



CSC NEWS

33 Years of
Ministry in Cebu

Children's Shelter of Cebu

Fall 2012

Volume 34

Issue 3

Loving Perseverance: CSC's Commitment to Three Siblings

by Mitch Ohlendorf

Our staff in Cebu has an unwavering commitment to the children God brings to our door. Sometimes that takes an extraordinary amount of time and resources, as in the case of Christian, Duan, and Phoeby Gayle, three innocent children who came into our care three and a half years ago. While the background of the children's case had its challenges, as most of their cases do, we did not anticipate any unusual difficulties in helping these children have a family. But a difficulty would soon arise that we had not faced before.

It is not unusual for children at CSC to have unique medical needs. In fact, it happens with some regularity. God seems to give us the opportunity to care for children who have needs that would not be adequately met elsewhere. It is not often, however, that we know about these special needs at the time that children are admitted to the shelter, even though they undergo a thorough medical evaluation and testing. Often we find out about them months later. That was the situation with one of the children in this group of three.

About a year and a half after Phoeby Gayle came to the shelter, it became apparent that recurrent illnesses were not just the usual viruses our children get. They happened with such regularity and would follow a similar pattern. Our medical team and Phoeby Gayle became regular visitors at the pediatric pulmonologist and nephrologist, both wonderful doctors who have treated many of CSC's children over the years. After some time, Phoeby Gayle was diagnosed with nephritic syndrome, a condition where the kidneys are not functioning normally and fluid retention

occurs. Frequent hospitalizations ensued, a kidney biopsy was necessary, and a regimen of medications began until Phoeby Gayle started to develop a dependence on them. We were very concerned about the toll it was taking on her then two-year-old body. Many CSC supporters and prayer partners can remember the regular requests for prayer for Phoeby Gayle during that time.



All of this transpired around the time Christian, Duan, and Phoeby Gayle became eligible for adoptive placement. We were not sure what impact Phoeby Gayle's diagnosis would have on the lengthy placement process

for a sibling group. The medical prognosis for nephritic syndrome in a young child is somewhat uncertain, but our medical team worked with our doctors to put together the many test results and doctors' certifications necessary for an adoptive family who might consider Phoebe and her siblings.

As the children's placement paperwork was already with the Philippine inter-country adoption office, we began to work with their social workers to be proactive in finding a Christian family for these children who would be willing to accept a child with Phoeby Gayle's special medical needs. We repeatedly emphasized the need to have Phoeby Gayle and her siblings placed at the soonest possible time so she could receive any advanced medical care that was not available to her in the Philippines.

A few possibilities for placement failed to pan out before they even got anywhere,

Continued on page 2

*Every child
deserves a
family.*

Cherne



Duterte



Eicher



Teen Home



INSIDE

Matt's Column	2
Financial Report	2
Graduates	3
Project List	3
Kids' Korner	4
Referrals	4
News at CSC	5
Circle of Prayer	5



THE RACE TO THE FINISH

In August, we sent out an urgent letter to our faithful supporters. The dog days of summer were hitting our bottom line and we found ourselves \$60,000 behind budget. It was hard not to worry, and we decided the best thing we could do is tell our friends what was happening.



We continue to be on a suitable pace through October, as we track slightly above budget. We praise God for that, as we had a significant budget increase this year.

We're heading into the biggest months of our financial year. November and December account for 29% of our income for the year, and we will need to raise \$490,000 to keep doing our work.

That's a big number, but we have supporters with big hearts and a big commitment to CSC.

Shortly after the appeal was sent, we got a reply from an adoptive family. The message? "We'd be honored to cover your shortfall." We could hardly believe it. Did they mean all of it?

Most importantly, we serve a big God who has proven his faithfulness to us over and over.

That was exactly what they meant. Thanks to this family and the generous response of others, we were able to get back on track in 2012!

We ask for your prayers and, if you are able, your gifts as well.

We have budgeted carefully and spent wisely, and look forward to racing to the finish for our kids in Cebu!

Loving Perseverance, continued from page 1

and we wondered if these children might not have the chance for a family. By this time we had found it necessary to semi-isolate Phoeby Gayle in her home so she would not be so susceptible to viruses that led to hospitalizations so regularly. The playroom became her room in the home and she had one-on-one care for many months. She was able to spend time with her siblings and a few others each day as long as they were healthy, but her socialization was limited in an attempt to keep her healthy. Like all the other children in our homes, these three had prayed for years for an adoptive family. And God was faithful to their prayers and those of so many others who knew of Phoeby Gayle's condition. It was a blessed day when all of us on the staff and their houseparents were able to share the news of a loving adoptive family with these children.



For more than three years our staff and medical team have persevered to give these three wonderful children the best opportunity possible to have a family to call their own. And for that entire time Christian, Duan, and, eventually, Phoeby Gayle, persevered to pray for a mom and a dad. God has honored that perseverance by turning a challenging situation into a great blessing. We need not wonder why God brings these children with challenging needs to our front door.

At some point in my trips to Cebu I decided to look at meals differently than I did early on. The first time there it's all you can do to keep the rules straight: water from bottles only, don't use the ice, wipe off the can and no vegetables unless you know they were bleached.

In those days, I looked at what the kids ate and it was just another part of being a tourist. "Is that the whole fish? I need to take a picture." It was a spectacle, noteworthy because it was so different from a meal in Minnesota.

Even in just a two-week trip I'd think about how much better the milk is back home or how good a hamburger would be. My focus was on what wasn't.

Eventually I figured out what a miss that perspective was. Meals in Cebu are something to behold. We're feeding children who spent some portion of their lives unable to rely on mealtime. And it's more than that. Meals are a precious time of connecting over a shared need.

I took this picture last time I was in Cebu instead of a fish. It was my pleasure to be invited to eat supper in the Eicher Home.



On the left is Dondon, the house father in Eicher. He and his wife Ivy live on-site, just like the other three sets of house parents who work at CSC. They are the first line of care for our kids.

We were having a great conversation that night, and a great meal. On the right is James, who lives at CSC with his two sisters.

When I look at that picture I wonder how many men made James feel the way Dondon does before he called CSC home. I don't know, but the smile on James' face can't be faked. There is an exceptional young man: fed, safe and laughing. Thanks to you, he is at home.

Graduates Move on to Bigger Challenges in Life

Four CSC students recently graduated from three different schools, both in Cebu and internationally. **Argei Kim** and **Angelica** completed their elementary education at our Children of Hope School, while **Kirk Piplapil** graduated from Trinity West University in Canada. We are so proud of each of them for their perseverance and good work.

Argei Kim is in our Children of Hope School Bridge program, in preparation for starting high school next year. He needs to brush up his skills in Tagalog (the national language of the Philippines, which is taught more intensely in local schools) and other subjects that might be presented differently outside of CHS. He and his three siblings live in the Duterte Home and have been with us for more than six years. Argei Kim is excited to begin high school and experience the increased independence that goes with it.

Angelica also is in the CHS Bridge program. She and her sister have been matched with an adoptive family, so she will be continuing her education in the United States. Her Bridge studies will be heavily



weighted with American history and culture to prepare her for her coming challenges.

Arleen proudly marched across the stage in March to receive her diploma from Cebu Normal University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Elementary Education degree. Arleen was in various schools, including CHS, for more than 20 years. Often she was the only blind student in the entire school, and she had to work extra hard to learn Braille and utilize it in her studies. She is currently searching for a job. Her life's desire is to teach music to blind students.

Kirk received his Bachelor of Arts in Education degree, with honors, from Trinity Western in May. After completing his practice teaching he took a job in Redvers, Saskatchewan, and is teaching first grade as well as some special education classes. Kirk was a graduate of CHS and Cebu Normal University before receiving a generous gift to attend school in Canada.

We are so proud of these graduates, and thankful that we had the chance to participate in their education, through our Children of Hope School, and by providing additional opportunities for them to reach their goals and chase their dreams.

Project List Presents Giving Ideas

CSC maintains a list of projects that represents the most important needs of the ministry. This list can be viewed any time at:

<http://www.cscshelter.org/involved/projects.php>.



The idea of listing various projects came from our supporters. Groups like Sunday School classes, church small groups or vacation bible school programs are often looking for a

project to support. Some families, particularly at Christmas time, want an alternative to family gift exchanges. We have tried to include projects with a wide range of prices to provide lots of options. Some are special, one-time needs, often not in our budget but much needed, while others, like feeding the children in one home for a day (\$33), are recurring expenses.

A sampling of our current list:

School uniforms - \$20 per student

Shoes - \$25 per child

Math books - \$40 each

A braces trainer for Adelyn - \$480

Landscaping projects - \$2,000

New carpeting at the school - \$18,000

New staff vehicles (2) - \$50,000

Check out our list and see what grabs your heart.



One of our newest projects involves little Carl John, a seven-month-old baby admitted when he was two weeks old. The nurses and caregivers noted weakness in his legs and other developmental issues. He was assessed by a neurologist who did a nerve conduction test that showed irregularities. He needs to have an expensive nerve biopsy in Manila, which will cost \$1,700.





Sisters **Jamaica Nicole** (2) and **Sarah Grace** (3 months) are a recent addition to the Duterte nursery. We call Jamaica “JamJam” because there is already a little girl named Jaimaica, and another named Nicole in the same nursery. Both of these little darlings are healthy. Jamaica is quite mischievous and full of giggles. Sarah already smiles easily and loves to eat.

beautiful” place they have seen and have no words to describe going to school—just lots of noise and activity while trying to check everything out. Rhean is a little quieter than her big brothers but certainly has the potential to be just like them...that glint of mischievousness is in her eyes too!



Junalyn (11) and **Jhona** (11) are twins who came to live with us the middle of September, only days after their birth mother died. They have had a tough life, being raised by their single mom who was sickly all their lives. They have thanked us over and over again for bringing them to CSC. Junalyn (short hair) spends lots of time each day giving hugs. Her hugs are given with much emotion and strength! We decided she is easily one of the “CSC Top Ten Huggers” of all time. We may be awarding her the number one spot! Jhona (long hair) is not quite as demonstrative but she likes to write notes thanking us for rescuing her and telling us how excited and happy she is that she can go to school and has a safe place to live. Both Junalyn and Jhona are proud

to tell visitors that they now have shoes and a Bible of their very own.

We have also added three darling babies, each of whom arrived when they were less than one month old.



Danniell (3 months) is a healthy little guy; he is doing well.

Jhules (3 months) has been sickly all of his short life; he has been in and out of the hospital and has spent more time in isolation than he has in our nursery. We will be doing some lab work and will have medical tests done to try to find out why he is so sickly. **Cynth Zaniah** (2 months)



is a beautiful little girl. She has needed lots of isolation time and a hospital stay as well. It is always a concern when these tiny babies are ill.



Maylen (8 months) has lived with us for seven months already. She is a healthy and good-natured little darling. Her older siblings **Lemuel** (9), **Carlo** (7) and **Rhean** (3) joined her at CSC during the last week in September. Lemuel and Carlo are very small for their age—but that goes for size only. They are full of energy and joy. They think that CSC is the “most



Referrals

Much goes into admitting new children to our homes. The process involves our social workers, nurses and child care team. Equally important are the people who refer the children to us. The government social worker who referred Junalyn and Jhona had brought twins to CSC more than ten years ago. She had been impressed with our facilities and people, and wanted the girls to have a place where they would be safe and loved. She really cared for these girls and was thrilled when CSC agreed to take them in. She accompanied them to Cebu City from a small

town in the southern part of the island. Her compassion, matched with ours, gave these beautiful girls a chance to experience good things in their lives and to have a bright future.

Sometimes the referring person is a hospital social worker, a local government official or a concerned citizen. We have had a number of referrals from our own workers who know about children who need the life-changing care and love that CSC provides.

News at CSC



Sandy Swanson is back in Cebu after a year's furlough. She leads our Child Care team. She has been with CSC since 1979 and is Auntie Sandy to children around the world.



Mitch and Ruth Ohlendorf are in Minnesota for a year. They live in St. Paul with their boys, Andrew and Anthony, and are available for speaking engagements or other opportunities to present the story of CSC. Mitch is our Executive Director and Ruth is on our Child Care Team.

Joel and Jinkee Reasoner are gearing up for a year's furlough in the U.S. They will likely be leaving Cebu in late December. The Reasoners were married in June of 2011. Joel is our Assistant Communications and Operations Director. He works closely with our workers for scheduling, and takes most of the pictures used for our website and other presentations. Jinkee is our Physical Therapist.



Bjork Ostrom is working with our staff in Cebu. He is a Media Specialist with the Youth Frontiers ministry, and has been helping our staff with media and technology. He works remotely for YF, and volunteers his extra time for CSC. He and his wife, Lindsay, arrived in Cebu in June for a one year assignment. Bjork is a 2008 graduate of the University of Minnesota. In addition to his tech interests he enjoys playing guitar. Lindsay teaches in our school.

Our **CSC Annual Banquet** will be held on April 20, 2013 at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota. Circle this date on your calendar so you can experience the delight of this exciting evening with other friends of the ministry. The evening will include updates on the ministry in Cebu, introductions of our adoptive families in attendance, good food, great fellowship, inspiring music and testimonies, and some of the surprises that make our banquet a fun and unpredictable time. The annual adopted kids' party will precede the banquet on Friday night. Stay tuned to the CSC web site for more information.



Amy and Marcel were married in a lovely beach wedding on October 27 in Cebu. Amy teaches pre-school at CHS, and Marcel is a pastor with the Evangelical Free Church of the Philippines. Friends from the U.S. joined with Amy and Marcel's many friends in Cebu City and Marcel's family to celebrate with them.

Prayer

1. For our income needs as we approach the end of 2012. We need another big finish to meet our budget.
2. For our Social Work team and the difficult work they take on, including Carmelita Baya who has advocated for so many kids at CSC over the years.
3. For the health of Carl John, and that his doctor's visits would help us understand his needs.
4. For us to find great teachers to fill the many upcoming openings at school.

Our CSC Circle of Prayer



Carmelita Baya
Senior Social Worker

Praises

1. For the wonderful giving of a family who covered our big need this summer.
2. For the many wonderful visitors that have come to see us recently.
3. For the excellent board members who serve our ministry, and their productive fall retreat.
4. For the good health on our staff team and within our families.



Box 247, Cambridge, MN 55008

Change Service Requested

President: Matthew Buley

Field Director: Paul Healy

Cebu Executive Director: Mitch Ohlendorf

Medical Director: Marlys Healy

Outreach Director: Ruth Ohlendorf

Child Development Director: Sandy Swanson

School Consultant: Shari Reasoner

Teacher: Amy Luck

Teacher: Tammy Vosika

Asst. Director: Joel Reasoner

Child Development: Lindsay Hoeft

US Office Manager: Roger Anderson

Administrative Assistant: Brenda Leaf

Editor: Paul Healy

Cebu Address: Box 178, Cebu City
6000 Philippines

Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada
P.O. Box 141, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

CSC NEWS 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

Photos: Joel Reasoner

Phone: 651-493-1551

E-mail: cscusa@cscshelter.org

CSC online at: www.cscshelter.org

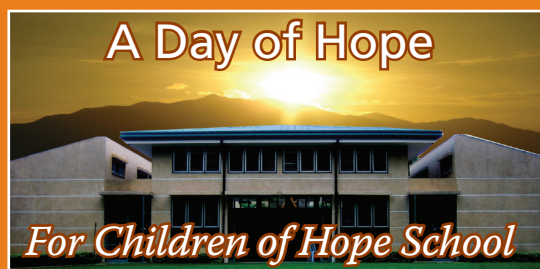
Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Cambridge, MN

Permit #46



Children of Hope School has been an important part of the ministry of CSC since 1998. We provide quality education to our children and others from the community. To help us fund this amazing school we are offering our friends an opportunity to underwrite a day of school operations - a program we are calling A Day of Hope.

For a gift of \$350, individuals, families, church groups, civic organizations or former CHS students can support the school program for a day, paying the salaries for our teachers and therapists, electricity and other utilities, and school materials. We will announce the sponsorships on the CSC website, and will send a certificate to the person being honored by the gift, should the donor choose to recognize a significant person with his or her sponsorship. We will send the sponsor a special recognition from Cebu.

Check out the CSC website at cscshelter.org, under "School" for more information or to make a Day of Hope gift, or call the CSC office at 651-493-1551. The donor(s) may specify a particular day for the sponsorship, on a first come first served basis.

FOSTER FRIENDS

Yes, I would like to sponsor a child through the Foster Friends Program. I will support this child at an amount of \$30 U.S. a month.

(You can also sign up online at cscshelter.org, under "Get Involved.")

- ☐ Enclosed find my first payment of \$_____ to cover _____ months.
- ☐ I cannot become a Foster Friend at this time, but I would like to make a contribution of \$_____.
- ☐ Please send me more information about CSC.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: *Children's Shelter of Cebu.*

U.S. donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CSC, Box 247
Cambridge, MN 55008

Canadian donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CCSSC, P.O. Box 141
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

Contributions to CSC are tax-deductible

