

# NEWS FROM CEBU

## —A VARIETY OF NEEDS—

*and Opportunities at CSC*

*The* children who come to live at CSC have a wide variety of needs, and we are ready to respond to all of them. Some need major medical interventions like surgery, hospitalization, or physical, occupational or speech therapy. Most need education,

*All of them need to feel safe, secure and valued by everyone who is responsible for their care and well-being.*

either in our Cebu Children of Hope School or through a high school in the community. Some children with special needs require one-on-one care throughout the day or special training outside of CSC. Some need counseling to process through grief and loss from experiences in their

past. Most need a lot of attention, encouragement and love. And all of them need to feel safe, secure and valued by everyone who is responsible for their care and well-being.

Our current group of children includes five who receive one-

on-one care, nine who attend a local high school, seventeen who are receiving help from our therapists, and several who have undergone surgery this year. Fifty receive counseling from our CSC counselors, Eric and Meravic. All of them are a joy to have at

CSC. With a loving, caring God, faithful supporters like you, and a dedicated staff, CSC is able to respond to the varied needs of the children who come to live with us and who need all of us so very much. ■

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# —CSC BASKETBALL—

**Filipinos** love basketball. I mean they really love basketball. This has always struck me as interesting in a country with a national average height of five feet, five inches. Their professional leagues even impose height limits on foreign-born players. True devotion, however, shows up at the amateur level, and the shelter continues this passion. Even Cherne houseparent Tarex sometimes puts on his Celtics jersey and tries to remember his glory days.

Recently one of the CSC boys named Jack had the misfortune of being paired with a visitor who is too old to even remember what glory days were. After several intense minutes on the court I finally had the basics figured out. I also discovered a few more less anticipated game variations, including defense is frowned upon, fouls are called about as often as brakes are used on a Jeepney, passing is discouraged, and most importantly, every player should shoot and shoot often. If in fact you want to touch the ball, it might be wise to have your partner throw it in. It is also apparently considered good form to double and

triple clutch when shooting, even if no one is guarding you.

Eventually the game appeared to end, so I asked Jack what happened. "We lost," he said with the slightest hint of disappointment in his teammate. Tarex and Gabriel were just too much for us. But then Jack flashed that famous Filipino smile that lights up his entire face, and he was off to another game and another partner.

Singular focus is one of the biggest pluses of playground ball. The rest of the world ceases to exist, problems disappear, and all that remains is the pure pleasure of a finely-crafted jump shot from the top of the key.

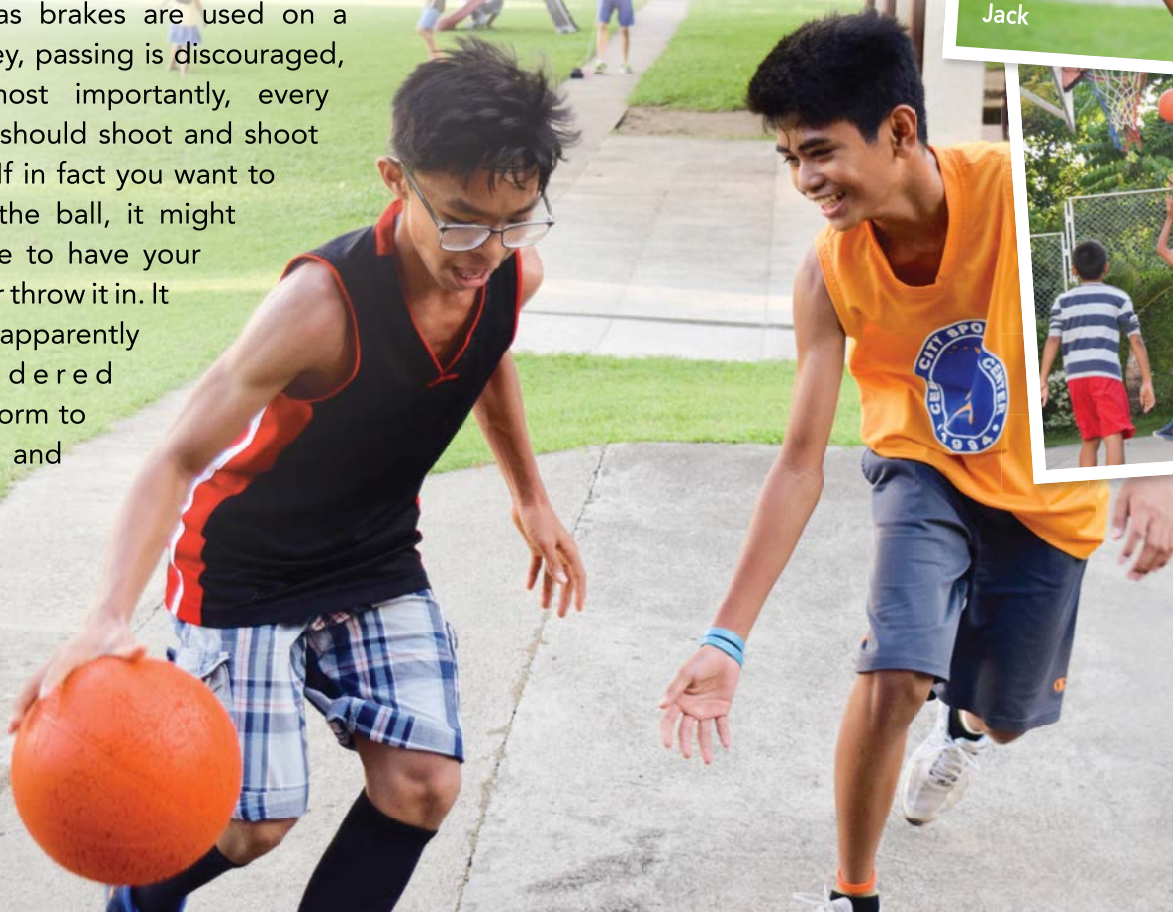
Every child deserves a place where their problems disappear. Every child deserves to have moments of sheer joy. Every child

*by Tim Holmberg, President*

deserves to have a place where they never wonder where their next meal will come from, where they might sleep that night, or how they will care for their siblings. They deserve to have a place they can take for granted—a safe place called home. Thankfully, CSC continues to provide just that place. ■



Jack





# — A GLIMPSE OF GIVING AT CSC —

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions.

## **What is the annual budget for CSC?**

Our annual budget is around 2 million dollars. That covers the cost of running our homes, medical facility, offices in Cebu and the US, and our school. It includes the wages of our 120+ employees (teachers, caregivers, social workers, counselors, laundry helpers, maintenance, security, etc.), medicine and medical care, food, clothing and daily needs of our children.

## **Does CSC meet its budget?**

Most years we do meet budget. A few years ago, we were short by approximately \$20,000, so we cut some of our programming to adjust. In 2017, we ended the year with a surplus for the first time in many years. We moved most of the extra funds into our

endowment fund, named after a former resident, Luke. The goal of the endowment fund is for this account to grow so one day CSC might be able to use the interest off this fund for some of the operating costs.

## **How is my donation used?**

When you give a general gift, it goes to the greatest need. This usually means to feed the children or to pay our employees to care for the children. You can always designate a gift to a specific area, and we will allocate it as you wish!

## **How does CSC raise funds?**

To put it simply, we exist because of donors like you! 75% of our income comes from individuals. 6% comes from churches. The remaining 19% comes from a variety of sources, including foundations, businesses or other groups or events.

## **How much of our donation goes to care for the children?**

85%-87% of every donation goes to directly care for the children. (The average non-profit only uses 64% of donations directly towards their program.)

CSC does not use outside fundraisers and never gives out or sells donor information. You can rest assured that a donation of any amount to the Children's Shelter of Cebu will be used to impact the life of a child in need. Thank you for your role in this important work! ■



# — A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD TREASURER —

Kirby Stoll



CSC received a 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator for the seventh year in a row, and the news was a delight to receive. We as a board of directors have become accustomed to this acknowledgement over the past years. So, while it's not quite a surprise that CSC remains in the top 5% of charities rated by Charity Navigators, to me, this speaks to the matter of TRUST. I trust CSC's leadership and especially its staff, both here in Minnesota and in Cebu. Everyone in the organization is a trustworthy steward of the financial and human resources available to them. And the mission of CSC remains solidly committed to serving the children of the Philippines in our care. Thank you for putting your trust in CSC. You can be assured that every dollar donated is treated with the utmost care. To God be the glory! ■



*We send out prayer requests & praises each month via email.*

If you'd like to receive these,  
you can sign up at  
**cebushelter.org**

(Click on "Join Us" then "Pray" and choose  
the option for monthly prayer emails)

or you can email us at  
**usoffice@cebushelter.org**

or call  
**651.493.1551**

*Thank you for lifting up this  
organization in prayer!*



# PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray with us for our high school students. The Cebu Children of Hope School on our campus provides education from preschool through middle school. We have struggled over the years to find the best education for children who reach high school and are still at the shelter. We are thankful for having a good school this year for the students, but going to school outside of the CSC walls brings its challenges. Please pray that our students will focus on their schoolwork and will choose friends who will be positive influences in their lives. We also pray that they may spread the news of the Gospel to other students and teachers with whom they interact.
- Our finances are always heavy on our hearts as we roll into the biggest giving season of the year. Please pray for the hearts of people to donate and for us to trust God with the finances.

## PRAISES

- Our school year continues to be off to a great start! We have an amazing group of teachers this year who are going above and beyond to meet the needs of the children in their classrooms. We recently held conferences, and the students are showing wonderful progress. We are also thankful for great leadership from Cris Tabra (Principal) and Ben Bonnett (Education Director). They are transforming the way we educate and provide holistic care for these students.
- Habitat for Humanity built homes for CSC employees in need of adequate housing. Sixty employees and their families will become first-time homeowners! Habitat for Humanity works to provide simple, decent and affordable homes. This project is a big step to help stop the cycle of poverty and inadequate housing. These 400-square-foot homes have a living room/kitchen area, a bathroom and bedroom space. We are praising the Lord for this opportunity for our employees. There are still a few remaining items to be finished on the homes, including issues that need to be resolved with the water and electricity. Please pray for a smooth completion to these details.



## -EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT *Eric Abellana*

*Counseling* is an often life-changing experience for CSC's children. Eric is an excellent counselor, earning the trust and respect of our boys and helping them deal with past experiences and current issues.

Eric counsels CSC boys in individual and group settings and assists the Social Work department during the referral process for new children. Our counseling program involves helping the children work through the difficult experiences that led to their being placed at CSC, helping them to identify and express their feelings of grief and loss, and move towards forgiveness and trust. Eric shares the love of Jesus Christ as the

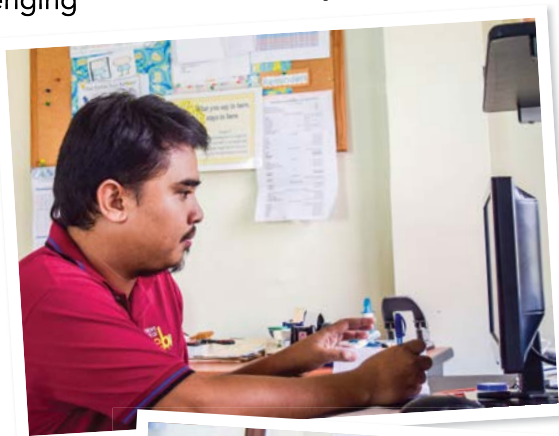
most important relationship in their lives.

Eric counsels the boys at CSC, and Meravic provides counseling and support to the girls at the shelter. They work together to plan care for the children and tag-team with group sessions and sibling group counseling.

Eric's job can be very challenging for him, but he finds great joy in his work. Before coming to CSC he worked in HR and was a teacher, and he "fell in love" with the counseling aspect in both of those positions. He has come to love his interactions with the children, finding joy in

seeing them heal and change in positive ways.

He knows how difficult this work can be, stating that "healing is a thorough process and change is a thousand battles." We are helping our children with those battles, and Eric is on the front lines in this important area of CSC's ministry. ■



# — ALWAYS GROWING —

**We** have experienced many areas of growth at CSC this year. We have expanded our school programming for our high schoolers, providing them tutoring and walking with them on their educational journey. We have broadened our professional training and team-building to the various departments, helping our employees to grow individually and as a collective group. We have also worked on developing and improving our teen/young adult program, in an effort to provide the best services to these residents. Each of these growing pains has its challenges.

**However, there is one area of growth at CSC that is pure joy for us to observe: the ways our babies have grown. Check them out!**

Marthon



Hugh



Diomarie



Khristlowie







Julia



Zion Blake

## Roselyn is growing up!

Sometimes we have children at CSC who are not adopted, and our hope is that we can help prepare them to eventually move out on their own. Roselyn recently did just that! She came to us in 1997 and lived at CSC for many years but was not adopted. She eventually moved into our Johnson Teen/Young Adult Transitional Home. While she lived there, she learned life skills and eventually got a job at a local restaurant. It was at this restaurant that she met Gab. Roselyn and Gab were recently married and are starting a new chapter in their lives together. CSC employees helped provide the wedding (Ging in our Cebu office even lent her own wedding gown to Roselyn!), and it was a lovely celebration. CSC will continue to be a place of love and support

for Roselyn. Please pray for them in this new journey. ■



Roselyn and Gab



# NEWS FROM CEBU

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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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## We have been —RATED AMONG THE TOP 5% OF NONPROFITS!—

**Charity** Navigator rates non-profits based on financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. We are proud to announce that CSC received Charity Navigator's top award, 4 stars, for the seventh year in a row. That ranks us in the top 5% of all non-profits nationwide! Our rating is higher than 95% of other non-profits. That means you can know that your donation is stewarded well and will be used to impact the lives of these children!

