



CSC NEWS

33 Years of
Ministry in Cebu

Children's Shelter of Cebu

Spring 2012

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Issue 1

CSC Responds to Referrals with Teamwork and Prayer

by Paul Healy

CSC receives referrals of children from many different sources. Most come from the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development, or from private welfare agencies. Having been in operation for more than 33 years, CSC is well known in Cebu City for providing quality care to children who cannot live with their families and need a loving home environment.

Carmelita Baya, CSC's Supervising Social Worker, receives many of the referrals over the phone or through faxes that come to her office. But aside from our social workers, many other people are involved in the referral process, as CSC decides whether the child or sibling group can be admitted.

These are crucial decisions, often involving life or death situations. Sometimes the children referred have significant medical, emotional or behavioral problems that need to be identified and assessed. And we always have to determine if we have the resources to take the referred child, whether it be available space, manpower or finances.

The process begins with a meeting of a referral group, which would normally include the social worker who took the referral, one of our nurses, someone from the

child care team and myself. If the child is older than four, one of our counselors would also be a part of this group, as well as a representative from the Children of Hope School. Each group represented would be asked to do an assessment of the child. In most cases

this would include a medical work-up, a check on the legal status of the child, and some type of developmental or educational evaluation. We would want to know as much about the needs of the child as possible before deciding. And we would want to have the assurance that the health and behavioral status of the child would not present undo risks to the children who already live at CSC.

These are usually not easy decisions for our staff to make. In addition to all of the assessment information, our staff members bring compassionate hearts to the conference table. We want to be able to say yes to children who are in difficult and dangerous situations. We want to take them into our homes and school and begin the healing process in their lives. We want to expose them to loving house parents and child care workers, to offer them counseling and spiritual guidance, and, possibly, to work towards finding them an adoptive family.

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*Every child
deserves a
family.*

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Medical Team

Counselors

Staff

Child Care Team

Father to the Fatherless: CSC Banquet on April 28

The 2012 CSC Banquet is just a few weeks away. The theme for this year is Father to the Fatherless, and we will be celebrating the goodness of God to the children under our care, and the contributions of our staff and workers in providing a home for orphaned and abandoned children in the Philippines.

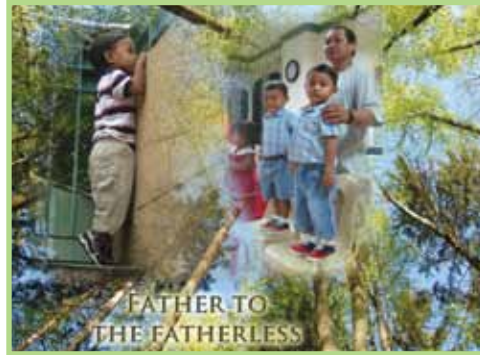
April 28 is the date, and Bethel University the venue for the banquet. Seating will begin at 6:00 and the program will start at 6:30.

This year's speaker will be Angie Otsubo, a former CSC resident who, together with her four siblings, was adopted in 2008 by a wonderful Christian family in Missouri, and who is currently attending college in Florida. Angie's life experiences, her rescue by CSC, her strong faith in her Heavenly Father and her posi-

tive experiences in adoption will give her a great perspective from which to challenge our supporters and encourage them in their involvement with the ministry of CSC.

In addition to Angie's message there will be musical numbers, delicious food, a media presentation, introductions of our adoptive families and some surprises.

Will Healy will be the emcee for the evening, once again assisted by Beltran Holmberg. There is no charge for the evening, but an offering will be taken for the ministry. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the CSC office at 651-493-1551, or by going to our website at www.cscshelter.org. There is limited seating and we are almost certain to be full, so reserving early would be a good idea.



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And so, as an important part of the referral process, we pray about the decisions that must be made. We commit them to our God, who knows and loves the children more than we ever could, and who knows what is best for CSC.

Sometimes, in spite of our desires we are not able to admit a child who is referred to us. We have limitations that we must accept. It is a heartbreaking part of the ministry that God has entrusted to us. We have to live with the fact that, in saying that we cannot accept a But saying no is a necessary part of the stewardship of managing CSC.

Teamwork is important in the ministry of CSC. Nowhere is this more true than in the process of evaluating referrals and deciding which children we are able to take in. It takes the combined efforts of many people with different specialties and talents to make important decisions. Praise God for the good, talented, compassionate and prayerful staff of CSC.



Paul Healy tells the story of a praying legend who loved CSC. She was known to keep lifelong prayer commitments and had scuffed up knees from all the hours she spent in prayer each day.

I never met her, but I have a suspicion that I know others around CSC who are like her. The kind of people who pray for our ministry every day, who don't say "I'll pray for this" unless they intend to do so.

I don't know where CSC would be without them.

I don't know where CSC would be without the solid commitments of many amazing people. They've said:

I'll give for this.

I'll sacrifice for this.

I'll serve for this.

People like you, who make an incredible ministry possible.

I don't think I'm a praying legend. My knees aren't scuffed up enough. A giving legend? No, I'm no Bill Gates. A sacrificing legend? Not like those pouring out their lives for children in Cebu.

The fact is, I'm not a legend in any category I can think of. Maybe you aren't either. And that's okay, because here we are for CSC. I believe we are doing a legendary work, legends or not. We're standing together because none of us are willing to step aside while children suffer.

We're changing the world together. And I'm excited to see where we go from here.

It's an honor to stand with you.

CSC ALUMNI PAGE



Kirk has completed his practice teaching and will graduate this month from Trinity Western University in Langely, British Columbia, with a degree in education this month. He is looking for a teaching job in Canada. Kirk left CSC for Canada in 2007.



Danielle is a high school senior, and is taking classes at a local junior college. Her dream is to study occupational therapy. In addition to her studies she works as a gymnastics instructor. She loves karate (she's a black belt) and enjoys playing the guitar. Danielle will be going to Cebu this summer to reconnect with CSC and to meet her birth family. She was adopted in 1994.



Analiza and her five siblings were adopted by a family in the U.S. last December. She is being home-schooled, enjoys jumping on the trampoline and hiking in the woods with her family. She likes their church and the youth group.



Desiree, a helicopter mechanic in the U.S. Army.



Helen and family live in Florida, USA.



Bong and family live in Minnesota, USA.



Eddie and his family live in Colorado, USA.



Mary Jane will be attending Auburn University.

More than 500 CSC children have been adopted over the years. They have joined families all around the world, from New Zealand to the Arctic Circle of Norway, from California to Maine and throughout Europe. It is heart-warming to hear of their accomplishments and to see them chasing their dreams, becoming responsible adults and starting families of their own. CSC's influence on the lives of homeless children in Cebu touches adopted parents and siblings, teachers, wives, husbands and, eventually, their children.

News From Cebu



Howard and Marilynn Plucar were in Cebu recently to lead a retreat for the staff and workers. The Plucars are good friends of CSC, having lived in Cebu for several years before moving to Japan. Howard pastors an Evangelical Free church there and he and Marilynn also work for Reach Global in their missionary care department. Argei Kim and Angelica will be graduating from our Children of Hope School on April 16. Both will be in the Bridge program, a one-year program to help prepare them for high school. Arleen will be graduating from Cebu Normal University's Education Department. She will be looking for a job as a teacher for blind students.

Manuel **Mark**

(1 year and 5 months) is a new-comer to the Cherne Home nursery. He cried a lot and seemed frightened when he first came to live with us, but has made a good adjustment and is now happy and smiles often. He walks very well and loves to be outside.



Lady Anne (3 months) and **Lady Hart** (almost 4) were admitted on March 6.



They came to us from a neighboring island. Lady Anne is very smiley and will open her cute mouth when talked to. She drinks well and is chubby and very healthy. Lady Hart is very friendly and outgoing. She will run full speed into the arms of adults with a huge smile on her face. She has already made a good friend in the Cherne Home and loves to play with Barbies inside, or run on the playground. She has so much personality and loves being at CSC.

Mark Francis (3)

came to us at the end of January. He is a very smart little boy. He has adjusted well to life at CSC and is usually obedient, though he has an occasional streak of stubbornness. He enjoys playing with the other kids outside and is very active and healthy. He is learning to follow simple instructions from his caregivers.



Denmar (8), **John Robert** (6) and **Requena** (4) have lived at CSC for two months. They were referred to us from a downtown government center. They have each made a remarkable



adjustment to life at CSC. Denmar is polite and responsible with his chores in the Eicher Home. He is very sociable and always participates in activities in the home. He

likes to pray in front of all the kids in the home. He loves going to school and will volunteer for duties around the home. He is very healthy and active and is a good big brother to his siblings. John Robert lacks the confidence of his big brother, and will cry when he is corrected for behavior issues. Sometimes he is hesitant to approach adults. He likes to play outside and is very active and athletic.



Requena is a very happy and affectionate girl. She loves to laugh, tease, hug and joke around with kids and adults. There didn't seem to be any period of adjustment for Requena; she just jumped in right from the first day, making friends and having a good time. She loves to talk. She does a good job with her chores and asks a lot of questions of her caregivers.



NEW CRIB KIDS



Simonne is 5 months old. He likes to giggle when talked to, and has a very soft voice. He tries to roll when on the floor but doesn't make much progress yet. He is very healthy and handsome.



Francisco (5 months) came to CSC when he was 9 days old. He is bright-eyed, responsive and has a great appetite. He loves being held, and demands it much of the time. He is growing fast.



John (4 months) came to CSC as a 6 week-old. He is very happy and responsive and drinks very well. He would be happy if he never went in his crib, preferring the arms of his caregivers.



Maylen (1 month) was just 3 weeks old when admitted. She is still tiny and so very cute. She is our youngest child so gets lots of attention from all the workers in the Eicher Home nursery.



A Banquet Story from the Pitts Family by Anna Pitts

In 2003 when I went to Cebu, little did I know all that was in store for our family. I was on a trip to pick up our little girl, Willa. Willa had formed a close bond with six little friends at CSC and she was the last of the group to leave. She was 23 months old and knew the names of all 35 people in the Eicher Home. Brian, 11, was one of her buddies who would carry her in the yard before she could walk. Brian had a smile that would light up the room. The fact that he was so happy for Willa leaving while he was staying pulled at my heart. Little did I know that almost two years later we would be returning to CSC to pick Brian up and bring him home to Georgia. Now our family was complete.



Spring is probably the busiest time of the year for the Pitt family. Every year we made plans to go to the CSC banquet but it never would work out. Last year we decided we were going, and that was that. It was our first banquet and we flew from Atlanta to Minnesota. The first morning I went down for breakfast and saw a man with his daughter. She looked Willa's age and her name sounded familiar. I had my

husband text me a picture of Willa with her buddies from CSC, and, sure enough, Deborah was one of the little girls from Willa's group. They picked up right where they had left off, were giggling, swimming, bowling and snapping pictures. They were inseparable the entire weekend. It was as if they had never been apart. Brian had a wonderful time catching up with his friends. I lost count of how many times he thanked me for bringing him that weekend. I am not sure who enjoyed that weekend the most, me or them.

Last summer I took them back for their first visit to the Philippines since they left. We spent three days in Cebu, visiting, paying respects to Brian's first mom's grave, seeing where Willa was found, playing with the kids and catching up with our family at CSC. We even got to celebrate a birthday party while there. You see, the truth is, when we adopted Brian and Willa, CSC adopted us. They are like our family, too. There is a plaque at CSC's school that reads "We don't care where you come from, but we care where you are going." It's true!



Adoptive Family Night

Former residents of CSC and their adoptive families will meet on Friday evening, April 27, for a night of fellowship, reconnecting with friends and sharing memories about CSC. For more information and to make reservations, call the CSC office at 651-493-1551, or e-mail Roger Anderson at cscusa@cscshelter.org.



Canadian Banquet on April 27

The annual banquet and auction of the Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada will be April 27 at 6:30 at the South Abbotsford Church, 32424 Huntingdon Road in Abbotsford, BC. This year's theme is Squeals on Wheels, as the special fund raising project for the evening is a new multi-purpose Mitsubishi L-300 vehicle for Cebu. Call 604-850-9223 to make reservations for this exciting evening.



Prayer

1. Pray for our Annual Banquet on April 28 at Bethel University, that God will be glorified as we reflect on all that He has done in Cebu during the past year and the many children and families that have been blessed.
2. Pray for Matt Buley as he leads CSC as our new President.
3. Pray for Arleen Lozada, who recently graduated from college, and Kirt Pila-pil, who will be graduating on April 26. Pray that God would use their talents as teachers for his glory.

Our CSC Circle of Prayer



Praises

1. For the gifts, large and small, regular and unexpected, that help sustain our ministry to homeless children in Cebu City.
2. For our Cebu staff's recent spiritual retreat. Thanks to God for Howard and Marilyn Plucar, who led the retreat.
3. For the Touch a Life 2012 team from Central Baptist Church that sponsored a camp for our children in Santander, Cebu. Thanks to Ben Baltes, who led the team, and to all who participated and gave to make this camp possible.



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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

Asst. Director: Joel Reasoner

Interim Child Development Director: Lindsay Hoeft

Stateside

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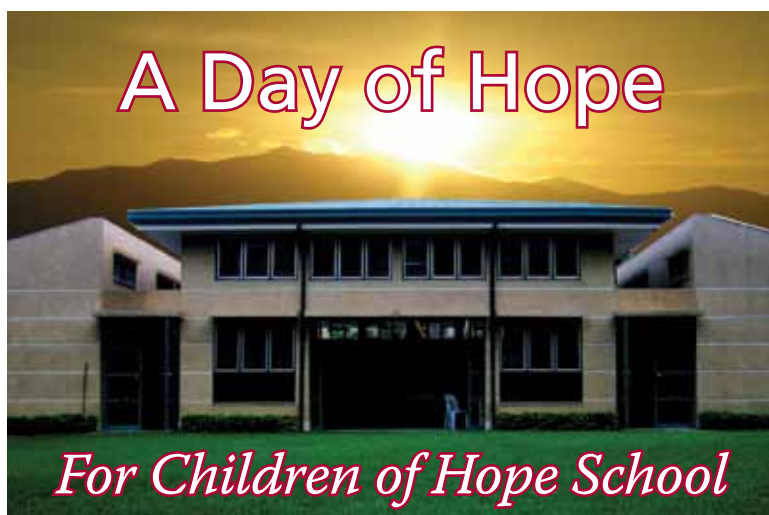
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Children of Hope School has been an important part of the ministry of CSC since 1998. We provide quality education to our children and others from the community. To help us fund this amazing school we are offering our friends an opportunity to underwrite 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 for more information or to make a Day of Hope gift, or call the CSC office at 763-689-6558. The donor(s) may specify a particular day for the sponsorship, on a first come first served basis.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT CHILDREN'S SHELTER OF CEBU



Heidi Erickson
Board Chair

Over the past year, we have given much thought and prayer to how to ensure CSC's ongoing vitality as an organization. In response to the way God has blessed the ministry and CSC's growth, we determined that it was time to split the President and Field Director roles – both simultaneously held by Paul Healy – into two distinct positions. This organizational change equips CSC to retain strength and purpose in both operations in Cebu and in overall organizational leadership, inclusive of fundraising.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that Matt Buley has accepted the role of CSC's President. Matt has been with CSC for the past eight years as the US Director. Paul Healy will continue to serve in Cebu as CSC's Field Director. We are excited about the future of CSC and the ongoing dedication to serving the children in Cebu that we see from Matt, Paul, and all of our CSC team.

During the past two weeks we have admitted several new children to CSC. A couple of them are young babies. At the same time, we have young adults who have lived here for most of their lives, and who will continue to be residents of CSC for the remainder of their time on earth. We want to be able to meet both kind of needs here, the temporary care of children who will eventually be adopted and those who need long term care. We want CSC to be vital and progressive and able to constantly improve caring for the children that come to live with us. And we desire a ministry that is financially secure so we can face the future boldly, knowing that we can continue to be there for those who have no place else to go.



I believe that our new leadership arrangement is vital for our future. We need more attention, on both sides of the ocean, to the needs of a growing ministry. It no longer makes sense to have a President who is 10,000 miles away from the Board and the development work of the organization. I have gladly and voluntarily stepped down from that position to enable someone else, Matt Buley, to lead the organization as President. This will free me to help strengthen our staff and the work that we do here in Cebu. And Matt has proven his leadership ability and strong commitment to excellence in all the areas of the ministry of CSC.

I look forward to a continued great working relationship with Matt, the Board, and the staff here in Cebu as we explore new ways of doing what God has called us to do.

- Paul Healy



What an honor and a privilege. I'm humbled by this opportunity and well aware that the path ahead is possible because of some amazing people who were here well before me. Be assured that this transition changes nothing about the fundamentals of our ministry. Our Christ-centered approach is non-negotiable, and our mission and values are solid. Too many people have brought this ministry too far for those things to be up for grabs, and I am committed to keeping CSC on its strong foundation. May God be glorified in where our path leads. I look forward to the adventure.

- Matt Buley