

# CSN NEWS

Children's Shelter of Cebu

Winter 2007

Issue 1

Volume 29

## From Cebu to the World: Adoptions Extend CSC's Reach

by Paul Healy

CSC is a relatively small ministry, caring for 75 homeless children on a far-away island in the Philippines. But through adoption, CSC's hands reach around the world to touch families, churches and communities with love and hope. CSC children are finding homes in countries around the globe, from the sunny coastal regions of Australia to the Arctic Circle in Norway.

CSC now has former resident children living in 14 different countries. Switzerland became the newest country to welcome a CSC child when little Mark was brought home by his new parents in October. Former Cebuano children who struggled to learn English when they came to live in the shelter are now speaking German, French, Finnish,

of the children at CSC will take root, grow and flourish in their new homes, and that they will eventually be blessings to their parents, their neighborhoods, their nations and to their God.

So our prayers for our children should not end when they leave Cebu. Although our direct influence in their lives is finished when they leave with their families, we can continue to uphold them during the difficult transitions that are involved in an inter-country adoption. Meeting new people, learning a new language, entering a new school and adjusting to a new way of life and different expectations from those around them are some

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Norwegian and a number of other languages as they become Europeans, North Americans or Australians.

At CSC, we see our role as preparing children to be able to make a successful transition to their adoptive families, wherever that might be. But that is not all. We see the ministry in Cebu as contributing to the building of God's Kingdom worldwide as our children bloom where they are planted, giving glory to the God who rescued them and gave them a chance to experience the joy of a loving family. Our prayer is that the seeds of love and faith that we are planting in the lives

of the issues that adopted children face.

Our prayer for our children as they leave Cebu and CSC for distant nations is a paraphrase of lyrics from a great missions hymn "Song for the Nations" by Chris Christensen. Please pray it with us.

*May they be a shining light to the nations,  
A shining light to  
the peoples of the earth. Till the whole world sees  
the glory of your name. May your pure light shine  
through them!*

May it be so!



The Maklan family of Australia



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## On The Flip Side

by Matt Buley  
U.S. Director



I'm writing you in the midst of my fourth trip to Cebu where I have had the opportunity of addressing the largest gathering of CSC workers ever. This significant assemblage was not due to our having added new staff but because we got almost all of them to one place at the same time.

This is no small feat in a ministry serving children 24 hours a day and was only possible thanks to all the missionaries and a few extra workers. The purpose was a simple one: we wanted to say "thank you."

Most of our newsletter readers are not in the Philippines, so almost all of us have in common the fact that we are limited in what we can do for CSC. For the most part, we have to accept that our energies for CSC will be directed towards praying and giving, though I'm sure we'd all love to be able to drop into the shelter regularly to tuck the kids in at night, take them out for a special meal or help them work on some homework.

Our Board Chair-Elect, Craig Sturm, and I got the rare opportunity to speak with the 70 people who do those very tasks on a daily basis at CSC. It's a regular occurrence that those people will thank me for all of you and all that happens away from the Philippines to make this ministry possible. Craig and I had the chance to return the favor, to tell them how grateful all of us are for all of them.

Changing diapers, washing dishes and transporting special needs kids are not easy jobs. They are probably often thankless tasks and yet, without question, are important ministry.

The people in these positions are virtually the hands and feet of Christ. They stand by our children through lots of good and bad times. As CSC supporters, you are our hands and feet, too. Those of us on the staff look upon you and all who support the ministry as interdependent blessings and we are incredibly grateful for all of you.

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2007

The ministry of CSC provides several options for supporters to direct their giving. For those who may be new to CSC, here are a few giving opportunities to consider:

**FOSTER FRIENDS** – CSC'S sponsorship program gives an opportunity for individuals, families or small groups to participate in the ministry through the support of an individual child or children. For \$25 a month, sponsors receive regular pictures and updates on their child's progress and occasional letters from their sponsored child.

**GENERAL FUND** – Undesignated gifts to the general fund allow us maximum flexibility in meeting the most urgent needs of the ministry. General fund gifts can be given monthly, semi-annually or once a year, depending on the needs of the donor.

**PLANNED GIFT** – Planned giving can be described as *planning to make a difference both for yourself and for a cause that you believe in through a charitable gift.* Planned giving often involves "leaving a legacy" because many planned gifts are created to make an impact for future generations. It is surprisingly easy to arrange a planned gift. Though more sophisticated gifts require more care, many methods are quite straightforward. Whatever the method, you can plan your gift to maximize your objectives. Planned gifts include bequests, life insurance and transfer of stock.

**MEMORIALS** – Your gift to CSC can be a meaningful statement in memory or honor of a loved one. A gift can be made to honor a friend or family member on a birthday, graduation, anniversary, retirement or other event, and a memorial gift is an especially meaningful way to honor the memory of a loved one. CSC will send a formal acknowledgement of your gift to the person or family in whose honor your tribute is made. A separate receipt will be sent to you for tax purposes.



## Financial Report : Numbers tell part of CSC's 2006 Support Story

Once again, CSC's supporters came through in a very significant way in 2006. December's income of \$228,196 pushed our total for the year to \$1,227,058, the highest total ever. We received 7269 gifts, up slightly from 2005.

Our unrestricted gifts of \$1,095,198 were almost identical to 2005. However, since our total income for the year included gifts to the capital campaign totaling \$130,002,

different donors during the year. Some gave regularly during the year while others made one-time or year-end gifts.

This financial summary, like the statistical report on page four concerning the numbers of children served, does not tell the full story of CSC's support during 2006. Behind each gift is a story of love, compassion and, often, sacrifice. Many of the gifts were backed up with prayer

## Through the efforts of our staff and workers in Cebu, we were able to turn your donated dollars into hope.

we did not reach our income goals for the year. In order to fulfill our commitments to Cebu, we borrowed \$35,000 from our reserve funds which we were not able to replenish at year's end.

Several large gifts, including six for the capital campaign, boosted our average gift to \$168.81, which was up almost 6% from 2005. CSC received gifts from 1,508

support, the value of which can not be calculated on a financial ledger. Through your gifts to CSC during 2006 children were rescued from abandonment, neglect, sickness and despair. They were given good food, medicine, education and tons of love. Through the efforts of our staff and workers in Cebu we were able to turn dollars into hope.



# Unity in Diversity at CHS



One of the amazing things about CSC is the diversity of our staff and workers. God has brought together people of all ages and walks of life to do the work of the ministry, to administrate the programs and to provide support. At our Children of Hope School, that diversity is evident the moment you walk through the door.

The first thing you'll notice is that we have both Filipino and North American teachers at

CHS. They work together as a cross-cultural team. Although this isn't always easy, we believe that an international flavor is in the best interests of our children. Most of them will leave us for an adoptive family somewhere outside of the country of their birth. It is beneficial to them to be exposed to a variety of perspectives and approaches to learning.

**In spite of many areas of diversity, we are unified in wanting to give our children the very best education possible**

As you meet the children at CHS you will also notice a diversity. We are an inclusive school, designed for all the children of CSC regardless of their abilities or limitations. Some of our children are in wheel chairs; others can run and play. Some came to us with no prior schooling; others were able to attend school and don't need any catching up. Some need lots of special help; others are in a position where they can offer help to their fellow students.

As you listen to the sounds of CHS you'll notice some variety in language. Although English is the primary medium of instruction, our students also learn Tagalog (the national language of the Philippines) and many of them use their native dialect, Cebuano, to communicate. Many of our children come to us with no understanding of English.

Occasionally we will admit a child from another language area so we might hear other dialects being used as everyone searches for common linguistic ground.

The key to the success of our school is that, in spite of many areas of diversity, we are unified in wanting to give our children the very best education possible. Sometimes compromise is needed when cultural differences occur. But the needs of the children and our desire to offer them hope through education always is the bottom line at Children of Hope School.

## Images of 2006



**Top row, l-r:** Christmas Eve was a great time with Santa Greg and lots of fun and hijinks; the Christmas drama at school this year was entitled "Little Star"; the toddlers at CSC rule the roost;

**Inserts:** the children enjoyed doing their assigned tasks; Jacob had a rough start to his year with surgery and having to miss a lot of school, but things improved and we saw his great smile more frequently; Mitch Ohlendorf greeted guests to the Christmas drama;

**Bottom row:** Joemar kept McDonalds solvent during 2006; another great year at Children of Hope School; lots of good food was served and gladly eaten during the year.





# Updates on the Children We Serve **Kid's Korner**

by Sandy Swanson

We have only added two kids since the last newsletter but that may change before this reaches your mailbox. We are checking out a referral for a family of nine kids! Check out our blogs ([www.cscsshelter.org](http://www.cscsshelter.org)) to find out what happened with that visit!

**JENNY** is a sweet little girl who arrived in mid-November at two days old. She is already smiling a lot and likes to be held. Jenny has already learned all the little tricks of how to get into someone's arms quickly! She has lots of admirers at CSC!



**MICHAEL** is growing so fast! He arrived a couple days after Jenny and was only one day old on arrival. He is using all his energy to sleep and eat now. He will worry about relationships later. Michael wakes up and wants to eat immediately. He uses lots of energy communicating his thoughts in the few minutes it takes us to get his bottle prepared! After he eats he is so tired that he falls back to sleep again!

We have several children ready to leave us:



During 2006 CSC cared for 94 children in our three residences. We took care of nine in our Teen Home, 39 in the Eicher Home and 44 in Cherne. Fifty-seven were boys and 35 were girls. Twenty-one kids were admitted during 2006, coming from a variety of backgrounds and geographical areas. Twenty-two children left our care during the year. Seventeen were adopted, two were returned to their birth families, one was transferred to another child caring program, one (Luke) died and one of our teens (Jomar) voluntarily left our Teen Home program. Of the adopted children, 13

**JEREMIAH (15 months)** will be leaving this week! His parents are here in Cebu now and he has three very excited brothers and a sister waiting for him at home.



**NINA LUZ and NINA ROSE (1 year)** are matched and accepted. We will sure miss these darling little one year-old cuties.



**GINO (15 months)** will be leaving soon. He has overcome a lot of health issues during his stay at CSC but is doing well. Gino was a newborn when he came to live with us. We are going to have to fill up our nurseries again.

**JUAN (4 years) and DANIEL (2)** will be making their journey to their adoptive family in the next few months. Their smiling faces and cute antics will be very much missed but we are happy



that our prayers have been answered for them to have the family that they deserve!

We still have two houses of kids that are not coming or going, but are just waiting.

**ERLYN (8) and ERWIN (7)** have grown up so much in the past few months.

Erlyn is proud to tell us that she is not a "reporter" anymore! The other kids are even happier about that than Erlyn! Erwin is getting so strong and coordinated and loves



to play baseball. He has become a very fast runner. Both Erlyn and Erwin are doing very well in school.

**JULIETO (16)**

has accepted the fact that he is now too old for adoption.



His dream of a family just did not happen for him. He has moved on to think about what he would like to do to further his education and his plans for the future. He will move into the Teen Home later this year which will put him in with those more his age.

went to the United States, one was adopted in Switzerland, one went to Finland and two joined their family in Australia. 2006 saw 24,783 child days, which means we served almost 75,000 meals during the year.

All these statistics are interesting, but they really tell so little about what happened at CSC during 2006. They don't tell the story of medical miracles, changed lives, academic accomplishments, growth, struggle and the tremendous accomplishments of our staff and workers. All these things made 2006 a blessed year!





## Two Events Reflect Differing Needs and Giving Opportunities

On January 25 CSC held a kickoff event for our “Building a Legacy of Hope” capital campaign. The evening was a time of learning more about the campaign and the ministry expansion planned in Cebu. It was an inspiring evening of sharing big ideas and exciting plans for the future.



### Building a Legacy of Hope

On April 28 our 2007 annual banquet will be held at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota. This will be an evening of fellowship, good food, updates on the ministry and cultural presentations from the Philippines and around the world. The theme for this year's banquet will be “From CSC to the World!” As in past years, seating will begin at 6:00 and the festivities, including dinner, will start at 6:30. An offering will be taken for the ministry.

These two events correspond with different needs and giving opportunities for CSC's supporters. The capital campaign focuses on the need for new buildings in Cebu. We will be raising two million dollars over the next three years and will be constructing an infirmary, a residence for our children with special

needs and a new Teen Home and office facility. In addition, the campaign includes an endowment component of \$600,000 to help fund the staffing of these programs and the ongoing maintenance of the new buildings. The banquet in April will focus on our existing ministry, inspiring our supporters in their giving and praying for CSC. The money raised at the banquet will be used to meet expenses during 2007.

For the board and staff of CSC, the capital campaign is a step of faith. Two million dollars is a great deal of money and raising it requires a lot of time and effort, as well as a great deal of good will on the part of our supporters. But our budget for 2007 is also very important! We need our donors to be faithful in their regular giving as we do not have significant reserves to tide us over during the capital campaign. The only way that we can meet the important needs for the future as well as our budgetary obligations for 2007, is if the friends of CSC give their regular gifts and make a special, “over and above” pledge for the capital campaign.

That is our hope and prayer for the coming months as we introduce the campaign and the exciting plans for ministry expansion to the CSC family. We look forward to doing that through our newsletter, special mailings and personal contacts. And we hope to see you at Bethel on April 28!

## PRAISES

**1. Thanks** to God for our faithful and generous supporters who helped us pay our bills during 2006 and meet our commitments to the children in Cebu.

**2. Praise** God for his provision for adoptive families for our children.

**3. Thanks** to God for generous friends who respond to the needs of the ministry with gifts and prayers and encouraging words to our missionaries and stateside staff.

**4. Praise** God for opportunities to share CSC with churches and individuals.



## REQUESTS

**1. Pray** for the board as CSC embarks on our capital campaign. Pray for wisdom, courage and perseverance for everyone involved in the fundraising and planning.

**2. Pray** for our faithful, hard working staff in Cebu led by Executive Director Mitch Ohlendorf. Pray for Ruth Ohlendorf, Sandy Swanson, Amy Luck, Tammy Vosika, Shari Reasoner and all of our Filipino workers.

**3. Pray** for Brenda Leaf, our Administrative Assistant in Cambridge, who recently broke her ankle. Pray for relief from pain and for fast healing.

**4. Pray** for peace and order in the Philippines and for wisdom for President Arroyo and the congress.

**5. Pray** for the Healy's as they travel to churches to tell them the good news about what God is doing in Cebu and about plans for the future of the ministry.

## FORMER CSC KIDS VISIT

During November and December, three former CSC kids visited Cebu to reconnect with the staff, spend time with the children and experience the country of their birth. Desiree Dee and Roxanne Holmberg of Minnesota and Rosalyn Robb of Massachusetts, made a big hit with the children and provided a blessing for our staff and workers who had invested in their lives while they lived at CSC.

## CANADIAN BOARD CHAIR DIES

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden passing on of Art Kasdorf who served as the chairman of the Canadian board of CSC. Art died from a tragic accident on October 29 just as our November newsletter was being printed. He had a servant's heart and led a life of love, strength and encouragement to others. Art is greatly missed by his family, the Canadian board and everyone at CSC.



[www.cscshelter.org](http://www.cscshelter.org)

CSC's website is a great place to get information about the ministry. Our site features pictures, news items, prayer requests, staff blogs, and ways that friends can help. Our site also provides a way for donors to give on-line.



# CSC NEWS

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CSC NEWS IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES ANNUALLY  
BY CHILDREN'S SHELTER OF CEBU, A NON-  
PROFIT, CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
TO PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS OF HOMELESS  
CHILDREN IN CEBU, PHILIPPINES

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# FOSTER

Foster Friends is a long-distance friendship that develops between a sponsor and a CSC child. The sponsors may be individuals, families or church groups—people who desire an intimate relationship with the ministry of CSC through an involvement in the life of a particular child.

Foster Friends is a “win, win, win” situation. The children receive quality care and the security that comes from knowing that people across the world care about them. The sponsors receive the joy of knowing that they are making a difference in the life of a child who has been deprived of the love and care of a family. And CSC receives financial help for the purchase of food, medicine, school materials and other needed items. Everybody wins through Foster Friendship!

For 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 important background information on how your child came to live at CSC. You will receive regular updates with pictures so you



# FRIENDS

can chart your child's development. If your child is old enough, he or she will send you an occasional letter. Since it costs us 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.

You can join our winning team at Children's Shelter of Cebu. Fill out the application below or call our office at 763-689-6558 and we will enroll you immediately in this program, will match you with a child and send you information. For only \$25 a month you can help CSC make a difference in a child's life.

- 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  
 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, 237 SW 2nd Ave.  
Cambridge, MN 55008

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

All contributions are tax deductible

