

25 October 2026

For the past seven days, our team of thirteen from Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, has been in Ecuador under the guidance and care of FEDICE. Our task was to work side by side with the community at the San Pedro Child Development Center in Pijal—transforming the center into a safe, welcoming place for children to thrive.

We are pleased to report that our work is complete. Together, we painted retaining walls, multiple classrooms, bathrooms, and an inviting mural along the facility's exterior border. We also restored a vegetable garden and installed new doors.

For some of us, this was our first visit. For others, one visit of many. But without fail, each member of our team returns home with a newfound respect for the kindness and generosity of the people of Ecuador.

Across my visits, I've noticed a striking paradox between our two cultures: For what we have in material wealth in the US, we often lack a strong sense of community. For what the people of Ecuador lack in material wealth, their sense of community exists with ample supply. Stepping into this paradox firsthand, we feel drawn into an infectious, overflowing joy. Our bodies begin to crave community like nutrition for the soul.

As the Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians regarding the church, all parts of the body are "of equal concern." Not one is superior to the other, and if one part suffers, all parts suffer with it.

When we apply this same principle to the paradox we face, we begin to understand our craving, and a path toward reciprocity emerges. For what we offer of our time and resources to the people of Ecuador, we receive in fellowship. For what the people of Ecuador receive in physical support, they return in fellowship. To give and to receive—two equal parts, holding equal concern for one another. To work with FEDICE, to serve alongside the people of Ecuador, ceases to be simple charity; it becomes communion. And through it, we are all drawn closer to the body of Christ.

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