



NEWS FROM CEBU

— LEARNING THROUGH PLAY —

While this might look to the casual observer like simple playtime, our toddlers are actually hard at work learning important skills. Many of our little ones are developmentally delayed in various areas, so this time is vital for them to gain muscle control, balance, and coordination. Each new skill lets them progress to the next one.

participate in a variety of activities such as climbing or water fun. They are taught to sit on a mat so they are familiar with this when they start preschool. They also do artwork! Each week has a different theme: animals, colors, numbers, things with wheels, etc. This daily playtime is an important—and fun—way that our toddlers learn and grow.

are impressed with how well the toddlers behave and listen. The children sit and listen when given instructions and walk in a nice line when transitioning to the next activity. They are bright kids who understand directions and enjoy doing the activities prepared for them. Our goal each day is to help our toddlers learn while at the same time having fun! ■

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Playing and learning come naturally to our toddlers, especially for our current group of little ones. Eunice and Ann from our Child Development team lead the toddler time each day. They

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— LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS —

Matt Buley, who has been with CSC since 2004, first as US Director and then as President, is leaving CSC to join another ministry. Matt provided strong leadership over the years and will truly be missed.



As my time on staff with the Children's Shelter of Cebu comes to a close, I am humbled and grateful. I have loved my time here and will hold dear many friendships that took root over these years. This work profoundly impacted my wife, Theresa, and me, even before we adopted our four children from CSC!

As we embark on this new adventure, I know full well it is only possible because I stand on the shoulders

of all of you and what we've done together here. I will continue giving financially, praying and cheering for this organization to thrive. I have stood beside the leaders who will shepherd this work into the next era and have great confidence in them.

God bless you, our CSC family.

-Matt

"Uncle Matt!" I can hear the kids in the Duterte Home calling out to Matt as he approached. He is very much loved by all of them, as well as the staff and workers here in Cebu. They all know he has worked hard on their behalf in Minnesota.

It was sad when we told them Matt would be leaving CSC to lead another ministry. They liked playing hoops and joking around on the playground. But helping them cope with his leaving has allowed us to emphasize a couple of things that we always try to teach at CSC: gratitude and the expectation of God's continued

blessing on their lives. We have led them in expressing thanks to Matt and to God for placing him at CSC. And we are encouraging the children to trust God for the future, knowing God is watching out for them and will provide a replacement. Before coming to us their lives were anything but safe and secure. Now they can experience peace and confidence for the future, even as their Uncle Matt transitions to a new ministry.

For our kids and the staff here in Cebu, that peace has already begun. We are happy and thankful that Jill Grasley has taken over Matt's duties on an

interim basis. The kids love her! "Hi Auntie Jill" they called to her when she was just here in July. Matt's legacy of love and care will continue with Jill and with the new President that our board will soon hire.

-Paul



I am honored to be able to fill the role of Interim US Director and to lead the organization through this important transition. Matt has led the Children's Shelter of Cebu with dedication, integrity and compassion. We thank him for his commitment and the important role he played in shaping and guiding the significant development of CSC. We also pray for God's rich blessings on Matt, Theresa and their family in the new work God has called them to.

The Board of Directors is working diligently to find and hire the next CSC President. We look forward with trusting anticipation for the person we know God has in store to fill this vital role and lead CSC into the future. In the meantime, we will continue to serve the CSC children with our qualified, compassionate team. Thank you for being a part of this important work!

-Jill

—HOPE TO TRAGEDY—

Tragedy is a part of life for many of our children. For some, tragic events have already occurred before they are a few years old. For little Jaybee (not her real name), coming to live at CSC was just about the first positive thing that happened in her life.

We were told about Jaybee by her father, who came to the office to seek help for an injury.

He had been in trouble with the law for several years. Our social workers knew him and did their best to help him get the medical attention he needed. He and Jaybee's mom had separated, and he was trying to care for the baby but did not have any stable place to live or money to provide food for her. We agreed to take her in temporarily while her parents could make permanent plans for her.

The next day this young man died tragically. Jaybee's birth mom came to the CSC office to inform us of his death and ask us to keep Jaybee because she had no way to meet her needs. She planned to surrender Jaybee so that she could be adopted.

In cases like this our social workers have lots of counseling to do. They know that decisions about a child's future should not be made hastily during times of crisis. Extended family members need to be consulted. Wounds need to begin healing. Everyone involved in her life needs time to examine and discuss what is in her best interest. CSC stands beside people in crisis to offer temporary or long-term placement for children in need of residential care, and to work for their eventual permanent placement.

Jaybee's life has been affected by tragedy. We cannot change that reality. But we can intervene in a way that offers some peace of mind and a measure of hope for her family, and a safe, loving, and healthy environment where she can live for as long as our services are needed. ■



— NEW THERAPY ROOM —

Several years ago when we were planning for the construction of the Duterte Home, we talked about having a big basement with lots of space for storage, recreation, and office space. In the years since the home was constructed, we have

children. The Center had been housed in our Children of Hope School since 1998. The new space is much bigger and will mean that our children who need wheelchairs will no longer have to be loaded in vans and taken up the bumpy and dusty road

over the years for therapy appointments, was probably the happiest person at the Therapy Center inauguration. He helped cut the ribbon for the dedication ceremony and smiled through the whole program. Second in the smile department was Jinkee

On June 29 the staff, house parents, and older children gathered to inaugurate our new Therapy Center

used it almost entirely for storage, though we did have a maintenance office down there for a couple years. Sometimes we felt like we had a lot of wasted space in our Duterte basement.

No more! On June 29 the staff, house parents, and older children gathered to inaugurate our new Therapy Center, a 516-square-foot facility that will house our therapists' offices and the therapy equipment used by many of our

from their homes to the school. Convenience and comfort make our new facility a great addition to our program. But there is more. The move has freed up space in the school for needed office space. Ben Bonnett, who will be joining our staff as Education Director, will have his office in the former therapy room at CHS.

Jacob, who has lived at CSC since 1986 and has been hauled up to school hundreds of times

Reasoner, who had the idea for the transfer and made it all happen with her vision and planning. Third was Jerry Salgo, our Director of Maintenance, whose team did an excellent job of preparing the new facility for the transfer. **And there were lots more smiles from children, workers, and staff as we sought God's blessing on the new Center and dedicated it to Him and the children it will serve in the years to come. ■**



PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES

PRAISES

- God's provision of new workers, from child care aunts, to additional child development staff, to a new counselor and IT coordinator. All are making solid contributions to the ministry in their areas of service. It truly takes a village to care for the children that come to live with us, and God has given us the villagers that we need to get the job done.
- The generosity of the First Baptist Church of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, for their special gift that paid for preparation and new equipment for the Therapy Center.
- Matt Buley's service to the children and staff of CSC for the past 13 years. May God be with Matt and his family as they take on new challenges and opportunities.
- The Schulz family has been a blessing to the ministry in Cebu. In addition to his duties as Deputy Field Director, Jake has been working with his wife, Pam, and their children in providing activities for our toddlers and a Bible study and recreational fun for our older kids.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Smooth relationships with government agencies in the Philippines that license and regulate our work.
- The Bonnett family as they prepare to go to Cebu. Ben will join our staff as Education Director.
- Klaris Cabansal, our Social Work Director, as she takes over the responsibilities of matching our children for adoption both locally and internationally.
- CSC's income during the summer months, when giving often slumps.



-KIDS' KORNER-

New to CSC:

DIOSWA AND LESTER

Dioswa is five years old and arrived in March at CSC with his three-year-old brother, Lester. Their mother could no longer care for them, and their father has not been around. Recently, they were living with their grandmother in the area of the big fish market in Cebu City. Dioswa and Lester are settling into the Duterte home. There are several other little boys their age in this house, so they had new friends right away.

RYAN

Ryan is ten years old and arrived at CSC in March. Before coming to CSC, he was left alone in his house one day, and his family did not come back. With the help of concerned neighbors, he was able to be admitted to CSC. Ryan started school when he arrived and joined our students for the last month of the school year. He enjoyed Teacher Mae's kindergarten class and when asked about school, his answer always starts with a big smile. When at the shelter, he is usually wearing a helmet and racing around on a bike or scooter. He is settling in at Duterte home and making friends.

DIOMARIE

Diomarie is currently our newest resident. We don't know a lot about him. We are unsure of the spelling of his name, and we were told he was born on Christmas, but we still need to verify that information. He came to CSC with a severe case of scabies, and we do not know how long he has had them. Many of the children that come to the shelter have this itchy mite infestation in their skin, but Diomarie had an intense case of them. We started him with a new treatment regimen and hope to see good results soon.

MARTHON

Marthon is a baby boy. His birth mother is the solo parent of four other children. and she will now be focusing on ways to support herself and her four children left to her care. His mother chose to surrender him to CSC, knowing that what she was doing was in his best interest.



Dioswa

Lester



Ryan



Diomarie



Marthon



Leaving Soon:

EUGENE AND JERALD

Eugene (14) and Jerald (12) have recently found out that they are being adopted and will be joining a family in Michigan! These two brothers are very excited but will now have to wait for the last rounds of paperwork to be completed. As the school year is beginning, they will begin attending an extra class where they will start learning more specific information about the United States and their new home-to-be. These two smart young men will likely soak up whatever information they can get their hands on!



Eugene
Jerald



Mary Grace

MARY GRACE, MARTIN, AND RICKY CHAN

Mary Grace (12), Martin (10), and Ricky Chan (7) were told a little while ago that they will be adopted by a family in Australia. This was tremendous news! They have already "met" their new family on video Skype and are beginning to get to know each other. This can be an awkward but helpful part of the process, as it allows the kids to build up a degree of comfort and familiarity and begin to ask questions of their new family.



Martin



Ricky Chan

SHELANIE

Anyone who's met Shelanie doesn't forget her! When she saw HR Director Eldie recently at the shelter, she yelled across the playground, "Uncle Eldie, I have a mom and dad!" and ran up to him with a radiant smile. It was a great joy to share with Shelanie that she has a family. She was glowing and absolutely thrilled when we told her that her prayers had been answered. Her new parents live in Italy.

Shelanie



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RUBIK'S CUBES

are taking over CSC!

Our kids have been having so much fun with Rubik's Cubes lately! They are popular birthday gifts, and some kids have figured out how to solve them on their own, while others are using printed instructions.

