

# NEWS *from* CEBU

## - ENCOURAGING HORSE PLAY

- Paul Healy

Therapy at Children's Shelter of Cebu (CSC) takes many forms. Most of our children receive counseling to help them deal with issues in their lives before they came to CSC or with their behavior at the shelter. Some receive physical or occupational therapy. Others have speech therapy. Some of the children's goals are short term

in nature, as with a boy who injured his hand and needed to regain strength and full range of motion of his fingers. Others have more long term goals such as to improve and maintain coordination or to achieve gross and fine motor skills within his or her age group.

*Equine therapy can help the children build confidence, trust, social skills, communication, and learn boundaries.*

a horse under the supervision of specially trained physical, occupational and speech therapists, who use this treatment for people who have movement dysfunction. This therapy can help the children build confidence, communication, trust, per-

spective, social skills, impulse control, and learn boundaries. Horses have social and responsive behaviors that are similar to humans, so it is easy for the children to create a connection with the horse. Horses are used in animal therapy because they give immediate feedback to

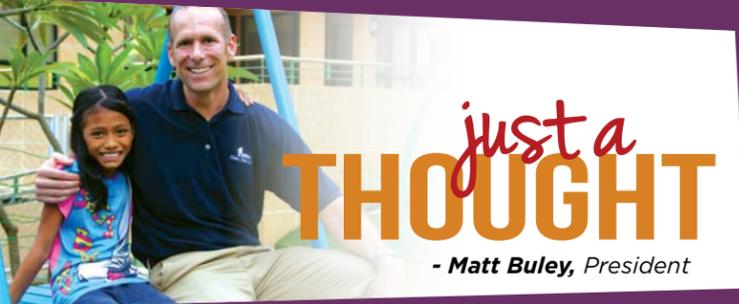
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Recently our interventions took a new turn when we introduced equine therapy to four of our children. Several months ago we met Gauvin and Delphine Guillaume, a French couple who run a ministry called SPACE, or Special People Accessing Creative Education. **SPACE is a therapy center that features Equine Therapy, a treatment that uses the multidimensional movement of the horse.** The children ride



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Yes, you are in the right place! Same CSC here, but we decided to refresh our look a little. One of our goals was to make the newsletter more readable. I hope you find we were successful. We want to present a quality product that does justice to the incredible work happening for our children in Cebu. We offer the best we can to children in need, and we want to look our best too.

There's an added bonus to this newsletter revision. The one you're reading now was significantly cheaper to print than the old version. I know we all love that part.

Even as things change or get updated at CSC, this ministry has deep roots. Being rooted is part of why we press on while other organizations have had to close their doors. If you asked, "What does CSC do?" 34 years ago, you would have gotten

the same answer as today: We provide loving homes to orphaned children. It's that simple. CSC has been doing the same thing all that time. I think we've just been getting better.

The other day I had the chance to sit with one of our physical therapists, Jinkee Reasoner. She showed me some ideas she has to serve our children with special needs better. Normally, I wouldn't be engaged in this conversation. I'd leave that to our field leadership, but she's in the States right now and I got to hear about it directly.

I was very encouraged by some of the steps we are taking. Our kids are getting the best from a deeply committed staff. They are getting what a parent would want to give from a staff that is getting better at what we do. Hopefully, we're looking a little better, too. ■



## -ADMITTING CHILDREN to CSC



The next few months will see a lot of turnover of children at CSC. Not every child referred to CSC is admitted. We strive to make sure that the children we take in meet our standards for need and that our home is an appropriate place for them to live. **The safety and well-being of all our children is the highest priority in our decisions about admissions.**

Part of that well-being involves trying to keep children with their biological families. Coming to live at CSC and eventually going to an adoptive home should be the last alternative for a child. Our

CSC has been around for more than 34 years. In that time we have gained experience and expertise in evaluating referrals and deciding which children to take in. Often these are life-and-death decisions.

We took in Jeneca, "Jen," a little seven-month-old baby girl recently who was badly malnourished and had been abandoned by her mother. Our doctor informed us that she would need major surgery in the coming days. There were simply no viable care options available within her family. Because of the recent earthquake, the government orphanage could not accept any children, regardless of their needs. She was destined to die if we did not act quickly. Some staff were able to see her; others

*"Coming to live at CSC and eventually going to an adoptive home should be the last alternative for a child."*

### EQUINE THERAPY *continued from page 1*



the rider's actions. Since horses are large and intimidating, it forces their rider to gain trust.

CSC's childcare team chose Maria, Michael, Wilmar and Jhaycob to be the first to try this therapy. Maria has cerebral palsy with limited equilibrium, Michael has needs in the areas of social awareness and cognitive skills, Wilmar has autism, with weakness on his left side, and Jhaycob needs work on his fine motor skills with social and cognitive awareness. After

meeting their specially trained horse, Kose, they helped to feed and groom him. **It is amazing to watch children who have struggled with self-esteem and various cognitive and mobility problems riding high on the horse, with big smiles and feelings of pride.**

We look forward to watching these four grow from their relationship with Kose, and gain confidence as they ride and care for him. We anticipate other CSC residents having this opportunity in the months to come as SPACE expands their program. ■

### NEWS FROM CEBU

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***CSC is a place of hope for Jen and many other children who have come to live with us.***



social workers make every effort to find relatives who are able and willing to accept the child. Often this involves organizing family meetings, interviewing couples and individuals, and making assessments of capabilities. CSC does not exist to replace families but to provide care for children who have no place else to go.

weighed in by phone. Although our nurseries were full, we decided we could make room, so little Jeneca was admitted.

CSC is a place of hope for Jeneca and many other children who have come to live with us. We are the last resort, but a very good option for those who have no place else to go. ■

# -SPECIAL PROJECTS

## *Come to life*

For the past few years CSC has featured special projects on our website. This was done out of a conviction that some donors enjoy giving towards a specific need they can visualize.



In recent months we have seen many important special project needs met through our supporters' generous and timely gifts. **We have received money for new computers, basketball hoops, school supplies and books, high chairs and beds, landscaping, tools, gazebos, and playground equipment. Even a vehicle!** Others have given for treatments for John Ray and Christian's brittle bone disease treatments. Our Canadian partners, the Cebu Christian Shelter Society of Canada, chose several of these projects as the fundraising emphasis of their banquet in April.

Some projects that we feature are regular parts of our budget, such as "Feed the Kids" or math books. Others are needs, sometimes urgent, that come up during the year that were not anticipated. We have discovered that some needs touch the hearts of our donors more than others. Some enjoy having an impact on the lives of particular kids by helping meet their medical needs or providing them with a new bed. Some like making the staff's dreams into realities.

A tour of the shelter at any time highlights the benefits of this giving. James dribbles in and shoots the ball through a new hoop. Uncle Elesio is repairing a crib, using a new electric drill. Toddlers find relief from the hot sun inside the new gazebo. Babies are lined up in their fancy new high chairs as the aunties feed them their cereal. New trees and sodded areas beautify the grounds. Truly, God is using the special projects list to touch hearts to give, which results in tremendous blessings for the children we love and serve.

**Head to [www.cscshelter.org](http://www.cscshelter.org) to see up-to-date special projects! ■**



*Special projects result in tremendous blessing for the children we serve.*

# PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

## REQUEST

A magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit Cebu and the neighboring island of Bohol on October 15, with significant damage and devastation. Although the worst damage has been in Bohol, Cebu has experienced destroyed homes and buildings and people killed by falling debris and collapsing structures. Some of our CSC employees' homes were damaged, and others had families affected by the quake, particularly those with relatives who live in Bohol. The overall damage and loss of life has rocked this part of the Philippines and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Please pray for these people and for relief efforts aimed at saving lives and restoring hope.



## PRAISE

Although we mourn with those who have lost their homes and loved ones, we thank God that our facilities and children were spared. One of our buildings underwent some minor cracking, but a structural engineer examined it and pronounced it safe. The aftershocks—hundreds in the days following the earthquake—are a source of concern for our buildings and for the anxiety they cause in the children and staff. Please pray that God would give peace in the midst of these difficult days, and that our children and workers would continue to be safe.



# -MAKING STRIDES

## *Financial Update*

- Matt Buley

Before heading to the Philippines each trip, I download photos of our kids to learn the names of the new children. It makes for productive time on the plane.

On this last trip to Cebu the system wasn't foolproof. It hadn't been long since the last trip, but there were many new faces: babies, toddlers and school-aged children. It was great.

In reporting on our finances, that's the best place to begin. Despite the struggles that hit hard in May, we have been able to make up ground. Most important, we have been taking in new children. **As of this writing, we have 90 kids in our care.**

In the last newsletter I reported that we were \$101,000 behind budget, or 12.8%. Our supporters have been good to us, and we have been wise in cutting expenses. Using adjusted budget figures (reducing the amounts by what we cut in expenses) we are now only \$20,300 behind budget for the year, or 1.9%.

This has been an interesting year. We have seen new donors step up, and we have seen old friends reduce giving. Most alarming is that we lost two big churches this year because they shifted their giving to different geographical regions. This seems to be a trend in big churches and highlights the need for us to connect as best we can with smaller congregations.

**In the end, it is individuals who make or break CSC.** I'm proud to say many individuals have stepped up to help us step out of the hole we were in. All of us are so grateful, especially those children who have been admitted.

What's the bottom line? Roughly \$730,000. That's about what we'll need to bring in to make budget this year. Please pray for God to work through his people to make that possible. We know He will provide exactly what we need. ■

# HOUSE PARENT HIGHLIGHT

## Patrick & Lourdes

At CSC our house parents are the backbone of the ministry. They manage the children's care in the homes, supervise the child care and household workers, provide spiritual guidance, go to the market and purchase food and handle disciplinary issues. **They are on duty day and night and serve as substitute parental models for our children.**

Patrick and Lourdes Ronquillo are our senior house parents,

and supervises the children in their various work assignments. Patrick and Lourdes do a great job of managing the workers in the home, and lead regular devotions with them and the children. They plan birthday parties for all the children in their home and make sure their medical needs are known to the nursing staff. Together with the other house parents, they

**Our house parents are the backbone of the ministry.**

them in the Duterte Home. She now lives in the southern part of the Philippines and works in hotel administration. She will be married in December, and Patrick and Lourdes are very excited about that event. Jenefa met her fiancé, Lloyd, when he worked at CSC as a physical therapist.

Lourdes speaks for both of them in acknowledging that



having been with us since 1997. They live and work in the Duterte Home. Prior to working at CSC they were house parents in a child caring ministry in another province. The Ronquillos bring a wealth of talent and dedication to their jobs. They are enthusiastic encouragers of the children and express love to them in many ways. Patrick loves to play sports with the children on the playground, and Lourdes enjoys the babies and toddlers. She also does the gardening around the home

attend regular meetings with the child care team to discuss the behavior and needs of the kids in their home. They also work closely with the teachers to chart the children's progress in school and to enable them to help with homework.

One challenge of being house parents is in raising their own children. Sharing their time and attention with 30 children can be difficult. Patrick and Lourdes' daughter, Jenefa, now 26, lived most of her life with

“working at CSC is a very challenging job where you can experience frustration and joy in working with the children.” But she sees great benefits for her own life. **“I have matured a lot in learning to deal with all the people I work with at CSC. I have learned how to humble myself and encourage others with their problems.”**

We are very thankful for the lives of Patrick and Lourdes and the years they have invested in the lives of so many CSC children. ■

# KID'S KORNER

- Sandy Swanson

At this moment in time CSC is caring for 90 “kids.” Six of them are actually legal adults and three are adults with special needs. We have 26 kids at the Cherne Home, 29 kids at the Duterte Home, 30 kids at the Eicher home and five “adult kids” at our Teen Home.

We have lots of children who have left CSC and are preparing to leave. Kids who have left recently are siblings **Trixine (10)** and **Juvenel (8)** who are now with their adoptive family in the USA. **Mark Vincent (11)** was transferred to a private home for foster care, as we came to the conclusion that he would do much better in the more intimate setting of a family. **Simonne (2)** and **Anna Marie (1 ½)** have also both joined their adoptive families in the USA and Philippines, respectively. Lots more kids are matched and waiting for their adoptive families to come and get them. This will be a big adoption year!

We have had lots of children added to our family as well. **The newest CSC kid is Jeneca.** Jeneca is weak and sickly. She will need surgery at some point, but we do not yet know how serious her condition is. She will need to be isolated from the other children for quite some time. Jeneca is 7 months old.

**Shelanie (3)** took CSC by storm in June. We had heard many things about Shelanie's past behaviour that was alarming, but we have not seen anything overly problematic in our home. She is a charmer and had us all wrapped around her little finger in moments. This little lady brings a smile to everyone she meets - she is also quite well acquainted with our time-out

chair. Siblings **Jennifer (7)** and **John Kevin (18 months)** arrived in July. Their birth mom simply could no longer meet their needs, so decided that giving them a second chance at a family was the best thing she could do for them. Jennifer quickly became everyone's friend. She is friendly and cooperative in the home. John Kevin was sick and weak when we admitted him but he has since started walking and even talking. We have a baby-boy boom at CSC with four little boys: **Caleb, Shan, Wenceslao** and **Thomas** all arriving in the last two months. Caleb, Shan and Wenceslao are all healthy little newborn boys. Thomas; however, has some significant medical issues. He is difficult to feed and has trouble breathing during his frequent coughing spasms.

Siblings **Argei Kem (19), Ardian (almost 18) Adelyn (16)** and **Janice (13)** have been with us at CSC for seven years. Argei Kem and Ardian are now too old to be adopted. We need to make a major decision regarding what to do about possible adoption for the girls. Should we split a sibling group? We don't have any possible families for the girls yet, but their age still allow them to have a chance at adoption. Should we keep all four of them here? We will be talking a lot with these children and seeking God's guidance and wisdom on this. Thank you for praying along with us! ■



- Jeneca



Shelanie -



- Jennifer & John Kevin



Wenceslao -



- Caleb



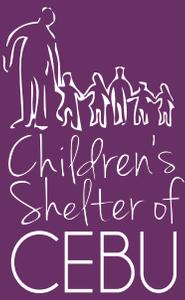
Shan -



- Thomas



- Argei Kem, Ardian, Adelyn & Janice



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# NEWS *from* CEBU

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**NEWS FROM CEBU** is published three times annually by Children's Shelter of Cebu, a nonprofit, Christian organization dedicated to providing for the needs of homeless children in Cebu, Philippines.

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## -RESPONDING TO CRISIS

### *Earthquakes and Other Emergencies*

We are crisis managers at CSC. With 90 children under our care, with the large number of workers that we employ, and with the natural disasters that regularly afflict the Philippines, staff routinely deal with difficult situations that demand immediate and knowledgeable attention. We are a shelter, which means that we are often in the mode of protecting our children from situations that might threaten their well-being.

Some crises are medical. Playground accidents might result in broken bones or other injuries. Earlier this year,

12-year-old Epifanio fell and hit his eye on a rock and had to be rushed to the hospital. Six-year-old Marky broke his arm after falling from the monkey bars.

In addition to medical crises, there are times when a child's behavior needs to be addressed immediately. Or there might be security issues at our

compound that could threaten the welfare of everyone.

Recently we saw how the crisis of a natural disaster can tax our staff's energy and emotions. A magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Cebu was one example of the situations that come up without warning and demand quick and decisive action, sometimes with life-and-death implications.

Please pray for our Cebu staff as they attend to the needs of the children, and as they manage the routine and the extraordinary situations that come their way as a shelter of care and protection. ■

