

NEWS FROM CEBU

—SOMETIMES WE CAN *and Sometimes We Can't* — by Paul Healy

Referrals are a lifeline of CSC. We are constantly receiving requests to take in children. These referrals come from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government units, police, hospitals, other child welfare agencies and private individuals. Sometimes the request is for one child; often it involves a sibling group. Recently our staff met to discuss 21 referrals that had been received by our social workers.

These meetings are a time of excitement and, often, disappointment. We get excited about the possibility of taking in new children, getting to know them and taking on the challenges of meeting their various needs. That is what CSC is here for, and we want to help as many kids as

we can. At the recent meeting we all fell in love with two little

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girls presented by Klaris, our new Social Work Director. The girls had been abandoned downtown and were living in a drop-in center for street kids.

Other cases were also compelling, and we found ourselves wanting to take them all in. But realities came into play, and we realized that some of the cases were just not right for CSC. Some of the referred children were from other islands, and their cases would be difficult to manage. Some would need one-on-one attention for a period of months due to health issues, and we already have several children who need that type of care. Some were older

kids who had exhibited disturbing behavior or expressed a strong

desire to remain on the street or wherever they are currently living. And we had to face the fact that we didn't have room for all the referred kids. It is always very disappointing to have to say no, not knowing where the children

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Just a THOUGHT...

-Matt Buley, President

We have an exciting development here at CSC. It may not look like much of a change from the outside, but it represents a healthy shift in how we do our work. Jinkee Reasoner has begun a transition into a missionary role. Jinkee has been on our staff since 2007, leading our Physical Therapy area. CSC became an even bigger part of her life when she met her husband, Joel, while serving on our team. Joel has been a missionary since 2007.

A year ago, I began working with the board on a healthy process for bringing someone from a Philippine-based to a missionary position. After interviewing other organizations, we developed a plan and outlined qualifications.

We knew early on that the person we had in mind to take this step first met those qualifica-

tions. Since being hired, Jinkee has increasingly shown an ability and willingness to take on more work and responsibilities. She is continuing to lead in Physical Therapy, while taking on lead-

As we envision and shape the future of CSC, we do so knowing who makes up the team is our biggest job. The commitment Joel and Jinkee have made to our mission, to their teams and

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ership in both our toddler and Teen Home programs as well. She is busy at work, and she and Joel are busy at home with their son, Ethan.

Jinkee has also begun work on a big part of being in a missionary role: raising money and being an advocate for the ministry. She and Joel are working with Jill Grasley, Director of Donor Services, to do this big job from Cebu.

to the Philippines is reason for hope. **Our ministry is headed in the right direction, and Joel and Jinkee will be helping us hold the course for years to come.**

Pray for Joel and Jinkee as they raise Jinkee's support, and act on their calling to CSC. We thank God He has placed it in their lives. ■





will be able to find help or even a roof over their heads.

With limited manpower and resources, we have to be careful with the decisions we make about taking in new kids. We have to keep an eye on our medical budget when considering a child who might need surgery or

extended hospitalization. And we simply may not have enough space for another child, although sometimes we will consider the fact that, even though we are relatively full at the time of the referral, some children will be leaving soon for adoption, so beds will open up. We very much want to help every child who needs a home, and there have been times in our history when we took in more children than we probably should have. But this time, we knew we needed to be selective, and we ended up taking in just the two little girls. Perhaps we will be able to admit more of the

remaining 19 in the future. I hope so, because they need the love and care of CSC so desperately.

The cross stitch with owls on a branch with the caption, "We Always Have Room for One More" does not define our reality at CSC, but it does describe our hearts, which have a huge capacity to love the children we are able to take in, and even those we cannot. ■



—COUNSELOR HIGHLIGHT: *Eldie and Meravic*—

CSC takes in children who have suffered much in their short lives. Our ministry is to restore them to health and well-being and then work to place them in adoptive families where our love and care can be continued. Part of this restoration process involves counseling, and CSC is blessed with two excellent counselors who work with our children in individual

and group sessions. Many of our children have lived through very difficult experiences and need to process that with a trusted adult. **Our counselors, Eldie Allocod and Meravic Nalang, are those trusted people, and their work with our kids is important and life-changing.** Part of the work of our counselors begins even before children are admitted to the Shelter. When we receive refer-

or pornography. As much as possible, we need to know about this before deciding to admit a child, so our counselors go to the referred children's communities to talk with them and family members whenever possible.

When an older child is admitted to CSC, we begin regular counseling sessions with Eldie or Meravic. For the most part, Eldie handles

The work of our counselors is crucial in preparing our children for adoption. They need to deal with the issues from their past before we can start making plans for the future.



als, we need to determine what experiences the children have had and what things they have been exposed to in their homes and communities. Some kids have been abused or exposed to violence, sexual behavior

the boys and Meravic the girls. If the child has brothers or sisters at CSC, the counselors have group sessions with the siblings. Sometimes they group some of the children of similar ages for group sessions to talk about shared experiences.

Our counseling program is headed up by Lindsay Abong, a licensed



marriage and family therapist who has been on our staff since 2011. She meets regularly with the counselors and writes reports on children's development and progress while at CSC. The work of Lindsay and our counselors is crucial in preparing our children for adoption. They need to deal with the issues from their past before we can start making plans for the future.

One of the hallmarks of our counseling is a focus on forgiveness.

Many of our children have been treated badly by family members, and the hurts often are deep. We know that there are no quick fixes for these issues, and some of the children will wrestle with them throughout their lives. But we also acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit in their

lives, helping them heal and giving them the capacity to forgive those who have hurt them.

Our counseling team needs lots of prayer as they deal with very complex and difficult matters. We are thankful that they are both mature Christians with caring hearts and good listening skills. And they both believe in the power of God to change lives, which is what CSC is all about. ■



PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

PRAISES

Thank God with us that Jake Schulz is joining CSC as Deputy Field Director this fall. We're also excited to welcome his wife Pam and their three children to the CSC family! They are from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

Thank you for praying for our Cebu Children of Hope School teachers. We have had a great start to the school year already.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Continue to pray for our house parents, Patrick and Lourdes, Tarex and Pureza, DonDon and Ivy, and Ondoy and Edith. They have a huge job. We ask for extra measures of energy, patience, wisdom, and love for each of them to share with our children as well as with each other.

We have two children at the shelter, Wilmar and Michael, who will soon be too old to be adopted. We pray for their future and a chance for adoption for them if it is in God's plan.

Many of our children have recently been adopted or are about to leave the shelter for adoption. These transitions are life-changing and can be challenging for all involved. Please pray with us for the adjustment and attachment of these children and families, as well as all of our CSC alums.

—KIDS' KORNER—

Recent Departures:

JENNICA lived with us for two years. She came to us as a very weak and delayed seven-month-old baby with no muscle control in her legs. It took nearly a full year of good care and therapy for her to gain strength and the ability to stand and then walk. When she left us, she was able to run anywhere she wanted to go and was able to communicate her thoughts and needs. Jennica is now living in the USA with her adoptive family.

ANDREA came to us at one week old. She left us in May, when she was 19 months old. What a joy it is for us to see these little ones grow from infant to toddler. We get to see so many "first steps" and hear so many "first words!" We celebrate each and every one. Andrea was adopted by a Filipino family.

LEMUEL (13), **CARLO** (10), **RHIAN** (6) and **MAYLEN** (4) have lived with us for four years. They were finally able to meet their adoptive parents and make the long trip to their home in the USA in July. Maylen arrived at CSC when she was three weeks old, and her three older siblings joined her at CSC six months later. It is not easy to be adopted as an older child, but we know that a family is best! We are excited for these four and will be praying for their adjustment.

TREXIE also came to us when she was three weeks old. Her history was rather sad and came with possible concern for her future. She seemed to disregard those concerns and developed well! She left us as a healthy and well-developed two-year-old. Trexie's adoptive family came to get her in early July. She is now home in Norway!

JOHN BERT was only three and a half months old when he arrived at CSC. He had already had a tough beginning to his short life. He proved to be a survivor, quickly gaining weight and reaching his developmental milestones. He leaves us as a happy, healthy and handsome 18-month-old. John Bert is now home with his adoptive family from the Netherlands.

New arrivals:

MICHAEL BRIAN arrived at CSC when he was five months old in March of this year. He arrived as a healthy little guy and was able to take up residence in his home at CSC without having to spend much time in our infirmary. That does not happen very often!

MARCUS was approximately six weeks old when he joined our family in April. He had been living in a government hospital where he had been born prematurely and then abandoned. Marcus arrived very weak and sickly. He progressed slowly for the first few weeks in our home but has recently shown good growth and developmental progress.

ELISE ANGELO was three weeks old when he arrived in



Jennica

Andrea

Lemuel,
Carlo,
Rhian &
Maylen



Trexie



John Bert



Michael Brian



Marcus



Elise Angelo



April. He weighed eight pounds already, which is amazing for a little Filipino. He now has a beautiful smile and a darling giggle. We have decided to call him Eli.

GABRIEL (10) and **LOUIGI** (11) are brothers who came to live with us in May. We had heard about these boys nearly two years ago, but we were under the impression that they were being cared for. However, that was not the case. Louigi had been living on the streets for much of that time. Gabriel was being cared for, but he did not know where Louigi was and was very worried about him. What a blessing it was to bring these two brothers back together in our home!

PRINCESS ANN (6) and **JERALD** (9) came to CSC in June. We had knowledge of them for quite some time but were not able to actually take custody of them. It was a happy day when we were able to take them from the dump site where they had been living in a neglectful and dangerous situation. Both of them had medical concerns. Princess Ann especially will need close medical attention for quite some time. Both of these siblings have wonderful smiles.

MARIBEL (5) and **SHINY** (3) have just arrived at CSC. In fact, their ages are just "guesses," and we are not even confident if these names are real names or just nicknames. The girls reported that they had been living with their mother, but one day their mother just disappeared. The girls then lived at a drop-in center for street children before coming to CSC. We are happy to offer them a home with us! Our social workers will be working hard to discover what happened to their mother and to get reliable birth data.

Still Waiting:

VENUS (16), **SARAH** (14), **WILSON** (11), **MARKY** and **MARTY** (9) are waiting to go home with their adoptive family. They will be living on a ranch in the USA! Venus and Sarah are in high school and are good students. Wilson, Marky and Marty still attend our school. Wilson is an excellent student there. Marky and Marty are also very capable academically, but they like to use much of their energy in other pursuits! These siblings have lived with us for four years. Please pray for them as they prepare for this huge event that is about to change their lives completely.

MOISES was three weeks old when he came to live with us in November of 2013. He is now a dynamo at nearly three years old and will be leaving us to join his adoptive family in Norway. Moises came to us with his name because he was brought to a government hospital in a protective box as a newborn! We have a feeling that he will live up to that name!

JAMELLA came to us when she was only four days old. She was always a healthy, happy and beautiful little lady. She is now 19 months old and runs all over the yard and makes us smile at her antics and her attempts to communicate. She will soon be entertaining her adoptive family in England.

Gabriel
& Louigi



Princess Ann
& Jerald



Maribel
& Shiny

Venus, Sarah,
Wilson, Marky
& Marty



Moises



Jamella



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Meet our new missionaries: Jake and Pam

Jake and Pam Schulz are on their way to Cebu soon! Jake will be taking on the role of Deputy Field Director at CSC. This is the first time we've recruited someone to Cebu to fill an executive role. Previously, these positions were created as we went along. It's another development in our ministry as we prepare for the future.

We are very excited to welcome him and his family in September. He will bring some wonderful leadership gifts honed in a hospital setting, as a school board member and on the church board. Jake has been employed as a Director in a Sturgeon Bay hospital and has over 12 years of leadership experience. He will assist with administration, finances and human resources. We know he will be a great asset to the ministry.

The other amazing part of all this is Jake and Pam's church, First Baptist in Sturgeon Bay, long-time supporter of CSC, held Vacation Bible School in support of the Schulzes this summer and raised over \$30,000 towards their ministry in Cebu. Wow! As we look to the future with new leaders like Jake, we rejoice in how God is at work for all the children who will need us in the years to come.

