

NEWS FROM CEBU

—TOGETHER AGAIN—

by Paul Healy, Field Director

We are sibling-group experts at CSC! At any given time, 60-75% of our children are siblings. In fact, we are one of the only agencies in the Philippines that will accept large sibling groups. Over the years we have cared for sibling groups of up to nine, offering them a chance to live together and to be placed for adoption in the same family.

The recent reunion of three siblings in our Duterte Home was, in the words of CSC's founder, Marlys Healy, "one of the most amazing experiences I have had in 37 years at CSC."

The story begins back in June of last year when we took in a brother and sister. They had been living with their grandmother in the city dumpsite. There are six children in the family, but they

were scattered among various relatives. The mother had the youngest child with her, but their whereabouts were not known to the rest of the family. Things were not going well in the family, and

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they needed CSC very much. The girl, Princess, almost six years old, needed surgery on her mouth and palate and will need extensive speech therapy for years to come. Her nine-year-old brother, Jerald, had been living with an uncle on another island. He loved his grandma but did not want to go back to living in the dumpsite. He was so happy to come to live at CSC with his younger sister.

The two kids have been thriving at CSC. Princess's surgery went well, and they both have been making

good progress in school and in the Duterte Home. At Christmastime we went to the dumpsite to visit the grandma and deliver some gifts that were purchased with donations from the CSC children

themselves. The kids were so happy to see their grandma and tell her about their lives at CSC. Jerald is a big-hearted boy who loves his family very much. He is a

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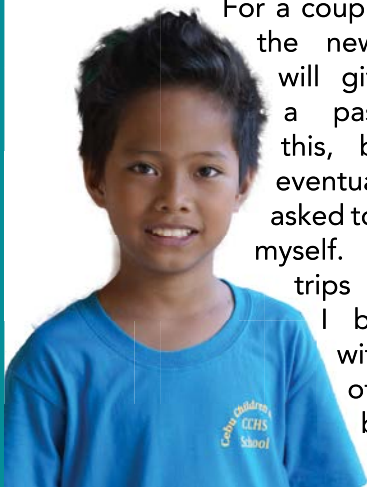
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Just a THOUGHT...

-Matt Buley, President

When I land in Cebu, I know I have one job on the trip that outranks all others. It will never show up in a board report or an employee review, but I absolutely must remember the names of our kids. Most of them will greet me with "Hi Uncle Matt, what's my name?"



For a couple days the new kids will give me a pass on this, but I'll eventually be asked to prove myself. A few trips ago, I blew it with one of our boys. I was

hanging out in the Eicher Home that he calls his own and had to confess I didn't remember his name. "It's okay, I'm Edgardo" he said in a sweet voice. I loved Edgardo from that moment. At six, he could have taught seminars on how to respond when someone forgets your name.

Edgardo has another habit that deserves duplication. When caregivers end their shifts and head home for the day, Edgardo makes it a point to say goodbye. At times, he's known to point out how appreciative he is of their work. We have a lot of amazing kids at CSC, but it isn't common to hear them saying, "Have a good evening and thanks for your work!" Sweet Edgardo thinks of it though.

There are a lot of privileges that come with the territory of working at CSC. It's a privilege to have people support the work to the tune of almost \$2million per year. **It's a privilege to stand on the shoulders of those who have done the work for decades. And, it's a privilege to go to work each day for an area of mission that God calls "pure and faultless."**

It's also a privilege to know these kids. They are smart and silly, thoughtful and caring. They have been hurt, but they can be incredibly kind and are so loved at CSC. Thank you for loving them with us and for caring enough about us to read what's happening in Cebu. You can be sure Edgardo thanks you, too. ■

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2016 RESULTS

- 2016 Budget: \$1,960,000
- 2016 Actual Income: \$1,958,878.
- December Income: \$533,000. December 2016 was the largest income month in CSC's history. Once again our donors stepped up to keep our work going strong.
- The 2016 audit was just completed and will be presented to the Board in March. We view our commitment to financial integrity as part of our call to honor Christ.

2017 GOALS

- 2017 Budget: \$1,960,000. You read that correctly; after all the wrestling and work it takes to create our budget, it didn't change this year. We feel good about the shifting of expenses.
- We need to expand giving to special projects and have broken out the budget so those who are interested can give to specific program areas more easily.
- Expansion of child sponsorship and staff support on newly redesigned website.

great big brother to Princess and always knows where she is and what she is up to. He comforts her when she is sad and intervenes in any disputes that she might have with the other kids. Emotionally,

was heartbroken when he was brought to CSC, crying for his grandma. He was inconsolable for several hours after she left. When Jerald got home from school and learned that his brother

needed to stay in the infirmary for a while, his siblings went to visit him whenever they were allowed to do so, and each time was the same celebration of love and renewed hope and togetherness.

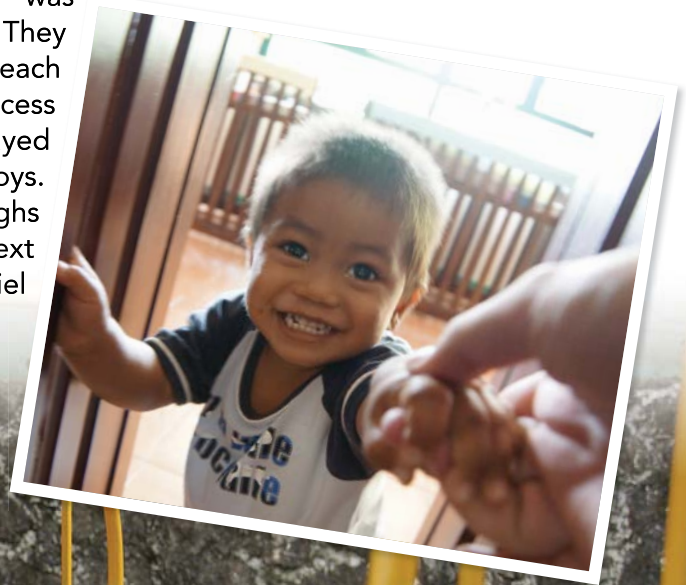
When Jerald saw his brother, he wrapped him in his arms and kissed him. Daniel's crying stopped and was replaced by a big smile.

he is like a sponge, soaking up any attention and affection that he can get from the adults in his life.

A few weeks ago it became necessary for us to take in Josef Daniel (Daniel), the younger brother of Jerald and Princess who had previously been with their mother. **There are no words to explain how happy this development was for Jerald.** Daniel, two years old,

was upstairs in the infirmary, he dashed up there. When he saw his brother, he wrapped him in his arms and kissed him. Daniel's crying stopped and was replaced by a big smile. They couldn't stop hugging each other. Later, when Princess joined them, they played together on the riding toys. Their smiles and laughs were constant for the next few hours. Although Daniel

CSC is a place of love, quality medical care, good food and safety. And, unexpectedly sweet reunions. ■



—EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT: *Season of Change*—

For decades, CSC was immune to significant staff turnover. For a variety of reasons, few people left. As we enter our 38th year, it's natural to see more turnover happening. **Mitch and Ruth Ohlendorf** are no longer on staff as of October 2016. We are

all we have said goodbye or will shortly bid farewell to people representing almost 135 years of experience at CSC!

But as He has done throughout our history, God is providing people to help lead this ministry. Some are new to CSC while others

business office for 15 years. Recently she was promoted to Financial Director, where she will be involved in managing our financial office, working with the auditors and creating financial statements for the ministry. In 2017, **Ben Bonnett** will return to

In a season of change we find strength in knowing that your gifts and prayers will continue to sustain the efforts of our staff here in Cebu, putting the tools in our hands to accomplish the work that God has called us all to do.

thankful for their years of committed service. A few weeks from now, **Shari Reasoner**, Education

have been promoted to new positions of responsibility within the organization. We have been making a concerted effort to place more Filipinos in positions of leadership in recent months. **Klaris Cabansal** is our Social Work Director, a new position at CSC. She supervises our social workers, serves as our liaison with government agencies, edits social case study reports and is involved in the adoptive placement of our children.

Under her leadership we will be making some significant changes in our Outreach and Teen Home programs. **Jake Schulz**, our Deputy Field Director, moved from Wisconsin to Cebu with his family last September to help with the administration of CSC and to assist in charting a course to the future that will result in a stronger and more efficient ministry. His background and abilities in corporate leadership and Human Resource management are great assets in these days of transition. **Geraldine "Ging" Asilom** has been an employee in our



our staff after 10 years to take over the Education Director role. We are thrilled to have Ben and his wife, Mari, coming back to Cebu with their children. Ben brings a wealth of education and experience to the role.

But the changes around CSC are not just about personnel transitions. We will soon be launching a Human Resources



Director, will be retiring from her work at our Children of Hope School. Our school came a long way under her leadership. Our dynamo social worker, **Carmelita Baya**, who has been with CSC since 1985, retired in mid-December. And a few of our Filipino child care workers have opted for retirement. All in



department, which will allow us to do a better job of managing our 125 employees. We have made some physical changes to our Cebu office and are redefining the position of our department heads.

Change has been happening in significant ways over the years of CSC's ministry. Many of the original staff members are no longer around. We have bigger and better facilities, and the quality of the care we offer our children has improved greatly. In spite of all these changes, the ministry of CSC remains the same. We are still caring for homeless children, providing residential care and education to orphaned, abandoned and neglected children who have no place else to go.

Another thing that remains the same is our dependence on our faithful and generous supporters to keep the ministry going. In a season of change we find strength in knowing that your gifts and prayers will continue to sustain the efforts of our staff here in Cebu, putting the tools in our hands to accomplish the work that God has called us all to do. ■



PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

PRAISES

- We thank God for the sacrifices of the staff who are now retiring or moving on to new ventures. God has been good to many children through them.
- We praise God for the amazing giving of 2016! We are deeply thankful to those who act on God's call to the orphan and give. So far, 2017 is off to a good start financially.
- We are thrilled to see our retention of teachers for the 2017-18 school year is strong. This makes a big difference in our unique setting.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- We have a few boys struggling at the shelter with behavior. We know that their struggles are rooted in the hurt they have experienced. Please pray with us that they will get to a healthier place.
- We ask for prayer for our referral team. There are times children in need are not admitted. These are the hardest decisions we make, and we ask for wisdom and clear direction.
- Please pray for our open positions: Counselor, Child Development Associate and Program Director. We ask God to raise up workers for the harvest.

-KIDS' KORNER-

New to CSC:

HUGH

Hugh joined the Duterte Home in November when he was just five (5) days old. His mother decided to surrender him before she gave birth at Glory Reborn, a birthing clinic in Cebu City. He has already captured the hearts of the child care workers. With the great care, love, and nourishment at the shelter, he is growing well in his first few months of life. Pray for his continued growth and development.

JHON LLOYD

Jhon Lloyd joined the Eicher Home just before Christmas. He was very excited for Christmas gifts. He has known a lot of hardship, even at his young age of seven. Before coming to CSC, his twin brother died. He is settling into life in the home as well as at school. He started in preschool because he has never attended school before. Pray he will continue to share his great smile with all and adjust to life at CSC.

JOSEF DANIEL

Josef Daniel's (two years old) arrival at CSC was exciting for a couple of reasons. One, he was in a safe place with good food and medical care. And two, he was joining his older brother, Jerald (10), and older sister, Princess Ann (6). All three were really excited to see each other again! Now Jerald and Princess Ann can be found hanging out with the toddlers more, because there are not enough hours in a day to spend together with Josef Daniel. Praise the Lord these three siblings could be reunited.

JULIA ESTHER

Julia Esther is one month old and arrived at Duterte Home quickly, for good reason. She was abandoned in an old dilapidated tricycle (motorcycle with a sidecar). When some concerned citizens found her, they quickly contacted the government. Soon after, she was in CSC's care, safe and sound. God's compassion and care can be seen in the concern of the neighbors where she was found, by the quick action of the government, and CSC's ability to care for her. CSC is humbled to be a part of God's work in Julia's life.

JERA MAE, RAPHAEL, AND ZION BLAKE

Jera Mae (7), Raphael (5), and Zion Blake (a few months old) were surrendered by their mother and are joining Eicher Home. Their mother is deaf and could not provide for them anymore with her small income from doing laundry. The children and their mother had made up their own form of sign language to communicate. The three children are still wide eyed at the vast playground and ample amount of food. Pray for their transition to CSC and also for the understanding of why their mother decided to surrender them.



Hugh

Jhon Lloyd



Josef Daniel



Julia Esther



Jera Mae,
Raphael, &
Zion Blake



Recently Adopted:

OLIVER NIL

Oliver Nil (1) left CSC with his adoptive parents in November. He knew the magnitude of the moment on some level, as all the little ones seem to know. His adoptive parents are from Cebu City, which is a fun treat for CSC. Oliver, now named Nolan, came back to CSC in December because his parents wanted to share his first birthday with the aunties and children at the Duterte Home. First birthdays are a big deal in the Philippines. He has been adjusting well and growing up even in his first few months with his family. Recently, he and his mom came back for another afternoon visit. CSC is so thankful for families who open their home in adoption.

JAMELLA

Jamella (3) just left CSC in January with her adoptive parents, and she is now having fun in England. Everyone at the shelter is excited to hear back from her in a year or two, because she will have a great British accent by then. Other children in the Cherne Home have been practicing. It is always great for the adoptive child and parents to share a few days with each other before leaving the shelter. CSC looks forward to hearing how the Lord uses her adoptive family in her life and how she grows in the Lord.

Oliver Nil →



← Jamella



Save the Date...

Children's Shelter of Cebu

**ANNUAL BANQUET
CELEBRATION**

Saturday, April 22

Register online:

cebushelter.org/banquet

Or, you may join us at our **CANADIAN BANQUET**
Friday, May 12 in Abbotsford, BC
Contact us for more information

NEWS FROM CEBU

Spring 2017 | Volume 39 | Issue 1

NEWS FROM CEBU is published three times annually by Children's Shelter of Cebu, a nonprofit, Christian organization dedicated to providing for the needs of homeless children in Cebu, Philippines.

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CSC NURSERIES

Pick Back Up Again

A unique development in 2016 was that our nurseries became less populated through the year. Children were being adopted, but new children weren't coming in. We had more open cribs at the end of the year than we could remember. This certainly wasn't cause to despair if it meant less need in the community.

The nursery need is beginning to shift in 2017. There have been new admissions, and our referral team has been busy assessing children who need help. Children in desperate situations will be taken in, fed regularly and held often by loving caregivers. Milestones will be celebrated and recorded until adoptive parents arrive to take our children home for good. Because of the faithfulness of this community of support, we will change diapers, make bottles and teach first words. Thank you for making so many good things happen for our littlest residents!

