Children's Shelter of Cebu

Spring 2010

for more than 20 years. She took a 10-year

hiatus to work in Lebanon, but has returned

to the fold to work in the Teen Home. Lit-

Lit's parents, Teo and Excion, were the next

to join our ranks, he as a guard and she as

a part-time child care worker. Soon sister

Perry was added to our para-staff.

eventually

care

drivers,

married couples

work at CSC. We

have often said

Volume 32 Issue 1

CSC Provides Employment to an Entire Extended Family by Paul Healy

On a hot and humid evening in June of 1979, the CSC staff went to a crowded government hospital in Cebu City to offer comfort and assistance to families who had patients in the malnutrition ward. One particular mother was in great dis-

tress as her nine monthold baby was dying in his crib. Upon interviewing the mother, discovwe ered that she was unable to purchase the medicine that had been prescribed. We were able to buy the needed drugs and little Jesse







Four couples represent the Martinez family at CSC: Clockwise from top left: Ranul and Edwin, Angelin and E-Boy, Perry and Doming, and Delia and Dodong.

Martinez made a complete recovery.

This was the beginning of a long and growing relationship with the Martinez family that has resulted in CSC giving jobs to Jesse, his mom and dad, three

that if the Martinez family ever had an extended family reunion we would have to close down the ministry until they returned!

While there might be some occasional issues in having so many family members em-

"Our family owes a lot to CSC. We are thankful to God for having the chance to work for a ministry like this. I don't know where we would be if it wasn't for CSC." ~ Edwin Martinez

of his brother, their wives, two of his sisters, and several nephews, nieces and inlaws. In all, 14 members of the extended family are working or previously worked at CSC!

The first to work with us was Esterlita. Lit-Lit was just a teenager and was extremely shy. Working with Americans was not easy for her, but she hung in there and worked ployed, the advantages are many for CSC. This is a great family of people we can trust. They love the ministry and appreciate what it has meant for their family. We know that they will do a good job and that they understand the nature of the ministry and the importance we place on maintaining a clean, loving and safe environment for our children.

Martinez, continued on page 2

31 Years of Ministry in Cebu

After that it was a landslide CSC hired brothers, wives and the children of Perry and her husband to work as child workers, guards and maintenance personnel. Four

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Fourth Residence





The opening of a fourth home at Children's Shelter of Cebu is a mountaintop experience for our ministry. The view from here is pretty sweet when we stop to take a look around. I can remember some tough days on this road, a donor that I was sure would give a significant gift saying "no," or those months we were sweating the number of days of construction we had in the bank. It was all worth it, every high and low. Funny how you can see that from up here.

We're looking ahead, scarcely able to imagine the kids who will be served in the years ahead. We can't see their faces or the highs and lows yet to come, but we can be sure that the children will arrive at the gate of our ministry having faced tragedy and in desperate need of a place to call home. They will be home here. And they will be in a place that is shaped precisely to meet their unique needs. If there is a gap in our service, we will do what we can to fill it.

When new kids recently arrived to begin the population increase, our school consultant, Shari Reasoner, extended her stay to help make sure the school was ready for their arrival. The work of the school staff is as important as ever as they adjust to more kids living at our shelter and becoming our students as well.

We've got a pretty good mold developed for this work we do, and timetested practices for serving our children. But the mold is meant to fit the kids. It will be reshaping in the months ahead as CSC becomes a bigger ministry with more and different needs.

More kids at CSC means more need for Foster Friends. We'd be honored if you would join us in this special child sponsorship program. See page 6 or visit www.cscshelter.org to sign up!

FINANCIAL UPDATE by Matt Buley

The financial story of the Children's Shelter of Cebu is really a faith story. Year in and year out God provides just what we need to serve the kids. It seems to come in just in the nick of time and without a lot of excess! We have not forgotten who is at the helm of CSC.

effort went into keeping the budget as tight as possible in 2010. Simply put, we can't fill a new home with kids without more money. We are hoping you will stand by us as we seek to follow God's lead again. We can't see ourselves keeping a new home empty, but

Year in and year out God provides just what we need to serve the kids.

We are thankful to God that we were able to meet budget in 2009. A gift in a donor's estate made all the difference in the tough economy. This year our budget has increased slightly. Some might be wondering why we aren't cutting back like a lot of other places. The truth is we can't. A great deal of

are seeking to be careful with every dollar spent. So far in 2010, January was a little better than we budgeted, but February wasn't what we hoped. We know it won't be easy, but we're stepping forward in faith that God has another miracle in store. Thanks for being a big part of this.

Martinez, continued from page one

Edwin Martinez is the CSC driver, picking up kids at school and work, and driving the social workers around the island for their case management work. Edwin is thankful to God and to CSC for what his employment and that of his siblings has meant. "Our family owes a lot to CSC. We are thankful to God for having the chance to work for a ministry like this. I





don't know where we would be if it wasn't for CSC." From Esterlita to Edwin to E-Boy and Dodong, CSC has offered the life-changing gift of employment. These workers are able to have their own houses and to provide for their families. They are able to offer medical care to



their children. This will help ensure that they will not suffer in the way that Jesse did as a baby those many years ago in the government hospital, when God led CSC's staff members to his bed and began the





relationship that has resulted in all these jobs and the opportunities for many people to make contributions to CSC's ministry of love and hope to homeless children in Cebu City. We are thankful for the Martinez family and what it has meant to CSC over the years.

April 24 Banquet to Emphasize the Love at CSC

Banquet, with the theme The Greatest of These: Love Abounds at CSC, will celebrate the love that is the heart and soul of our ministry. We will explore the many ways that love is demonstrated at CSC. And there are so many ways! The banquet will be on April 24 at Bethel University in Arden Hills. The evening will include a delicious meal, a testimony from a former CSC resident, music that will lift our souls, a media presentation with lots of great video, updates on the ministry that will show our new buildings in action, a live hook-up from Cebu, introductions of our adoptive families who will come from near and far, and some of the humor and surprises that make CSC banquets so much fun. Will Healy will once again be our emcee, so you can never be entirely sure what will happen! Please come to our banquet

It's a Love-a-Thon! The 2010 CSC a good place for Filipino children to live since 1979. Sitting with others who support the ministry helps us all realize what a blessing it is to be a part of the CSC family. The banquet is offered free, but reservations are required. If you did not receive an

> FUN Surprises UPDATES Good Food music media SHOW HUMOR FELLOWSHIP Cebu Live INVF Free Will Offering Old and New Friends More Surprises

invitation in the mail, you can call the CSC office at 763-689-6558, or visit our web site at www.cscshelter. org. The deadline for reservations is April 16. It is a good idea to register early because seats are limited and we cannot guarantee a place for last and feel the love that has made CSC minute requests. Seating will begin



at 6:00 and the program with dinner will start at 6:30. A free-will offering will be taken for the ministry. Join Amy Luck from our Cebu staff and hundreds of other friends as we join together on the 24th.

On Friday evening, April 23, former residents of CSC and their families will be getting together for our annual Reunion Party. Adoptive families, call the CSC office for reservations and more information.

DENTAL TEAM MINISTERS TO CSC CHILDREN

For the past 16 years Tim and Karen Erickson have been providing volunteer dental care to the CSC kids. On several occasions they would bring their children along to assist. Kris and his wife Heidi were a part of two of

The 2010 Team: Heidi, Kris, Jeson, Anton and Cherramae Erickson, and Matt and Krista Struve. Right: Kris assists Matt as Krista prepares for the next patient. Far right: Matt provides loving care to Adelyn.

those trips, so when Tim decided to retire they felt a desire to find someone to replace him. They asked some dentist friends from their church if they were interested, and the rest was God's gift to CSC. Dr. Matt Struve and his wife, Krista, joined the entire Erickson family on a trip to Cebu in March to begin a new era of quality dental care for our children.



While in Cebu Dr. Struve provided care to 65 of our children, doing cleaning, extractions and fillings, assisted by the whole team.

Heidi and Kris adopted three children from CSC in 2007, and all were able to come for a visit and to help with the team. Jeson was the "runner," getting the kids from school when it was their turn. Anton and

> Charramae helped entertain the chilwho were dren waiting their turn with books and puzzles.

Many thanks to our great Dental Team.

We exist to glorify God by demonstrating His love to the Philippines as we provide a loving, Christ-centered home with comprehensive medical, educational and placement services for homeless Filipino children.

Updates on Children We Serve

by Sandy Swanson

It seems that we have the best kids to start a new home because all is going very well there! It warms our hearts to see the new kids so interested to learn Bible Stories and to is the "picked on" sibling. We have already seen that all the others like to blame things on Manny. We are working with one and all on this and are assuring Manny that he is a loved



truly believe that there is a God who loves them. They are soaking up loving attention and have learned that hugs are required at CSC.

Let me introduce you to the new Eicher kids. First, our sibling group of seven. Margie is the eldest at 11 years old. She is quite impressed with her new house and new school. She smiles easily and has been cooperative in both the home and at school. She asks lots of questions and takes the answers she receives to heart. Mae Ann is the second in line at almost 10 years old. She is frequently the voice of the sibling group because she is the least shy of them all. She is very excited to have an opportunity to attend school and fully expects to improve her reading and math skills within the week! Manny is the third in line at eight years of age. It seems that Manny

and cared for equal at our home. He is still quite shy but we are seeing more smiles every day. Mark Vincent is the middle child. He likes to be called Marko and he is seven vears old. He is bright and active, and loves to show us that he can count and knows lots of colors. He is a happy little guy. These four are all attending our school on a daily basis. Merry Sheila is the next in line at five years old. She is not pleased to be staying home when the others leave for school but we have assured her that her time will come. Merry Sheila has already gone down in CSC history for biting the dentist; she bit him hard and did not want to let go! She is bright and inquisitive and has lots of questions for us. Next, and sixth in line is Mark Anthony, who likes to be called Tony. Tony will soon be four. We are learning to deal with his spark of mischief. He is most happy about having a new pair of shoes! MadeLyn is the baby of the family at almost two. She is a beautiful, sweet and content toddler who gets lots of attention from her siblings. She has adjusted well to her new home and her growing family.

Also moving into the new Eicher Home on March 8th was **Nick Brian**. He is 11 months old and is at that

darling stage of learning to walk and wanting to explore his world. He is already very attached to his new house father. Nick Brian has a



wonderful smile and a sweet disposition.



We have also added one more darling to our Duterte home. Joshua Micah came to us as a newborn two months ago. He is growing and develop-

ing well! Joshua is very popular in his nursery because he is the only one who cannot walk yet, so everyone can catch him. He gets lots of hugs and pats from his very active nursery mates every day.

New Digs for CSC Office

We have a new office location in Cambridge. In January we moved from the old courthouse building to a new facility on the east end of town. It is a place that will be brighter, more efficient and, best of all, less expensive. Our days of carrying boxes up and down steps are over. Our stateside staff of Matt, Roger and Brenda are enjoying the increased parking and better temperature control. The





in Cambridge, Minnesota

lower rental cost is consistent with CSC's desire to minimize stateside expenses as much as possible, while still providing a comfortable and safe working environment for our staff. The new address of our office is 1555 First Avenue East, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008. We will continue to use our Post Office Box 247 for receiving mail from our supporters. Praise God for this new office!







The newly refurbished Eicher Home welcomed new children, led by our social worker, Carmelita. Above: the first meal served in our fourth residence. Below: The new childrens' first day at Children of Hope School.

We've been thinking and praying about this day for more than two years. With the repairs completed the reopening of the Eicher Home finally happened on March 8. Our dream of four residences for children was fulfilled, and the first eight children were ready for admission. (See Kid's Korner on page four for descriptions of these new children.)

This day was the culmination of months of planning by our staff. Sandy Swanson and Marlys Healy worked on the staffing of the new house. The whole staff interviewed candidates for house parents and helped train the couple that was eventually hired. Marlys, Ruth Ohlendorf and Shari Reasoner did the decorating and purchased beds, cribs and other equipment and furnishings for the house. The school staff did assessments of the new children who are of school age, and began planning for their education in our Children of Hope School. Ever since the

idea for expansion was first discussed by our staff, the plan has been to not just expand the number of children that we can help by building new facilities, but to improve the quality of the care that we provide. We want to be able give more attention to the needs of the children that come to live at CSC. We want better facilities, less congestion and more and better trained workers to provide loving home environments for all our residents.

Whether it be the Teen Home, the Cherne or Duterte Homes, or the newly re-opened Eicher Home, we want to give our children the very best that we can offer. May our four homes be places where broken lives will be changed, where love will be dispensed, and joy and hope will be renewed. And may they always represent the very best that we have to offer them.



The children who used to live in the Eicher Home moved into our new Duterte Home. Repairs began on Eicher in November and were completed on March 6. House parents and child care workers were hired and trained, and our wash house was expanded to make room for another washer.

Prayer Items

- 1. Pray for the Philippines as elections will be held soon for president, senators and representatives, as well as local officials.
- 2. Pray for our new house parents, DonDon and Ivy, as they begin their work in the Eicher Home. Pray for their children, Jehallel and Jehdian, as they adjust to a very different lifestyle and to sharing their parents with many children.
- 3. Pray for the important decisions that are being made concerning the adoptive placement of some of our children.



Praises

- 1. Praise God for the visitors who have come in recent weeks to minister to our children and staff in various ways. He always provides the right people at the right times!
- 2. Some recent unexpected donations allowed us to buy some new cribs and beds for the Eicher Home that were much needed.
- 3. Praise God for the relative good health of our children in recent months.
- 4. Help us thank the Lord for adoptive families for our children.



1555 1st Ave. E., Box 247, Cambridge, MN 55008 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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Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada P.O. Box 141, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

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or the modest sum of \$25 a month, you can be a Foster Friend. You will be assigned a child and will be given a picture and background information on how your child came to live at CSC. You will receive regular updates with pictures so you can chart your child's development. If your child is old enough, he or she will send you an occasional letter. Since it costs much more than \$25 a month to provide for the many needs of a child, your gift will be combined with those of others to form an extended family of support for your child.

	Yes, I would like to sponsor a child through the Foster Friends Program. I will support this							
	child at an amount of	\$25 U.S. a month\$25 Canadian a month payment of \$ to cover months.						
	Enclosed find my first p	ayment of	\$	to cover	months.			
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Robyn M. Zollner Peter and Marian Wojciechowski