

NEWS FROM CEBU

BUILDING A BOND

Sometimes, children do not have the luxury of living with their siblings. Due to trauma, poverty, or other various circumstances, siblings are often split into different homes. And sometimes, they end up living in different shelters. That was the case of Jaireh and his older sibling, Guada Mae.

A nearby orphanage asked if we would take custody of a ten-year-old girl named Guada Mae. We noticed her last name was the same as Jaireh, a six-year-old boy, who was already living in our shelter. Upon reading the full information about her, we confirmed they were siblings!

Neither of the children knew much of each other since they were young the last time they were together. So as we confirmed we would take Guada Mae in, we started video calls for the siblings to talk and get to know each other. It didn't take long for the giggles and bonding to start. We told Jaireh that his sister would be living at the shelter with him starting in January. So when the new

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Siblings Jaireh & Guada Mae reunited!



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— FROM THE DESK OF KIRBY STOLL, *President* —

I traveled to Cebu at the end of November to spend nine days connecting with staff I had only seen on Zoom, meeting our beautiful children, playing games, and visiting; I even ate Balut! It is a trip I will never forget.

What I witnessed in Cebu was the fruit of gifts so faithfully given and prayers so faithfully prayed. I am

beyond grateful for your ministry support. God shows me that through you He is faithful to supply our daily bread and so much more!

I was able to walk on the property we purchased in Cebu City last March, meet the architects designing the future home for our older residents, and tour the home adjacent to the shelter that was

renovated as temporary housing during construction.

CSC's mission is growing! Thanks to your support, we are able to look forward to all that 2023 has in store, like an expanded and enhanced mission! ■

Blessings,
Kirby Stoll

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1 (NIV)

BUILDING A BOND continued from cover

year started, Jaireh told his caregiver, "It's January!" and he asked when his sister would be here.

The time arrived for Guada Mae to move into CSC. Again, it was not an instant bond. The siblings are getting to know each other in person now. It is fun to see this relationship grow and develop in healthy ways!

Besides getting to know her brother, Guada Mae is adjusting well to living at CSC. She has some physical challenges that impact use of her left side, as well as vision issues and hip dysplasia, but she takes pride in being independent. We have already scheduled surgery on her eyes. She needs an MRI to completely diagnose her medical conditions on her hip and joints. Thankfully, CSC has the resources to make these medical interventions possible, and we will work to meet her needs as she develops.

Guada Mae is making friends, learning the routine, and starting classes in school.

Guada Mae adjusting after her move to CSC →



This adjustment will take a while, but it's off to a great start. So far, we know she likes vegetables and that her favorite color is light gray. We can't wait to learn everything about her! We are so thankful for the chance to care for Guada Mae and share with her how much God loves her. ■



PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES



PRAISE REPORTS

- Renovations on the house near the shelter entrance have been completed, and the older residents and houseparents have moved in already! The bedrooms were enlarged and expanded, the living room and kitchen areas were widened, and large second-floor rooms were added. We are thankful to God for these continued developments and resources.
- Congratulations to Jella, who graduated grade 10 in January! Traditionally in the Philippines, Grade 10 has been the end of high school, but recently Grades 11 and 12 have been added. These last two years of high school now offer students the opportunity to focus on a more specific track. Jella is still considering what the rest of high school will hold for her. For the moment, she is enjoying the big sense of accomplishment, which is truly well deserved after all of her hard work.
- Several high school students did really well during the second quarter this school year. They scored high enough to be on the Honor Roll! The long school days, hours of homework, and hard work have paid off. This achievement is an encouragement for them to continue to strive and do their best each day.
- The past few weeks have been quiet in the medical department. Children have been in good health, even with the weather being a little cooler than normal. We are so thankful for healthy children at CSC!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray with us for our new child care employees who were hired near the end of 2022. They are becoming accustomed to their roles and are working on the Home Life department team, caring for children of all ages.
- Our social workers have been receiving referrals for possible new residents. Please pray for wise decisions as we work to admit more children to the shelter. Everyone is excited when a new child comes to the shelter! The children welcome them with questions and invitations to join in on activities, and the employees immediately begin their special loving care.
- We are now ready to begin demolition of the old building and construction of the new home for older residents. A lot of planning has already taken place. Now we need continued guidance, wisdom, and perseverance. Will you please pray with us for these things?



Jella ↗

A Look Inside Our EMPLOYEE COMMUNITY

About thirteen years ago, one of our missionaries, Joel Reasoner, and his father Paul Reasoner, were chatting about how to help reduce generational poverty within the Philippines. Children's Shelter of Cebu offers a competitive

wage to our employees, but due to cultural influences, our employees who live in Cebu often end up caring for many of their extended family members. Their paycheck gets stretched into caring for siblings, parents, grandparents and others.

This resulted in many employees living in unsafe or inadequate living conditions.

Joel, Paul, and Shari Reasoner (who was the Education Director at Cebu Children of Hope School for many years) worked with Habitat for

Joy & her family



Lunde Joy "Joy" Home Child Care/Cook - Eicher and her husband, Ver, have two children: Gessreach (5 YO boy) and Verlyn (2 YO girl). Ver works as a janitor at a business nearby. Joy's mother, Evelyn, lives with them and helps with childcare. Joy has worked at CSC for over 10 years. She has worked in child care but recently became a cook in the Eicher home.

Prior to moving into their home at Happy Homes community, they rented a small house with dirty water in an unsafe area. **The family was so excited to move into their new home to raise their children.**



Humanity (HFH) in the Philippines to purchase land and raise funds. Joel and Jerry Salgo, CSC Facilities

apply. The requirements included a desire to be a homeowner, not already owning land or a home,

Happy Homes Village. The homes are 430 square foot two-level row houses. They provide a safe, clean

They moved into their new homes at the end of 2018, creating CSC Happy Homes Village.

Director, oversaw the construction project with HFH which resulted in 64 simple, affordable homes. Many individuals got involved by donating through Habitat for Humanity Minnesota's Habitat 500 bike ride fundraiser, the main vehicle used for this project. CSC donated a portion of employee time to be used in a partnership for this project. All current and recently retired CSC employees were able to

a commitment to put in "sweat equity" working on their home alongside construction workers, and a commitment to re-payment of a reasonable government mortgage. We had 83 employees who met the qualifications for a home. Approximately 72% of those were able to get a home. They moved into their new homes at the end of 2018, creating CSC

environment to live and grow a family. They also provide first-time home ownership, a community, and opportunities for their families for generations to come. Here are a few stories of families living there. ■

Ana Marie "Amy" Home Child Care/Cook - Cherne and her husband, Lindly, have five children: Kyla (12 YO girl), Liam (9 YO boy), Zac Kalle (8 YO boy), Grayden (6 YO boy) and Ezekiel (2 YO boy). Lindly is a Jeepney driver. Amy has worked at CSC for over 14 years. She provides child care to the children in the Cherne Home. Prior to living in the Happy Homes community, they were living with Amy's mother in her home. They were so excited to own their own home! They also love that their children can play safely in front of their home.



Amy & her family ↗

Paul & Shari Reasoner started their own nonprofit in 2019 focusing on building community projects in Cebu, including building more homes and creating small libraries. **To learn more about Phase Two Cebu, visit: www.phasetwocebu.com**



UPDATE ON OUR KIDS

SAYING HELLO

For the first time since before the pandemic, CSC has been able to admit children to the shelter! Many children have been referred to CSC from local churches, hospitals, nonprofits, and government contacts. In the past few months, we've taken in four babies. Government restrictions and closures caused delays for a long time, and we are so thankful for this opportunity to care for these sweet babies. Meet our new additions!

SOFIA (9 MONTHS) AND RAINE (7 MONTHS) were referred to us by the government. Neither had family members who were able to meet their needs. The babies were living on a nearby island. This meant our staff had to travel across the island of Cebu and then take a boat ride to the other island. It was a long trip for our staff, and they were glad when they arrived back safely at the shelter with the two tired infants! Both Sofia and Raine have been in good general health and have met developmental milestones over the past few months at CSC. They are getting lots of snuggles in the Cherne home.

A teenage boy walking the street found a baby abandoned under a car. The teenager immediately called for help from adults around him, and they brought the baby to the local hospital. The next day, the government social worker contacted us and asked if we'd admit the baby at our shelter. Later that day, the newborn was safe and sound in our nursery. Not much is known about this little one, but we are calling him **TIMOTHY**, and we are blessed to be a small part of his life. Timothy doesn't do much other than sleep and eat, but we love him regardless.

SAFFY was born premature, and the mother disappeared after giving birth in the hospital. The hospital social worker tried to find the mother but was unsuccessful. After working with the local neighbors and the police, it was determined that the mother could not be found, and the social worker contacted one of our social workers at CSC. Saffy is nursery-mates with Timothy. They have learned to cry in unison.

Sofia ↙



↙ Raine



Timothy ↘



↘ Saffy

SAYING GOODBYE

LESTER (10) AND DIOSWA (8)

came to CSC in 2017. The brothers have grown so much in the time they have been at the shelter and school. Lester continues to be an active and energetic child. He constantly learns new daily activities and is exploring how things around him work. Lester enjoys playing LEGOS with other children and likes to read. He also loves playground time. Dioswa likes playing guessing games, likes riddles and especially enjoys making the adults around him guess his riddles. During his free time, he also enjoys playing basketball with the other kids. We shared the exciting news for Lester and Dioswa that they have an adoptive family in Washington D.C. They have been doing video calls with their adoptive parents while they wait for the final part of the process to be completed. Please pray with us for their future adjustment into their adoptive family.

JESSA came to CSC after a church contacted us because they were concerned about her. She was admitted and fit right in at CSC. Jessa brought a lot of spunk and personality to everyday life at CSC. She befriended all the staff and children and never seemed to meet a stranger. Jessa did well in school and grew in her faith over the six years she lived at CSC. She longed for a family, and finally, that dream became a reality. Jessa was adopted by a family in Oregon! Besides her parents, she has four older siblings, all adopted from the Philippines. She is deeply loved by her family. Jessa has adjusted well into her adoptive family, but she is still missed at CSC. Please pray with us for her continued adjustment and her future. ■

Telling Lester & Dioswa that they have an adoptive family! ↷



Jessa (third from the left) with her adoptive family ↷



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A BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF THE CHILDREN'S SHELTER OF CEBU *Now Available!*

Our founder, Paul Healy, wrote a book about the history of CSC. It is being sold on Amazon. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, you can do so through this QR code or by searching for the title, ***Such A Refuge* by Paul Healy.**



*Order your copy
today!*

