

# NEWS FROM CEBU

## — PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE —

*Patience* is a fruit of the spirit that we have had to develop over the years as we serve the children of CSC. For some, we have prayed for patience in relation to their behavior. Others, especially those with special needs, have required a different kind of patience, as we adjust to their needs and abilities and chart their development in sometimes very small increments. For others, there are delays in case management and legal paperwork, and these delays test our endurance.

needs and got them enrolled at our Children of Hope School, our social workers made it a priority to procure their birth documents. For the children to be considered for adoption or even just to function in society, they would need birth certificates. More than four years later, those documents were finally in our hands!

It was a long and emotionally draining journey for everyone at CSC. Getting the birth certificates involved working with five different

getting the papers changed and often differed between the various government offices. Just when we thought we were making progress, another letter would come in the mail requiring a different course of action.

During all this time of waiting, Mary Irene and Justin were making an amazing transition to life at CSC. Mary Irene had two major plastic surgeries on her arms to release

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*At CSC we are committed to doing whatever is needed for the children we take in.*

Mary Irene and Justin came to live at CSC in September of 2015. Before coming to live with us, they had both been burned in a fire in their home. While we attended to their medical

branches of government. Our social worker traveled to a distant province, and we had to wait for court proceedings and judges' decisions. Along the way, requirements for

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by Tim Holmberg, President

Before children come to CSC, their lives are just plain difficult. They experience pain, isolation, fear and hunger. They want hope but

cannot find it. They want a birthday party but have no idea when their birthday is. They want a bed and make do with cardboard on the ground. They want to learn but have no opportunity to attend school. They yearn to be wanted but are not sure they ever will be.

But when they get to CSC, they join a fraternity of fellow learners. Author Bryan Stevenson says:

“When you experience mercy, you learn things that are hard to learn otherwise. You see things that you can’t otherwise see; you hear things you can’t otherwise hear. You begin to recognize **the humanity that resides in each of us.**”

The children at CSC struggle like all kids do. They argue about whose turn it is to use the skateboard, who isn’t calling fouls in basketball, and who is not doing their chores. They’re just kids.

CSC children are also shining examples of understanding **the humanity that resides in each of us.** Their painful and difficult experiences are filled with lessons in compassion and mercy. It never ceases to amaze me how they accept each other. They have no word for

*CSC children are also shining examples of understanding the humanity that resides in each of us.*

disability, disfigurement, restriction or impairment. They may argue about the use of a soccer ball, but they will always lend a hand to a fellow child.

Might we all learn the lessons the CSC children can teach us. ■

# PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Paul and Marlys Healy will officially move back to the USA in April of 2020. They will be on a year-long furlough. During this time, they hope to meet with churches and donors to share about the work the Lord is doing in Cebu. Then they will officially retire in the spring of 2021. Please pray for them as they pack up and leave the Philippines after 41 years. Please also pray with us for their last year of employment in the states as they work towards retirement.
- Please pray with us for continued health for our children and employees.
- We continue to have more children who will soon legally age out of their chance at adoption. Please join us in prayer for potential adoptive families for these children and for their futures.

## PRAISES

- God blessed this ministry in 2019 through all of you. Thank you for being a part of the work! We praise the Lord for providing for the financial needs so we can continue this work.
- Our new Field Director Roberto Atienza is such a great fit. We are so blessed to have him in this role, and we look forward to his leadership in Cebu!



The Healys



Roberto



contractures from the scar tissue caused by the burns. (She now has complete mobility of her arms.) Her bravery, courage and patience were so inspiring to all of us. Both children entered our school and embraced that opportunity with enthusiasm and hard work. But the legal paperwork kept stalling.

At CSC we are committed to doing whatever is needed for the children we take in. We provide the best medical care with the finest doctors, surgeons and hospital care available. We provide safety, shelter, good nutrition and a chance to

learn about the love of Jesus. We do whatever it takes to get the necessary paperwork accomplished for their eventual adoptive placement. And we surround them with love and comfort for the waiting.

The result of our patience is worth all the frustration. Mary Irene and Justin have been matched with a family and will soon be leaving for adoption. In some ways, the last days of waiting are the hardest as we anticipate the phone call telling us that the visas have been released and the family can come get their amazing children. All

the filing of papers, waiting in lines, starting over, knocking on doors, and looking for creative strategies has resulted in a very good thing for these two gifts from God.

We appreciate the many people who stand with us in this ministry. Your prayers result in the needed patience and stamina for us to keep fighting hard for our kids as we navigate through frustrating and confusing bureaucracy and attend to the children's many needs. ■

*All the filing of papers, waiting in lines, starting over, knocking on doors, and looking for creative strategies has resulted in a very good thing for these two gifts from God.*





# BRIDGE PROGRAM: HELPING OUR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS

**We** have great kids at CSC! One of those great kids is Cherry Mae. She is fifteen years old and a seventh grader at a local private Christian school. If you spend any time with Cherry Mae, you will quickly learn that she is very witty and likes to joke around. She loves to play guitar, read, eat Filipino spaghetti (with lots of hotdogs in it!) and play card games. What you won't see on the outside is the

anxiety she has about her future. She has called CSC home for over five years, and although she loves living at CSC, she dreams of leaving CSC someday with an adoptive family.

Globally, the number of adoptions has been declining drastically over the past few years, and this has been true at CSC as well. Children like Cherry Mae are having to change their dreams. For over 40

years, we have given hope to kids by teaching them that God sees their situation and has great things in store for them. This is still true even with the changing landscape of adoption. At CSC we are working with our teens to know that they can have a beautiful future even if adoption doesn't happen. Over this past year we have developed a life skills curriculum, targeted towards our teens, to intentionally equip



*Bridge Program Participants*





Cherry Mae ↗



*We want them to know that they have a huge family at CSC who will continue to walk with them as they prepare for life in the Philippines.*

them with the skills and knowledge they will need as they grow up. We want them to know that they have a huge family at CSC who will continue to walk with them as they prepare for life in the Philippines.

We are calling this **The Bridge Program**. Every week our teens meet with their houseparents and other CSC support staff to talk about important topics they need to understand as they grow older. This holistic program covers everything from understanding friendships and financial literacy to automotive skills

and making decisions for a healthy lifestyle. Our teens, like Cherry Mae, need to know that God has wonderful plans for them, and we are here to be their family as they work to reach those goals. ■



## KIDS' KORNER

### New Kids:

**JOHN MARK (9)** came to CSC near the end of 2019 after living on the streets for three years. His mother passed away, and he does not know if his father is alive. He is unsure of his parents' names or the spelling of his name or exact birthdate. He has no school records. In spite of his difficult past, this handsome boy has an outgoing personality and is quickly learning his value at CSC. He has made good friends and connected well with the other children at CSC. He enjoys attending school, and he has a grateful spirit. What a joy it is for us to care for this boy!

**NINAL (INFANT)** We recently admitted a baby who was five months old. She is a sweet and smily baby! Ninal is on-track developmentally so far, and she doesn't miss a chance to smile at someone giving her attention. She gets lots of love in the Cherne home!

### Leaving Soon:

**MARY IRENE & MATTHEW JUSTIN** As mentioned on the cover, Mary Irene and Justin came to live at CSC in September of 2015. They are finally leaving with their adoptive family this month. They will live in Minnesota. Please pray with us for their transition and their future.

**HUGH** This little guy came to CSC in 2016 when he was just five days old. He has grown so much in the three years he has been with us. Hugh leaves with his new family this month! He will be living in Belgium. We are so excited for him and his future.

John Mark  
↙

↗  
Ninal

Mary Irene &  
Matthew Justin  
↙

↗  
Hugh

NOW

THEN





## A PRESCHOOL MARKET

The preschoolers are learning about community. During circle time the teacher asked, "If you were to open a store, what would you like to sell?" After sharing their answers, they had the opportunity to draw and color what they wanted to sell if they had their own store. Here are the students' responses:

Rey Michael: balloons  
Lester: ice cream

Mary Joana: cake  
Mark Anthony: ice cream and cake



Jacob D: papaya



Josef Daniel: vegetables



Danneif: ducks



Mary Cris: lollipops



# 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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Box 178, Cebu City  
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**Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada:**  
P.O. Box 141  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

## 2020 BANQUET

*Save the Date!*

JOIN US ON  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**  
FOR OUR ANNUAL BANQUET!

This year, we are celebrating family. For the children at CSC, "family" has different meaning. Perhaps their birth family was not able to care for them or did not treat them well. Then they join the "CSC Family," and some join new forever families through adoption.

And all of you are part of the "CSC Family" through your presence at our annual banquet. If you can't join us that day, watch on Facebook live or give to be part of the offering and provide family for these children who desperately need it.

Children's Shelter of Cebu  
**ANNUAL BANQUET  
CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, April 25**

Register online: [cebushelter.org/banquet](http://cebushelter.org/banquet)

**CANCELED**

**CANADIAN BANQUET  
FRIDAY, APRIL 17**  
ABBOTSFORD, BC CANADA

Contact **Rob or Irene Funk** ([bobea2@tel.us.net](mailto:bobea2@tel.us.net)) or **Joan Gleddie** ([gleddiej@shaw.ca](mailto:gleddiej@shaw.ca)) for more information.

