With economic help from the French Catholic Relief, the property is bought

- 2016
  Comprehensive Center for Children and Adolescents “CENIT”

We invite you to our virtual events
OUR INCLUSIVE SCHOOL

by Ronny García

Our school currently serves girls and boys at the middle and upper levels, helping boys and girls and adolescents to continue within the school system and making the respective curricular adaptations due to the characteristics of their school lag.

We, a humane and committed contingent formed by eight teachers, develop the respective pedagogical guides whose purpose is at the end of the unit to present school projects to demonstrate the work of students. Pedagogical reinforcements are carried out in all areas in order to consolidate the contents elaborated and worked on during the class period. We also seek to strengthen habits, values and learning worked on in the teaching-learning stage while children and adolescents are in our school.

Due to the health emergency, we continue to work virtually through video calls on the zoom platform, as a precaution to the health of all students. For children who do not have the current technological means, they are accompanied by individual calls, delivery of folders with tasks for every 15 days and home visits by Social Work. This is a great challenge that we are taking on very responsibly, as the goal of the school is to prevent dropping out of school and for our students to complete their learning process.
Hi! We are the School Support Center (CEA). We continue to provide our children with school reinforcement. Through games and activities, we seek to develop the key competencies necessary for a good foundation in certain subjects. We also give directed assignments, to help them perform their more difficult assignments sent by teachers from schools. Also, we offer recreation spaces, games and playful workshops with which the boys and girls learn to integrate and function in a better way within the group, and even developing new artistic skills.

We accompany each of the families of the CEA children to learn about the reality and the situation they are going through, and even more so during the pandemic, in order to look for forms of support for them.

Despite the pandemic, we continue to assist and provide the necessary help to our children virtually through digital platforms, with recreational and playful workshops where the creativity of each of the children is encouraged. In case they do not have internet service and their family situation is difficult, we allow the child to attend CEA to help them personally with their tasks and the aforementioned workshops. To support us and our children, we have volunteers who are ready to help in the activities that are relevant. Thanks to their assistance, we have better coped with the work with the children in a virtual way.

The children and their families feel welcomed and grateful for the help received, because in these critical moments we have all been strengthened, have learned and have grown. In the same way, we thank you for allowing us to accompany you and trust in our work.
The young students are studying with certain difficulties due to the Health Emergency, which as a result also caused the dropout of many students. At first they received classes with the Classroom application, did not help much. By order of the Board of Defense of the Craftsman that has regulated this Center in recent years, they were receiving classes in person, even though recently classes were suspended due to COVID resurgence in the city and country, and thus new restrictions from the authorities.
STEP BY STEP WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
by Benjamin Pinto

The Biopsychosocial Team continues to work directly in the streets, with permanent support for children, adolescents and their families working in the intervention sector. The regular tours allow us to identify new cases of children working in the area; and educators can establish emotional bonds between children and families. The daily greeting becomes part of their daily lives with which our educators are gaining the trust, affection and of course, the hearts of children and families with whom we work. We are sure that only the person who feels loved is open to the teachings of his/her educator.

Linking actions with the School Support Center (CEA), the Euphrasia Pelletier School and the Student Counseling Department, we can establish a process of school reintegration, empathy and communication with children and families to obtain relevant information according to the family and personal context of family members. Home visits allow the technical team to know in depth the realities of the families. These visits are carried out jointly by the social worker and the social promoter who establish the actions to follow through a comprehensive care plan that is evaluated every three months.

We are also strengthening community acting with the leaders, neighborhood leaders and trade associations with whom we have established joint actions of cultural rescue, human training with workshops and the proper use of their free time. These are some of the ways how the family club is helping to deal with problems of alcoholism and dance therapy, and these activities have been very well received in the Chiriyacu market.

Our educational action is strengthened with psycho-pedagogical attention, which uses a process of accompanying children who present important problems, so they may follow the school rhythm of the class. In this space, individualized attention is provided through the psychological interview and the application of test. With the information of these instruments, we can draw conclusions regarding their personal problems, their ability to concentrate and work, their school performance in which we reinforce curricular contents, school follow-up, delivery and agreements for the fulfillment of school tasks that allow the children and adolescents with whom we work to overcome the school lag they present.

We are based on respect for human rights and in the light of Jesus the Good Shepherd, who accompanies the lives of our families for which we have created spaces for recreation and social development; within the framework of rights, providing training and information spaces for the generation of new businesses or strengthening of their already established businesses with the injection of fresh capital allowing with them the economic independence of women, participation and empowerment in the family economy.
CENIT wants to thank the national and international organizations that accompany us in our mission to Eradicate Child Labor.

Would you like to join us in Eradicating Child Labor?

Be a volunteer or donate to CENIT!

Contact us through OMPRAKASH or directly.
“A person is worth more than the whole world.”

Saint Mary Euphrasia