

NEWS *from* CEBU

- FULFILLING NEW DREAMS at CSC's Teen Home -

Adoption is at the heart of CSC's ministry. We spend a lot of time celebrating the placement of our children into adoptive families, and much of our program in Cebu involves preparing them for adoption.

But adoption does not happen for all our children. Some have

significant health, behavioral or developmental issues that prevent them from being placed. Some age out of adoption while at CSC, or have siblings who are difficult to place into adoptive homes. For these children, CSC becomes their family, and our goals change from preparing them for adoption to helping them "re-enter" Philippine society. In 2002 we established the Wally Johnson Teen Home to serve young adults who will make that transition.

Adoption does not happen for all our children. CSC becomes their family, and our goal becomes helping them "re-enter" Philippine society.

colleges and vocational programs as they prepare for adult life in Cebu City. They are independent in getting around the city and have freedoms and responsibilities that children in the shelter do not experience. For these young adults it is often a difficult time emotionally, as they realize that their dream of joining an adoptive family will not come true,

and they shift their focus to being productive members of Philippine society, finding jobs and long-term relationships that will help shape and enrich their lives.

Undoy and Edith Ayop, our Teen Home house parents, assist these young adults in this transition. Residents attend local high schools,

Arleen came to live at CSC when she was five years old. Her mother had just died, leaving her an orphan. Arleen is blind

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I have this memory of Sandy Swanson from early in my time at CSC. She was driving the two of us somewhere in Cebu City when I realized I was doing a running verbal diary of what we were passing, and peppering her with questions as we went.

I stopped, apologized and said, “You must get sick of hearing the same questions and observations from all the visitors you host.” Her reply couldn’t have been more gracious. She said, “I like hearing these things. When you live and work here long enough you forget what stood out in the beginning.”

She didn’t make me feel stupid. She didn’t make me feel tolerated. She made me feel valued with a genuine reply and unspoken invitation to keep taking it all in.

Sandy is retiring this year. Moving home to Minnesota in 2015 has been in her plans for several years, and her current term in Cebu winds down this summer. We’ve known retirement is coming, but this is the first we’re announcing it more broadly. We will feature our friend Sandy in the summer newsletter.

On August 8, we are throwing a special party in Cebu to celebrate Sandy’s career of loving service. The event is the same day as Joemar’s birthday. It’s perfect. Our world-class Joemar gets to celebrate his big day with his favorite person in the world.



Auntie Sandy and her buddy Joemar

Over 900 kids have known the love of Auntie Sandy, and hundreds—maybe thousands—more of us have known it, too. What a gift of God Sandy has been. She has stood out at CSC since the beginning. ■

FULFILLING NEW DREAMS *continued from page 1*

and was never adopted, so the Teen Home has been a very important part of her life. She has learned Braille, developed her musical talent and has been studying to become a music teacher to blind students in Cebu City. **Though Arleen’s education has been difficult, and though she has often been the only blind student in the school, she persevered toward her life goals, with the help of the Teen Home house parents, the CSC social workers and the whole staff.**

But CSC is more than just a team of professionals providing help and direction. We are Arleen’s emotional and spiritual

support, shoulders of love, comfort and encouragement. And though she will eventually move out of the Teen Home, we will continue to provide an extended family of love in her life. She will be invited to attend birthday parties, holidays and other special events. She will sing for the staff and visitors, and will attend church with the house parents and her friends in the Teen Home.

Although Arleen and the other Teen Home residents will never leave us to join families, they will experience adoption, nonetheless. First, they have been introduced

to a Heavenly Father who has adopted them into His family, as loved children of God. And they all are adopted into the CSC family, where they will continue to experience love, instruction, acceptance and support, no matter where their life’s journeys take them. ■



-THE NEXT GENERATION

Who comes to mind when you think of the Children's Shelter of Cebu? Maybe it's a child who was adopted, a foster friend you support or the person who introduced you to the ministry. For many people, the first face they see is one of the missionaries who went to Cebu get this work off the ground. For good reason! We wouldn't be here today without them.

There are many others who serve CSC as leaders and as ambassadors from the U.S. Some have traveled to Cebu and have helped move CSC forward, with feet primarily in Cebu, but also in the States at times. They have encouraged us for the future.



Amy Pacada (formerly Amy Luck) serves both as preschool teacher and an associate in Child Development. In 2012, she married **Marcel Pacada**, and they have been in the States this past year. They will return to Cebu with their new baby girl, Emily, and Marcel will be joining our human resources team.



Joel and Jinkee Reasoner also met in Cebu, and started at CSC around the same time in 2007. Jinkee was (and is) our lead Physical/Occupational Therapist, and Joel was working in communications when they met. They were married in 2011. Joel has recently moved into the lead human resources role, and they too have a new baby, Ethan.



Lindsay Hoeft Abong joined our Child Development team in 2011 with a master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. She also met her husband at CSC (we must be good matchmakers!). **Marwin Abong** serves in our Physical Therapy Department, and they were married in 2014.



Grace Anderson started in Cebu in August of last year as a member of the Child Development team. She has helped develop the toddler program and facilitate the many adoption reports needed for our youngest residents.



Peter and Megan Arneson just started at CSC in December. Megan has a master's in Social Work and has jumped into that critical CSC department. Peter is working in Marketing and Human Resources, and has been instrumental in creating a new personnel manual.



Amanda Kliora is not quite "ours" yet, but she will be in June! Amanda will graduate from Bethel University in May as a licensed teacher. She comes to us with excellent recommendations and a heart for missions. She has just begun raising support for her career with us in Cebu.

Look at all these faces. We see lots of reasons to be encouraged for the future of CSC!

CSC LEADER HIGHLIGHT

Jerry Salgo

CSC has over a hundred employees. For the ministry to run smoothly, many different tasks must be completed every day, from washing clothes to cooking, cleaning, teaching, providing health care, doing case management, paying bills, driving, gardening, guarding, doing therapy and caring for the children in the homes. Some jobs entail providing direct services to the children, while others are more supportive. All are essential to the success of CSC.

Jerry doesn't teach, counsel or feed the children, but his work affects them in significant ways on a daily basis. Jerry is our Director of Maintenance and Transportation, overseeing the

work of keeping our buildings and grounds in good shape and our vehicles running smoothly. In these capacities, Jerry supervises our maintenance personnel and guards. In all, 15 people report directly to him. He is a talented manager, a handyman, a trouble shooter and a gifted engineer who can always come up with answers to the problems he faces from day to day. His work has a lot to do with the safety and well-being of our children.

In a given day Jerry might have to fix one of our diesel generators, handle a security issue reported by one of our guards, bring a jeep to the repair shop, have a meeting with our groundskeepers about the upkeep of our yards, or fix an appliance. He keeps track of things that need fixing in the houses, settles any disputes we might have with neighbors, and negotiates with outside vendors and workers for needed materials and labor.

Though some of his work is administrative, he can often be seen with a wrench or shovel in his hands, or climbing a ladder to get a job done.

Before starting at CSC, Jerry worked for a construction company in Cebu. He also worked in Cambodia for a couple years as an engineer. Jerry has been at CSC for 18 years. He lives in Bulacao with his wife Shirley and their four children. He is a devoted Christian and a leader in his church. **He enjoys biking and usually pedals the eight miles to work and back, fighting the heat, humidity and traffic.** He has a ready smile and a great sense of humor, and is highly respected by the children, staff and workers, as well as in the community around CSC.

Jerry's job is one of the most crucial at CSC, and we are thankful to God for leading him to us and for his devotion to the children and the ministry. ■

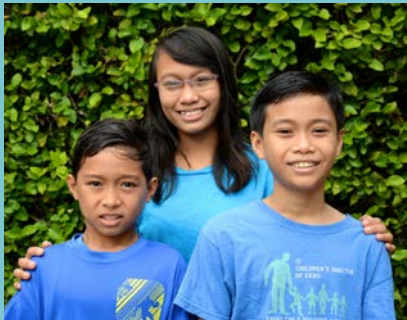


PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES ↓

REQUESTS

Please pray for hiring decisions at the Children of Hope School as we anticipate some transition with our long-term teachers. Pray also for incoming teacher Amanda Klora who is beginning to raise money so she can serve in Cebu.

Please pray for the adoption process in the Philippines. Especially that politics, bureaucracy and paperwork would not get in the way of families uniting.



Pray for Pretchy, Edward and Jaime. They're a sibling group that we love having at CSC, but sometimes wonder, "how haven't they been placed with a family yet?" Please pray a great one would come forward.

PRAISES



Thanks be to God for the healing of sick kids in Cebu, especially a scary respiratory issue with Janice D.

We praise God for our donors. One donor gives us \$2 in the mail almost every month. Some write checks for tens of thousands of dollars. They are all honoring God's call to care for the orphan.

So many of our former residents are doing well, and starting their own families. We praise God for the generational changes we witness!

Please join us for the **CSC** *Annual Banquet Celebration*

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015
6pm at
Bethel University

Register on our website
www.cscshelter.org
or call the US office at
651.493.1551

This year's theme:
"Friends"



Can't Attend, But Still Want to Participate?

On Saturday, April 18, hundreds will gather in Minnesota to celebrate the work in Cebu and raise money to continue the work. If you are unable to attend the banquet, you can still join in! You can donate to the banquet offering that will be counted that night. Just write "banquet offering" on the memo of the check or in the comment section of your online donation. Because of friends like you, CSC is able to offer a home to children in need.

-KIDS' KORNER

Arrivals...



Juliet

We have admitted four girls in the last few months. Often only one third of our population is girls, but at the moment of the 91 kids in our four homes, 42 are girls and 49 are boys. The girls are making a comeback!

In mid-November all four of these beautiful girls arrived on the same day.

The Duterte Home welcomed 7-year-old **JULIET**. She had been living in a government children's home for nearly a year after being removed from her birth family because of abuse. Juliet is a beautiful little lady who seemed to fit right in at CSC. She is still a little shy, but she smiles a lot. Juliet has made friends and is showing good progress at learning to trust us. She loves going to school and is already learning to read. She is looking forward to celebrating her birthday with us! She has to wait for July for that to happen, though.

Our Cherne Home welcomed sisters **ANALISA (12)** and **JEMARIE (10)**. Analisa celebrated her 12th birthday just a few hours after being released from our Infirmary, where she had spent her first couple of days. This was a bit overwhelming for her, but it was memorable! She was quick to tell us that she would not wear the dress she was given (and she has stuck with that), but she did enjoy her other gifts. Analisa is still learning to trust us, asks many questions and at

times seems to be testing us. She has not had opportunity to be around adults who are fully trustworthy, so we understand her hesitancy. Jemarie is also testing us, but she is a little more silly about it. She thinks it's funny to tell us that she won't obey!

These sisters have spent the majority of their lives in a home for children that was recently closed by the government. They have some good memories, but some of their stories help us understand why the home was closed. Both Analisa and Jemarie can be painfully shy at times but loud and outgoing at other times. We are looking forward to getting to know these sisters better as they become more comfortable with us.

Our Eicher Home was happy to welcome **SHEENA MAE**, who celebrated her 10th birthday with us in January. Sheena Mae is a happy and confident young lady. She has recently become a Christian and is taking that decision seriously. She came from the same home for children as Analisa and Jemarie but seems to have had a better experience there. Sheena Mae is active and playful on the playground. She has already showed signs of bonding with her house parents and with a few other adults. Sheena Mae loves the challenge of school and is already making good progress there.



Analisa



Jemarie



Sheena Mae

- Sandy Swanson, Child Development Director

Departures...

SHEAN (3) has been with her adoptive family in the Netherlands for a couple months.

JOHN PAUL spent all but six days of his life with us. He was able to celebrate his 2nd birthday with his adoptive family here in Cebu! John Paul is now home with his very happy adoptive parents in Canada.

Siblings **JENNIFER (9)** and **JOHN KEVIN (2 YEARS 10 MONTHS)** spent over a year and a half with us. They are now happily (in Jennifer's case) and not so happily (in John Kevin's case) playing in the snow with their new family in the USA.

Sisters **JAMICAH NICOLE (4)** and **SARAH GRACE (2 YEARS 7 MONTHS)** have also recently joined their new parents in Canada. These darling sisters spent 2 1/2 years with us—all but one month of little Sarah's life.

We are happy to announce that our guy **ANDREW (9)** will soon be joining his new adoptive family in the USA. It has been fun to see him progress over the last two years. We are so excited for his future and the new possibilities it holds for him!

Sisters **SALLY (10)** and **LERMA (7)** recently learned that they have a mom and dad waiting for them in the USA as well! What an honor and privilege it is to tell these kids that their prayers for an adoptive family have been answered!

Please pray for these six children who have recently left us, as well as Andrew, Sally and Lerma, who are waiting for their adoptive parents to come. These adoptions are direct answers to their own, and others', prayers for a family. But we know that adoption is a big adjustment that happens pretty abruptly and is not always easy.

Shean
↪



John Paul
↪



Jennifer
and John
Kevin
↪



Jamimah Nicole
and Sarah Grace
↪

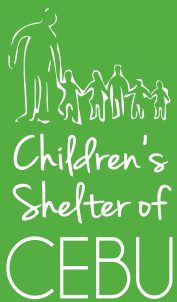


Andrew
↪



Sally and Lerma
↪





P.O. Box 247
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Cebu Address:
Box 178, Cebu City
6000 Philippines

Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada:
P.O. Box 141
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT

for Children's Shelter of Cebu

- Joel Reasoner

The Habitat for Humanity (HFH) project for Children's Shelter of Cebu (CSC) took a big leap forward in January. **HFH purchased a great piece of land on which at least 70 homes can be built!**

As people were arriving for the groundbreaking ceremony on January 22, I walked to the corner of the plot of land to snap a few pictures. I was in awe of God's hand throughout this project. The land where I stood was flat and easy to build on, closer to the shelter than any other lot we could consider, and near schools, markets and the main road.

As I stood there, I watched aunties, uncles, guards and house parents lay eyes on this land for the first time—the site

of their future homes. Their joy was overflowing.

The ceremony was wonderful. A local pastor and a priest prayed for the project. Key people for CSC, HFH, and the local government gave speeches. Several CSC children sang songs of praise. And of course the ground was broken. The part of the ceremony that made it so special was the presence of 30 potential homeowners.

If all goes as planned, we will have aunties and uncles moving into homes as early as the end of this year. Please pray with us for the many details and pieces that need to come together for this to happen. ■

