

# NEWS *from* CEBU

## -ANOTHER STEP IN THE JOURNEY—

Children come to CSC from many circumstances. When they arrive there are mixed emotions for all involved. We mourn the loss that brought them to our gate but rejoice that we are here to take care of them.

Sometimes children come to us

from other child-caring agencies who, for one reason or another, can no longer care for a child. Since CSC has a good reputation, these agencies will often contact us to see if we can help.

It is not uncommon for organizations to terminate operations, even some that have been around for a long time. Recently, we were asked to take in children

from two agencies that are closing down. One orphanage is closing in Cebu City and has asked us to consider taking in some of their residents. Another, a Christian agency on the neighboring island of Negros, recently shut down after more than 25 years of caring for homeless children. CSC took

three of their children.

Two of these children were brothers named Harold (10) and Christian (4). They arrived with a reputation for being a bit naughty, and our findings align with those reports! They are

also delightful boys to have in our care, talkative and happy to be in the Eicher Home. Both started school shortly after they were admitted and are enthusiastic students.

Shean (2) arrived from the same agency, but we asked one of their childcare workers to stay with her for a little while to help make the transition. She has some developmental delays and has had several psychological evaluations in the hope that she can be adopted soon. She lives in the Duterte

*continued on page 3*

### INSIDE *this issue...*

**2** Matt's Column | Board Update

**4** House Parent Highlight

**5** Prayer Requests | We'll Cover It

**6** Kids' Korner

**8** Testing 1, 2, 3...

***Unique challenges surface when we take in children who have previously lived in other orphanages or children's homes.***





The view from the shelter has been changing this year. A developer bought the property to our east, just down Good Shepherd Road. For years it sat empty, aside from livestock and the squatters who lived along its edge.

The cows have been replaced by a construction site, and the first apartment complex is going up and is much higher than our CSC buildings.

That building looks completely out of place to us. We'd love to have that part of our sky back, and it will be especially odd when the apartments have owners who can look out over CSC and our children playing, but it won't change a thing about the loving homes our children live in.

The development has reminded us that Cebu City is changing, and the empty lot that sits between

our shelter and school is not guaranteed to stay that way. We've kept in touch with the owners, who maintain they aren't ready to sell, but we need to get ready for the moment that changes. Our board has talked about that as one of our highest priorities. We figure this land will be worth \$750,000—so this is no small priority.



*Our new neighbors ↗*

The last thing we want is a high-rise between our buildings. We pray that one day CSC will sit on a united campus. Would you pray with us for that endeavor? God says if we ask, seek and knock we will find answers, gifts and open doors.

What a gift this property would be! ■



*The land we pray  
↖ God intends for CSC*

## -BOARD UPDATE



We are pleased to introduce our new Board Chair, Carolyn Anderson, an attorney and partner at Zimmerman Reed in Minneapolis. Carolyn

is in her third year on the board. We also recently added Kirby Stoll of the University of Northwestern, St. Paul, for a second call to the board and into the position of Treasurer. Bjork Ostrom, Internet Entrepreneur, has also moved to an officer position, now serving CSC as Vice Chair. Finally, we have added Pastor Roberto Atienza, of the Filipino American Christian Church in Mounds View, MN, as a new member. ■



## CSC 2015 BANQUET

**Sat, April 18, 2015**

**Bethel University**

Friendships provide children with more than just fun playmates. Friendships help children develop emotionally and process through difficult changes in life. The children at CSC know how to make friends. And so do our donors. The Foster Friend program at CSC has continued to provide support to the children at the shelter, while allowing donors to have a direct connection with their assigned foster friend. This year's banquet will highlight some of these incredible friendships. We hope you can make it to our banquet on April 18th. Who knows? You may even make some new friends.



Home, where our employees are well-versed in helping children with special needs.

Unique challenges surface when we take in children who have previously lived in oth-

that have to close. We feel bad for their workers, knowing how heart-wrenching it has been for them to have to say goodbye to their children. Although there are a variety of reasons for closing, the most common

**Please pray for our staff as they face the challenges of caring for children who have come from other homes and orphanages, and who need the stability and security that CSC can offer.** Join us in thank-



*In 35 years of ministry in Cebu we have never had to deny any of our children education or medical care. Through the difficult times in our history, God has been faithful.*

er orphanages or children's homes. Usually, CSC is a better place for them, with a smaller ratio of children to workers, nicer facilities, better food and a better school. But changes are never easy. Our care is different than they might have experienced because it is pre-adoptive. **One of our core principles is that we value adoption for all our children, and we center our care on preparing them for that eventuality.** Also, when a children's home closes, it is always difficult to remove children from relationships that have been significant to them. Children who have already experienced great loss in their lives must move from perhaps the only secure place they have ever known. It is never easy to deal with this grief and the transitional stress that children manifest when coming to us from another home.

It is very sad to see agencies

is financial incapacity. CSC is in a strong financial position, with generous donors and excellent facilities, but there have been times when our staff wondered if we would make it. Several times when things looked grim on the financial front, we had to do major belt tightening and reduce our number of children by not replacing those who left for adoption. Our staff knew what it was like to face the thought of having to close CSC for financial reasons. But our supporters came through each time, giving generously and even heroically to allow us to not only keep our doors open, but to provide high-quality care for our children. In 35 years of ministry in Cebu we have never missed a meal for our children or had to deny any of them education and medical care. Through the difficult times in our history, God has been faithful.

ing God for the 35 years that we have been able to provide high-quality care to hundreds of children in Cebu City, and in trusting Him to provide for the next 35 years as we continue to take in children who need us so very much. ■





# HOUSE PARENT HIGHLIGHT

## Dondon and Ivy

Dondon and Ivy Enriquez are our newest house parents, having begun at CSC in February 2010 as house parents of the Eicher Home. They have two teenage children, Jehdeiah and Jehallel.

Dondon and Ivy came to CSC with experience in ministry and a love for children. They both are very conscientious about their work and very loving to the children in the home. This concern shows itself in their daily work as they spend time talking with the children, listening to their concerns and problems, having devotional time with them and offering advice and biblical teaching. **They are good spiritual leaders in the home, and take time for the spiritual development of the children under their care.** Both Dondon and Ivy love music, and the Eicher Home kids know many songs and enjoy singing praise songs together.

As substitute parents for the children in their home, Don-

don and Ivy take pride in their accomplishments and are encouraging to them in their school work. They are always aware of their kids' progress and have creative ideas on how to better manage and motivate them. Dondon is a passionate and emotional person, while Ivy is quieter and more practical in her parenting work. Together they make a great team, and the children in their home know that they are loved and cherished.

Dondon and Ivy are always excited when new children are admitted to the Eicher Home. Typically, new kids spend several days in isolation as we assess their medical condition. The Enriquezes can be found bringing food, books and DVDs to these children who will eventually be living in their home, getting to know them, and letting them know that they have people who are going to love them and meet their needs when they eventually get out

of isolation. **Their love for the children is so evident and is a great influence on the child care workers they supervise.**

Pray for Dondon and Ivy. Being house parents is difficult, balancing time with the Eicher Home kids and their own children and managing the many workers who are assigned in the home. We are so thankful to God for leading them to CSC and for the many gifts they bring to the Eicher Home. ■



# PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES

## REQUESTS



We are thrilled to have Peter and Megan Arneson joining the missionary staff for a

year. Megan brings her master's degree in social work, and Peter will work in marketing and personnel on important initiatives. Please pray for their success as they raise support and begin in Cebu in December.

Please pray for our Child Development team, CSC's largest department. Their work is at the heart of CSC and presents many challenges.

## PRAISES

Praise God for Pastor Vic, who has provided counsel to our house parents for years. They have the hardest jobs at CSC. We will miss him as he takes on a church in Mindanao.

Praise God for our Teen Home resident Julieto and his success in the culinary arts in Cebu.



# -WE'LL COVER IT- *Financial Update*

You probably know this summer brought a growing financial concern at CSC. Many of you received a letter, via post or email, sharing we were behind on giving due to a few factors outside our control. We were tracking significantly behind, by \$75,000, and didn't want to cut expenses like we did a year ago.

The day after the letter went out via email we got a response from a dear adoptive family who has been consistently supporting us for years. Their opening words were stunning: "we'll cover it." And, they did cover it. **In a stroke, they erased our deficit with incredible, loving generosity.** That day, a group of CSC's senior leaders were gathered in Cebu, and Matt Buley read the short email to the group through tears. Our entire team let out a sigh of relief with thanks to God.

These donors weren't the only ones to respond. People have been jumping in and there is momentum in gifts and prayer. Once again, we are reminded that the love of CSC extends far beyond Cebu.

**Our kids marvel at this fact. They pray for the finances of CSC, and better yet, for our supporters, every day!**

One of our prayer warriors is a sweet girl named Rowena. She is nine and has lived at CSC since June 2010 with her sister, Rosetina. Rowena is a dear child who is impossible not to love. She is helpful, attentive and thoughtful. She impressed us remarkably last year when she awoke to an aftershock after the big earthquake in the Philippines. She got all the girls in her room to a safe place. We were so proud of her.

We're also proud that Rowena prays for you, and she's not the only one. The people who make CSC possible are loved by our children—what a benefit to your giving!

The year ahead is feeling a lot better than it was in August. We're excited to see how things shape up, and are encouraged that we have a fighting chance to finish strong. We still need to bring in \$620,000 this year. We will do what we can. A lot of people are doing what they can. Including some dear kids like Rowena. ■





# -KIDS' KORNER



Edgardo, Jacquelyn  
& Raphael ↗



Miriam,  
Angelo & Andro ↖



Cyrus ↘



In the last five months, we have added 22 kids to our family! We told you about 13 of them in the last newsletter. Here are the nine most recent additions: two sibling groups and three babies.

## Introducing...

**EDGARDO** (6), **JACQUELYN** (5) and **RAPHAEL "RAP RAP"** (2) are siblings who arrived in mid-July. Edgardo is a good big brother. He made sure we were taking good care of his siblings before he decided to relax and have fun himself. We have lots of boys in the 6-10-year-old range right now, so Edgardo is right there in the midst of all the bikes, wave boards, basketballs, soccer balls and any other thing these boys can come up with. Jackielyn is also active and quite a little sportswoman herself. She quickly mastered all the "wheeled" things at CSC. She smiles a lot and makes sure that being a girl does not keep her from entering any

game or activity that she wants to enter! She gives some of the boys quite the challenge at times. RapRap is a little lover boy; he loves giving us hugs and we love receiving them. He has a great sense of humor. He makes us laugh every day. RapRap is quite opinionated and is good at communicating his views. He is still staying in the nursery, but he will be making the big move upstairs soon. He has to show us he can safely go up and down the stairs and be a little more trustworthy in the potty training department before he makes the transition out of the nursery.

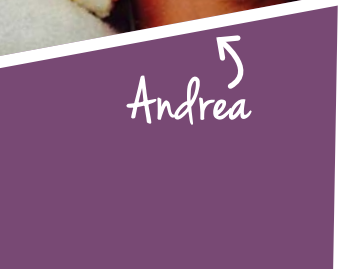
About a week later, we welcomed **MIRIAM** (9), **ANGELO** (4, we think) and **ANDRO** (3.) These siblings came to us straight out of the mountains, so coming to the big city was quite exciting but also overwhelming. Miriam is still adjusting to our home. She is convinced that dramatic pouting is an everyday occurrence and something you must do when

you do not get your way in life. We are looking forward to the day she finally figures out that her pouting is not getting the results she wants. She is very expressive and is a joy when she is happy! Angelo's birthdate is in doubt because he would be only five months older than his little brother if it were true. So, we are working hard to see if we can find his actual birthdate. He is a happy young man who has made a good adjustment to his new life. He is very proud to go to preschool every day. Andro thinks that the riding toys and Duplo blocks are the most wonderful things he has ever seen. He is very active and can be almost as stubborn as his big sister. Andro is learning to play in a group and figuring out that if he is nice to the other kids his chance of them being nice to him is good, too!

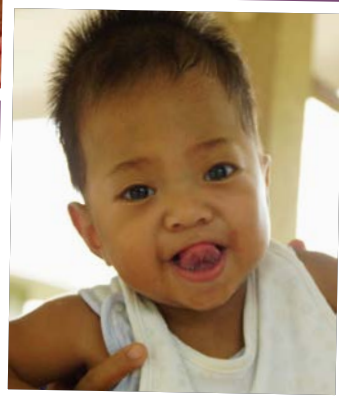
During the first week of August, we admitted **GIAN JEFFREY**, who was almost five months old. Gian's history was one of severe neglect and abuse. He



Thomas ↘



↗ Andrea



↗ Joemar, Jacob & Ginda



Leaving Soon ↘



had been given coconut wine to drink, he had been burned with cigarettes, and he had been hungry, likely every hour of his life, up until he was about three months old when he was taken out of the abusive situation. A few weeks later Gian became a CSC kid. When Gian arrived at our home, his burns had healed and he had put on weight. He was just beginning to smile. He continues to progress well with us. He smiles for those he knows well but can be serious in situations that surprise him or that he is not 100% confident in. We are so happy to see the progress he has made and pray that the negativity of his first few months of life will be minimized with all the love and nurturing care we can pour into him now.

**CYRUS** was only two days old when he arrived at the end of September. He is a tiny little guy who is already putting on weight and working hard to stay awake long enough to see and hear a bit of all the life that

goes on all around him.

**ANDREA** was one week old when she became CSC kid # 920 the first week of October. God protected this little one from multiple and significant potentially harmful consequences that her birth mom's lifestyle and medical concerns presented.

### Updates... on some of our GOLDEN OLDIES

**THOMAS** is 14 months old now. He is almost walking despite the many months of medical problems and major surgeries he underwent. His love for life is a blessing to us each day. Getting a smile from Thomas can turn around anyone's tough day! We still have to be very careful to protect his skull as it heals and grows together again following the surgery that totally rearranged it last spring.

**JOEMAR** (38), **JACOB** (28), and **GINDA** (27) are still going strong! Joemar has lived with us since he was eight years old. Jacob and Ginda have lived with us since they were infants. We are their only family and their forever home. Joemar is one of the happiest people I know. Jacob knows what he is missing in life by being wheelchair bound, but his attitude is usually good. Ginda is happy as long as she has her hair fixed nicely and is wearing something pink or purple! We have all learned much from these three. Hundreds of CSC kids over the years have grown to love and appreciate them as well. They are CSC personified.

We have six kids who are matched, accepted and waiting for their adoptive family to come and get them. They will be going to three different countries. CSC is growing and is worldwide; there are CSC kids in 14 countries all over the world now! ■



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# NEWS from CEBU

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## -TESTING 1, 2, 3...

The other day we got an interesting inquiry. A donor wanted to know if we needed any audiovisual (A/V) equipment at CSC. This donor works at an A/V company, and he encouraged us to come up with a list of anything we could use, explaining that he could try to get items donated for us.

After looking in areas at our school and the shelter, we came up with a "wish list" of items: a mixer, microphones, a spotlight and other smaller items. We were excited at the possibility of getting one of these equipment needs met.

He replied within hours. He was donating ALL of the items!

We wondered how his grant request could have possibly been submitted and approved in just an afternoon. It turns out the donor and another salesman purchased all the items on their own for CSC. There wasn't a grant process besides these two generous men wanting to do something special for the children. **The donor simply wanted to buy CSC some wish list A/V items and didn't want us holding back on what we dreamt of having.**

This exciting news has spread quickly among the CSC staff. This equipment will improve the way we communicate with the children through announce-

ments, school programs, devotions/lessons and much more. We are thankful for our donors who support the work and help us expand into areas further than we would have dared ask. ■

