



IN SPITE OF UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE FUTURE

Joevanie Grabs Hold of Life at CSC

by Paul Healy

Life isn't fair. That is an expression that we hear a lot, and one that parents often use with their children. But for Joevanie and his siblings, it has been a defining statement of their lives. If anyone has a claim to the unfairness of life, it would be Joevanie.

Joevanie and his siblings grew up in abject poverty. Their father was a driver of a bicycle taxi, and his daily earnings were rarely enough to provide for the basic needs of his five children. His mother helped out by making necklaces, but the pay was low and she struggled to put meals on the table. They were often hungry and there was no money for medicine. Life was painful. But it would soon get worse.

On December 3, 2006, a baby brother, James, was born. But there was not much time to celebrate his birth. Two days later their mom died. She had



"When my mother died it felt like a wall had fallen on me. I almost felt I was going to lose my mind thinking about my younger siblings and where I will bring them so they could eat. I prayed to God that He would not forsake us."

been sick with high blood pressure, and the strain of childbirth, coupled with poor nutrition, was too much for her. Suddenly, Joevanie's life changed dramatically. He could no longer go to school, as he needed to care for his siblings. They went to live with relatives who weren't able to provide them with the food they needed. Their father's health was not good, and he could not work regularly. So Joevanie would go to the garbage dump to forage for items he could sell. He was becoming despondent, never sure if there would be food for their next meal. But things were soon going to get worse.

On September 8 of 2007, just nine months after the death of his mom, Joevanie's father also died. Now there would be no income at all, and there would be further responsibilities and worries for Joevanie.

Joevanie, continued on page 2.

Every
child
deserves
a family.



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Our Capital Campaign



It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. Well, that's a bit dramatic, but there is a feel of a tale of two ministries at CSC today.

Our banquet attendees set a record for attendance and giving for the second consecutive year, and a few days later a foundation upped an annual gift from \$14,000 to \$34,000. These blessings have been cause for a lot of celebration at CSC! We've had to draw out of our reserves a couple times already in 2008, and that week of April goes a long way towards keeping us out of them for a while.

As I shared at the banquet, the capital campaign has entered into a critical time. We are facing the reality that the business deal surrounding our largest pledge is back at square one, and the risk that the gift has been jeopardized. And due to the slumping dollar and the unavailability of this pledge and another that is delayed, we face the possibility of having to halt construction, possibly as early as the end of May.

We believe God is teaching us something. It is our understanding that we are to move forward. The news of that large gift being at risk came the very day Paul and I were meeting to consider our approach to the remainder of the campaign. The construction has begun and all four new buildings are needed for our work.

We are pursuing new "lead" donors to consider the kinds of gifts that would lift our numbers quickly. We have a plan to share the campaign with adoptive families, donors and other new potential supporters. If there was a feeling a year ago that since big gifts were coming "they may not need me," we see clearly that is not the case. We need you. We'd be so honored to have your support of the campaign and all the kids that will be served through it.

Capital Campaign Gifts Build Hope for the Future

Although economic downturns and difficult situations for some of our donors make things a bit urgent for our building work in Cebu, we continue to praise God for what he has done.

Two of the four new buildings are currently about 35% complete. Jacob's House is being prepared to have the second story concrete floor poured in mid-May. The medical building's walls are now going in and the steel structure is going up in preparation for the installation of the roof. Site development is going on that will tie both buildings together with handicap accessible ramps and bridges.

Gifts to our campaign give hope for the completion of these buildings and for all the great ministry opportunities they will provide in the years to come.



Above: Jacob's House for special needs kids.

Below: Infirmary



Joevanie, continued from page 1.

Help for Joevanie and his family came in the form of an angel - a pastor's wife in their community who is the sister of Cherne Home houseparent Pureza. Because Joevanie always did his best to bring his family to church, she knew about their plight, and contacted CSC to see if we might be able to help them. Eventually, when things got especially grim, the children stayed at the church, depending on the pastor and his family for food and care. They have their own kids and couldn't offer help for very long.

The sad plight of this family brought our staff to tears and, in spite of crowded conditions in the homes, we decided to take them in. One of the deciding factors was Joevanie, his heart for his family, and his perseverance through tragedies.

Coming to live at CSC has been a life-changing experience for Joevanie, and not one that he takes for granted. He continues to care deeply about his siblings, but he is grabbing all the opportunities that his new life has given him. He is working hard at our school to prepare himself for eventually going to high school, and he is enthusiastically participating in the life of the Teen Home, where he is staying. He knows that this opportunity is a gift from God and he wants to make the most of it.

Lots of uncertainties remain for Joevanie. Since he is almost 17, adoption may not be an option for him. He will need to start high school this year, venturing outside of the friendly confines of our Children of Hope School. But Joevanie has learned a lot about trusting God, and he will put those lessons to use in the coming months and years as he grabs hold of the opportunities and challenges that CSC has presented him!

"When I was told that there was a chance for us at CSC I felt more secure. Most of all, I was happy that someone will take care of us, that we will have something to eat and that if my siblings get sick someone will attend to them. I felt and knew that God had answered our prayers."



Children of Hope School

Artistic Talents Showcased at "Talents Galore" Exhibit and Recital

Art and music are important elements of the curriculum of Children of Hope School. Our students receive instruction in piano, voice and musical instruments, as well as paintings, crafts and other artistic media.

On April 18, the results of this instruction were showcased in the Talents Galore '08 Exhibition and Recital at the Children of Hope School. The evening included a display of paintings, the presentation of instrumental and vocal numbers, story telling, and several videos produced by staff members. CHS students and alumni showed virtuosity on clarinet, recorder, trumpet, drums, xylophone, guitar, piano and violin.

"Everyone preformed well. The preschoolers sang their hearts out and I especially enjoyed Janice's performance of her original violin piece, "The 25th of February."
~ Joel Reasoner, CSC staff member

Learning music and developing artistic abilities are important for our children. Being able to display paintings and perform musical numbers helps build self-confidence. Art and music represent universal languages that our children can bring with them, no matter where they may go. They may have struggles with academics, language or relationships in their new homes, but music and art are tools they can always use and enjoy.

CHS is blessed by the talents of Francis Georsua, who instructs, encourages, chooses music and plans the recitals. His work has inspired our children to get involved in music and develop the poise and belief in themselves to stand up and share their talents with others.

Thanks to all who support CSC, Children of Hope School, and the kids who bless us with their many talents.

Check out video clips of the recital and oil paintings by the CHS artists on the CSC website at www.cscshelter.org.



From the top: Mary Beth, JohnRay, Edmun and Rene, Jeneviev the painter, Junalyn and Analiza, Roselyn and Niño.

Ribbon Cutting
Video Presentation
"At the End of the Road"
Video Presentation
"The Pirate"
Opening Remarks
Uncle Mitch Ohlendorf
The CHS Band
"The Marine Hymn"
Pre-Schoolers
"He's Still Working on Me"
Piano Solo
John Ray Obiedo
Recorder/Percussion Group
Ardian Delima, Conductor
Story Telling
Written by Rene
Narrated by Rufa Mae
Vocal Solo
Roselyn w/ CHS Praise Team
Clarinet Duet
Analiza and Junalyn
Trumpet Ensemble
CHS Hopeful Trumpeters Ensemble
Mary Beth, Analiza, Jeneviev, Jeneve, Junalyn
Special Presentation
Trashz Can and the Worms
Piano and Violin Duet
Janice
Teacher Francis
Piano Solo
Jeneviev
Video Presentation
"What is Music?"
CHS Band
Ode to Joy
Closing Remarks
Paul Healy
Art Exhibits
Selected art work/paintings
crafts by the CHS artists.

Danielle (4 months) came to live with us in late January. She had been abandoned in a local government hospital shortly after she was born. She weighed 2.8 pounds at birth, but gained weight well when mothers in the nursery took turns breastfeeding her. Danielle is a happy, smiling baby who charms everyone who has the pleasure to meet her. She has been very healthy during her stay in the Eicher Home.



Rowela (3) is full of personality and energy. She came to us in early April. She has two brothers at CSC who were admitted several months ahead of her. Rowela is not the least bit shy with any of her caregivers. She has a big smile for everyone and has a great sense of

humor and fun. She seems thrilled to be at CSC. Rowela is very healthy.

John Niño (4 months) was one of five babies that we admitted during a two week period in January. He came from the same hospital as Danielle and was admitted on the same day. He was abandoned at one day old, and, like Danielle, was breastfed by kind mothers in the nursery. He loves to be held and cuddled. He is starting to coo and is trying to roll over. He is a healthy little guy and seems to be on track developmentally.



Joshua (2) is Rowela's younger brother and was admitted in January. They had lived on the streets with their birth mom, who has been a single parent and homeless for several years. Joshua is a happy little guy who loves to be around people, whether adults or other toddlers.



He is very affectionate. He likes to ride on the toy car with his buddies, and play outside. He is starting to say some words. He is a very good eater and has grown amazingly fast. Although he was quite sick with pneumonia and parasites when he first came to live with us, he is now very healthy.

Jeralyn (14 months) is the twin sister of Jovan, who was featured in our last newsletter. She came to live with us on March 5. She had been living with someone that the birth-mother knew, and was cared for well so didn't suffer from malnutrition like her twin. She is doing well physically, but has had a hard time learning to share the attention of her caregivers with the other kids in the nursery. She walks well and is getting to know her twin, whom she hasn't seen since they were newborns. We are so happy that we were able to reunite Jeralyn and Jovan. They are one of four sets of twins at CSC.



Tim Erickson led a dental team from Two Harbors, Minnesota in March that included his wife, Karen and Shawn Dahlgren. They did \$12,000 of free dental care for our kids!



Marv Hadenfelt, a CSC supporter from Alaska came during March to hang out with the kids and learn more about CSC.



Central Baptist Church of St. Paul, Minnesota held a camp for our kids at a beach resort in southern Cebu. Their team planned, staffed and underwrote the costs of the camp.

CSC Annual Banquet: The Road to CSC

The 2008 CSC Banquet was an evening of tears and laughter as we took a look at the many roads that have led children, staff, donors and volunteers to the ministry of CSC. 825 of our friends were in attendance, and they were treated to great music from Greg Dirnberger and his sons, a touching media presentation, a stirring message from CSC's first baby, Eddie Henry, and other interesting stories about the ways that God has brought people together to be a part of CSC. Heidi Erickson highlighted some of the financial challenges facing the ministry as she presented the offering. More than \$97,000 was received for the ministry!

Wayne Roberts



"I have not taken that road to Cebu. But my family is blessed that it's a two way road. We are very grateful for our two grandchildren, and I'm glad to be a supporter of CSC."



Eddie Henry

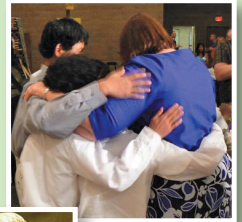
"When I returned to Cebu this year I was excited to put the pieces of my life together, and to meet my birth mom. Imagine living your whole life picturing a face you've never seen, and hearing a voice you've never heard."

Heidi Erickson



"A Chinese proverb says that some roads aren't meant to be traveled alone. The roads to and from CSC can not be lonely abandoned paths. Let's travel together down this next road in CSC's history."

Sandy Swanson Honored for 28 Years of Service



Sandy Swanson has been helping care for our children in Cebu for more than 28 years. She was honored at the banquet for her faithful service and her love and commitment to our children. Former staff member and one of Sandy's best friends, Lynne Greene, came from Seattle to speak and help present her with an award. Afterward, several former CSC kids brought her flowers as the audience rose to give her a standing ovation. We are thankful that, for 28 years, Auntie Sandy has been waiting to greet and love the children that have come up the road to CSC.

Prayer

- Pray for our staff as they make difficult decisions about referrals. We have many referrals these days and limited space.
- Pray for Jovan's twin's sister, Jeralyn, who has come to live at CSC but is having a difficult time of adjustment.
- Pray for our school. Two of our teachers will be leaving to pursue employment abroad.
- Pray for the hiring of their replacements, for Shari Reasoner and our principal, Criselda Tabra, as they lead the school.
- Pray for Mitch and Ruth Ohlendorf as they prepare for a year in the States starting in June.



Our CSC Circle of Prayer

Praise

- Thanks to God for the placement of several of our sibling groups. Some of these kids will be leaving very soon for the United States.
- Praise the Lord for the CSC banquet in April. We are thankful for the attendance, the offering, the program, and the great spirit and loyalty of our CSC family.
- We are thankful for Sandy Swanson and her contributions to the ministry over the past 28 years.
- Thanks to God for our Board of Directors who lead the ministry with talent and enthusiasm. We are especially thankful for our new member, Carolyn Anderson, an attorney from Maple Plain, MN.



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Change Service Requested

Cebu Staff

Field Director: *Paul Healy*
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*
Intern: *Joel Reasoner*

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Angelica
8 Years Old



Jayson
5 Years Old

Christian
11 Years Old



6 CSC KIDS WAITING FOR FOSTER FRIENDS



Sheena Mae
6 Years Old

Joevanie
16 Years Old



Sheila May
9 Years Old



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