

## Frontline Prayer Team: A Covenant to Pray for the Ministry of CSC

We are Christ-centered and prayer-focused. This simple statement is the first of six core values defined by the leadership of Children's Shelter of Cebu. The very definition of who CSC is and what we do starts with this declaration.

This core value is so much more than something we say. It must be something that is lived out every day in every decision. In that spirit, CSC has recently launched a formal prayer team: Frontline Prayer Partnership.

Frontline is not for everybody. It is a way for supporters to make a commitment to pray daily for CSC. We have just one requisite for a Frontline prayer partner—that they sign up only if they are willing to pray at least one minute a day for CSC. This is a sizeable requirement but we know that

it can help make a sizeable impact on our ministry. Is this a pledge you would be willing to make for CSC?

If so, please sign up for Frontline through our U.S. office. You can choose to receive monthly prayer updates via e-mail or postal mail and you can also sign up for urgent prayer requests by e-mail. (Due to their urgency, postal mail is not an option for this component.) You can sign up individually or as a family.

Do you know of someone who loves this ministry but is unable to give financially? We would be blessed to have you share the ministry of Frontline with them. And we would be honored to have them join us in prayer. The type of work we do every day to provide a home for our children requires funding. But it requires even more prayer.

To sign up you may request the U.S. office to mail you a Frontline brochure that includes a sign-up form. You may do so by e-mail (cscusa@cscshelter.org), phone (763-689-6558) or postal mail (PO Box 247, Cambridge, MN, 55008). If you would like to sign up immediately, please include your name, mailing address, e-mail (if applicable) and phone number. The office will mail or e-mail you the most recent update so you can begin praying for specific needs right away. Thanks for your prayerful commitment!



## A Very Tough Year for Santa in Cebu

Santa might wish he had just stayed home this past Christmas. He arrived at CSC in an ambulance and had to be helped into the school by two burly volunteers. He tried his best for a few minutes but was only able to give out a few gifts before collapsing into a stupor. The children lined up and were heading back to the homes when, at the very last minute, several "back-up" Santas arrived. Two were exposed as obvious frauds before an acceptable replacement was installed. The rest of the gifts were distributed to the gleeful throng and everyone went home happy except the "real" Santa who was reportedly undergoing acupuncture treatments at a local hospital.

Thanks to the gifts of our loving supporters, we are able to give lovely presents to all the CSC children at Christmas. Special thanks to Howard Plucar for his best performance ever in the Santa suit. He and his wife, Marilyn, spent the entire holiday season helping bring smiles to our children's faces. Thanks to all our supporters who are the ultimate Santas.



Despite the efforts of the nursing staff, Santa was unable to continue and had to return to the hospital in an ambulance.

1. Pray for our staff in Cebu as they do their jobs and handle the many visitors who will be coming to CSC in the coming weeks.

2. Pray for the planning for the CSC annual banquet on April 22 at Bethel University. Our desire is that people's hearts will be touched by the updates from Cebu.

3. Pray for Jomar, one of our Teen Home young people, who is struggling with peer pressure and restlessness. He recently started a job as a chef.

4. Pray for Inday and Victor, our counselors, as they deal with very difficult issues with the children. Pray for wisdom and insight and that the children would be open with them about their problems and the difficult things they experienced before coming to live at CSC.



5. Pray for good health for our children and the workers who care for them.

6. Praise the Lord for the great financial finish to 2005 and for all who gave so generously.

7. Pray for Matt Buley, CSC's stateside director, as he presents the ministry to prospective donors and manages the operations of our Cambridge office.

8. Praise the Lord for Dawn Youngren who volunteered in Cebu for five months. Pray for her as she returns to the U.S. later this month to resume her teaching career.

9. Praise the Lord for all our Filipino workers who do such a good job with the children and represent the ministry to the community at large.



## Change Service Requested

### Cebu Staff

Field Director: Paul Healy  
Executive Director: Mitch Ohlendorf  
Medical Director: Marlys Healy  
Outreach Director: Ruth Ohlendorf  
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## CSC'S MINISTRY COMES TO LIFE AT APRIL 22 BANQUET



Plan to Attend, Invite a Friend

It's almost time for our annual banquet again! This year's affair will be on Saturday, April 22. Once again, we will be in the Robertson Center at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota. As always, seating will begin at 6:00 and the festivities will begin at 6:30.

Our theme this year is "A Day to Remember." We will be looking at a day in the life of the ministry of CSC through video, music, testimonies and a few surprises. We will share a meal together and hear about the exciting ways that God is working through the ministry of CSC. It will be a time of learning, rejoicing and meeting new people who share your burden for helping homeless children in the Philippines.

Every day, from sunrise to sunset, our staff and workers in Cebu are going about the business of providing child care, medical, educational and social work services to our children. Their efforts are the heart and soul of this ministry and many of our supporters might be surprised at the breadth of



responsibilities CSC assumes when we take in a homeless child. Our teachers, social workers, house parents, therapists, nurses and child care workers go all over Cebu City in their service to the children. On April 22 we will have the opportunity to go along with them and see the ministry of CSC from a new perspective.

Reservations are needed for this evening and should be made by April 15. Thanks to generous sponsors, there is no charge for the evening but a love offering will be taken for the ministry.

Table sponsors for the annual banquet are still needed. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, please contact the CSC office at 763-689-6558.

Please plan to attend on April 22. Why not consider inviting a friend who doesn't know about CSC and who might enjoy hearing about the ministry in Cebu and meeting the fine people who support it?

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## CSC's Children Find Hope at CHS

by Mitch Ohlendorf

Hope is a belief that things are obtainable regardless of the remoteness of the possibilities. Hope may also imply a certain amount of perseverance - that something is possible even when there is some evidence to the contrary. It may be directed toward something minor or something very significant.

When our school was given its name back in 1998, I wasn't crazy about it. It didn't come off the tongue well and seemed awkward. It wasn't a "school name" as school names go. And it seemed a bit stigmatizing, as if someone needed to be told they need hope. I was wrong. We all need hope. The children of CSC thrive on hope as a way back towards a life of normalcy, love and potential.

"blank slates," even though some are already approaching adolescence. Children, perhaps years past the age when they would have already started first grade, may not be able to



recognize any colors, numbers or letters, much less words. Simply being able to sit at a table with pencil in hand trying to copy a

at our shelter six years ago he couldn't talk to people, express his feelings or do any academic work. Now, almost 16 years old, Julieto can read competently, joke and trusts himself enough to

share his imagination in writing. Teacher Vangie has hopes for secondary education and maybe independent living for Julieto.

## The children of CSC thrive on hope as a way back towards a life of normalcy, love and potential

A person doesn't need to spend a long time in the Philippines to see where hope is lost. When hope is lost there is despair, and despair abounds in the city of Cebu. It dominates the headlines and is etched on the faces of the people on the street and in the endless squatter villages where our children come from - places where sickness, malnutrition, abuse, neglect and addictions dominate.

But hope is obtainable at Children of Hope School despite long odds. Spending time with our teachers and hearing about transformation in the lives of our children brings a desire to persevere. The changes are not only academic but behavioral as well, and may take years. Many of CSC's children come as virtual

name they've only heard before is demanding. When Bernardo came at eight years old, he had no letter recognition. But he was excited about everything, especially how the crayons and markers would produce different colors on paper. With an exceptional amount of patience by Teacher Cris, Bernardo is now a beginning reader. Mia doesn't prefer to hide under the table or throw tantrums anymore. Although she still struggles, she will sit at the table and try her best. And now she loves to look at books! Hours of individual instruction with Teacher Dawn have helped her to focus. Julieto has had the world opened up to him in our school. When he arrived

Janice didn't do well in school when she first arrived. She was shy and inexpressive. Now she is a hard working student, a good communicator and diligent in bringing vocabulary words to her teacher from her daily Bible devotions! In things seemingly small or exceedingly significant, CSC's children have hope at Children of Hope School. There is hope because there are staff and teachers that give hope and there is both the expectation and realization that hopes and dreams are there for the taking. The children only need to reach out and take hold.

Our school could not have a better name.



27 years of Ministry in Cebu

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**From This Corner**  
by Matt Buley  
U.S. Director



I'm sitting in the library at CSC's Children of Hope School as I write this. Joji, an 11 year-old, is reading a story to a volunteer in the loft. Erlyn, seven, is working on a project and our lead counselor, Inday, is preparing files for psychological testing related to adoption. Don't get me wrong, my office is fine, but you can't beat this work environment.

I'm sitting in the middle of God's work. He's at work in some 60 staff who are providing a home for nearly 80 kids. He's at work in 956 donors who were part of providing over \$300,000 in December to put us on strong footing going into 2006.

Your money is being stewarded in our music teacher, Francis, who's leading our level A children in music class. I can faintly hear those young voices singing *Blessed Be the Name of the Lord* as I write.

There are four sick infants in the Eicher Home today and one, Dan, is in the hospital. Mary Beth, 11, fractured her finger two days ago while playing and is on her way to the doctor again due to swelling. The medical team is hard at work.

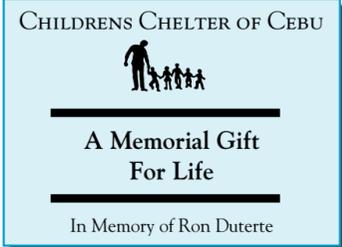
Being here should be exhausting but, instead, it's a two week barrage of being poured into by the most beautiful kids on earth. When our President, Paul Healy, picked me up at the airport he said: "Well, right now we have the best kids we've ever had. Of course, that's been true every day since I've been here."

Speaking of our staff, today there are 12 visitors here at CSC. That means our staff, in addition to doing their jobs, are planning meals, sharing their homes and providing transportation for the 12 of us. 12! Would you believe this number of visitors isn't even out of the ordinary? These missionaries are living a life of sacrifice to lead this ministry.

The ministry that you're giving to is making a difference. It's making a difference in a hundred different ways to newly admitted infants, special needs residents who are now in their twenties and every child in between. The sacrifices you're making to be a part of this and every day at CSC are remembered daily with much gratitude.

**Gifts That Honor Loved Ones and Bless the Children**

Donations to CSC are gifts of love and appreciation help CSC provide food, medicine, gifts have honored adopted CSC children's birthdays or care. Some of our donors choose to honor friends and relatives with these gifts. Whether it be a gift that honors the memory of a departed loved one or an honorarium that expresses appreciation for someone and what he or she means to the donor, these are meaningful gifts, both for the giver and the recipient or his or her family.



**One donor sent in a check to recognize an unknown person who helped push her car one snowy night...**

When we receive memorial or honoraria gifts, we send out a certificate that informs the person or the family of the gift and send the donor a receipt and a notification of the certificate's having been sent. These gifts of

and placement services to our children.

While memorial gifts all honor the memory of someone who has died, honoraria are given for many different types of occasions. Recent

can go to the general fund or can be designated for the Luke Fund Endowment.

Thanks to all who choose to give the gift of life to honor the people who have been important in their lives.

**December Income Rocks CSC's World!**

2005 was a year of emotional ups and downs in every aspect of the ministry of CSC, including the financial area. Although we always depend on strong year-end giving, we came into December needing another miracle to make our income budget for the year.

And we weren't alone. Many ministries and charitable organizations were in the same boat. U.S. donors had many urgent appeals thrown at them during 2005, including huge disasters in Southeast Asia, Pakistan and the southeastern United States. It seemed logical that some ministries would suffer as donors diverted their gifts to these urgent needs.

If you have been a supporter of CSC for very long you can probably predict what happened during December, 2005. Once again our supporters came through in a huge way, shattering all previous monthly income records and helping CSC reach its budget in a spectacular way. During the month our donors gave \$301,000! Our number of gifts for the month was 956. And here is the incredible part: \$196,000 came in during the last week of the year!



December was certainly a test of our faith, and another indication of the faithfulness of God and our great supporters.

Thanks to all who gave during 2005 and for your love for our precious children.

**CSC MARKS THE END OF AN ERA WITH THE PASSING OF "UNCLE RON" DUTERTE**

Perhaps nothing was as significant in 2005 as the loss of Ron Duterte, CSC's long time president and friend. Ron succumbed to liver cancer after a year-long battle. He was 71.

In the 26 year history of CSC, nobody has played a more significant role than Ron. He contributed to virtually every aspect of the work, serving selflessly and effectively. He was a person with credibility in Cebu City—a mover and shaker who could get things done that were impossible for our American staff.



Mayer Ron with staff at City Hall in 1983

As MN banquet speaker in 1999

Helping entertain kids at his beach house - 1997

Performing ribbon cutting for new playground in 1998

He used his influence to help improve the lives of the children that call CSC home.

Ron's career was one of achievement and service. He was a prominent lawyer in Cebu City and served on the city council as Vice Mayor, and eventually, City Mayor. He knew all the important people in government and helped the staff with licensing, incorporation and customs and immigration requirements. Once, back in 1980, he intervened with the Department of Social Welfare and Development when one of their officials was trying to stop one of our children from leaving the country for emergency medical care. Of

course, the person changed her mind and Ann was able to leave. When important medical supplies were sent from Minnesota and it looked like they would never get through customs, Ron marched in and the papers were all signed in a matter of minutes. In his 26 years of helping CSC there were literally hundreds of situations like these where Ron made a positive difference for our ministry. As our staff tried to work and live in a very different culture with laws and procedures

that they sometimes found inexplicable, Ron stepped in and made things work. He will be missed more than we can express. It is impossible to replace a person of Ron's stature and heart. The ministry of CSC is a legacy to what a person can do when he dedicates his life, talents, influence and resources to making life better for the less fortunate. At CSC, in spite of his significant status in the community, Ron was never called "Attorney" or "Mayor." He was always just "Uncle Ron." We thank God for his friendship and contributions to CSC.

**CSC Enjoys Record Year for Placements**

2005 saw the most adoptive placements in our history as 32 children left with their new families. CSC children went to six different countries during the year: Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, Finland, Sweden and the United States. Seven sibling groups were placed involving 19 children. The average age of the children placed during 2005 was 6.5 years.

CSC continues to cooperate with the Philippine Inter-Country Adoption Board for the placement of our children. CSC was tied for the most children placed by any agency in the Philippines during 2005. This is the result of hard work by our social workers and staff to hurry with the case work and submit the papers as soon as possible and the prayers of our faithful supporters for the placement of our children.

Through adoption, the influence of CSC spreads around the world, touching families and communities. CSC has almost 400 children adopted internationally in 13 different countries.



**Statistics from 2005**



**Children Served:** 109  
**Boys:** 63  
**Girls:** 46

**Child Days:** 26,040

**Admissions:** 29

**Placed for Adoption:** 32

**Returned to Families:** 1

**Transferred:** 2

**Children Served in Children of Hope School:** 68

**Children Hospitalized:** 20



**Workers**

**Residential:** 41

**School:** 16

**Guards/Maintenance:** 7

**Office/Admin.:** 3

**Social Workers:** 3

**U.S. Staff:** 5

**Short-term:** 6

**Updates on the Children We Serve** *by Sandy Swanson* **Kid's Korner**

We have had many visitors during the months of December and January! What a joy it is to share these kids with others! Not only did we have lots of people coming, we also had some going! Angel and Angelo left CSC just in time to spend Christmas Eve with their new family in Minnesota. Angel and Mia are ready and waiting to make their trip to Minnesota within the next few months. James and John are also very excited to know they will be going to Indiana. Our darling Michelle will soon be leaving us for Australia!



**JEREMIE** is about eight years old, we think. We have no birth documentation and no contact with anyone who has known him

more than two years. He was left in the care of an acquaintance of his mother's about two years ago but was not well cared for there. An elderly woman in the neighborhood took pity on Jeremie and made sure he had good food, some schooling and a place to call home. She soon realized that she could not promise Jeremie the future that he deserved. Jeremie is an amazingly trusting young man considering his past experiences with adults in his life. He has some trouble with his peer relationships and his behavior shows major insecurity at times but we are happy that Jeremie has found a home at CSC. He is soaking up all the hugs, affection and attention that we can give him.

**LYDIA** came to live with us in mid-December when she was one day old. She was a big newborn at more than eight pounds. We are used to four and five pound babies. Lydia's birth was in a very unsanitary place and she has dealt with problems relating to an infection in her umbilical cord area since her arrival in our home. She has been hospitalized with complications regarding this infection.



**GINO** is now three months old. He also arrived as a one day-old. Gino is quite the little charmer. He smiles, laughs,

coos and giggles for everyone all the time! It is so cute to see Gino and his nursery-mate, Rachel, cooing and "talking" to each other. They have carried on some long conversations! What a joy it is to see how happy this little boy can be!

**MARY FATIMA**



arrived in early November when she was a couple weeks old. Our Eicher nursery had been full of boys until Rachel arrived in September so we were happy to add Mary and then Lydia to balance things out a little bit! Mary is a darling little girl who is just starting to show us her sweet-natured personality.

**JUNRIEL** arrived when he was about six weeks old. He is the son of one of our former CSC kids who returned to her birth family a few years ago. His birth mother is still quite young herself and we think she made the right decision for herself as well

as Junriel in deciding to surrender him. CSC is now doing second generations! Junriel is a handsome little boy!

**REMIR (12), MARY JOY (10), REYMARK (8) and RAYMUND (6)** are siblings that have been with us for a year and a half. The boys are all very active and quite creative in dreaming up new ways



to try get around some of the rules in our homes that they find a little "confining." Mary Joy is developing into a young lady who is good at anything she attempts, whether sports, academics or socializing! Now that they have been with us for some time and have had opportunities to see many of their friends leave for adoption, this sibling group is looking forward to their turn!

**JULIETO** will soon be 16 years old. When he turns 16 he will no longer be eligible for international adoption. He has not quite given up on the dream of adoption for himself but we are starting to work with him on thinking about a future here in the Philippines. Juliето has lived at CSC for six years. He struggles with school and with some social situations but he has grown into a wonderful young man while living at CSC. We are proud of Juliето and are happy to be his home for the rest of his life if that is what his future is to be.

At this printing CSC has 73 children under its care with 32 in each of our homes in Banawa and nine in our Wally Johnson Teen Home. Thank you for your love and concern for these dear children and for your prayers that are so important as we strive to give them the best care possible and to help them find health, happiness and hope. Every night before they sleep they thank God for all the CSC supporters who help them in their lives.

