

NEWS FROM CEBU

ANGELO'S SCHOOL JOURNEY

When school ended this year, we held a commencement ceremony. A few students shared, including Angelo, a 12 year old. Here is his talk:

Honored guests, fellow graduates, students, teachers, ladies, and gentlemen, a pleasant afternoon to all of you!

This afternoon, I want to share with you my journey here in Cebu

Children of Hope School. I could still recall when I was a new student, I was shy and unable to make some friends. I ended up sitting alone and watching other kids play happily. As days went by and I started learning different subjects like Math, Filipino, Science, and Civics, I felt eager to learn.

Even though I am aware that I will be facing some hardships as I am learning the lessons taught every day, that didn't discourage me but instead, I was more challenged and motivated. I remember that I was having a hard time understanding Math problems so I ended up having an outburst of emotion and expressed it in a not-so-good

*way. I started throwing random things at the different corners of the classroom while shouting that caused disruptions to my classmates and other classes. **Even though my teacher Ben had many things on his plate, I will never forget how he spent his time with me** trying to correct and process what I have done so that I won't do the same misbehavior again.*

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← Angelo & his siblings

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FROM THE DESK OF KIRBY STOLL, *President*



"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself."

Matthew 6:33-34 (ESV)

I love having conversations with people about the future. Maybe it's the sci-fi nerd that I am, but I find it fun and intriguing to dream about the future and to plan for tomorrow. But with any future planning, it has to be done with an eternal mindset and proper motives.

Jesus made it very clear that we don't even know if there will be a tomorrow and that we should let tomorrow worry about itself.

We have more older children at CSC than we have ever had in our history. We are working toward improving program services for them and

building a new facility to better meet their needs. Incorporated into our services is a faith-based teaching that assures these residents that the God of today knows their worries and holds their tomorrows. Our commitment is to provide for the needs of these residents as long as they are with us, and we remind them that God will never leave or forsake them.

Thank you for sharing the resources God has provided you to care for these children of all ages at Children's Shelter of Cebu. ■

Serving Him,
Kirby Stoll

No more meltdowns. No more tantrums. No more shouting and yelling. No more Angelo that would cause misbehavior and trouble in class. I feel like I am maturing with each passing day. **With the help of significant people during my time here in CCHS, I wouldn't be who I am today.**

I am thankful for Teacher Merce who always encourages me to be a good example to the other kids. And thankful to Teacher Alfie for being so patient with me

Thank you also to the other teachers at CCHS who have contributed to my success. I am forever grateful for your hard work and using your talents in teaching us not only lessons that can be found in the book but also lessons that we can apply in our own lives. To persevere and to keep on trying no matter how difficult things are, is already embedded in my heart.

I am also thankful to the aunties and uncles at the Shelter, to CSC kids, my counselors, and to everyone

"Thank you for loving me, giving me hope and for being a light that has guided me to have a relationship with God."

even though there were times that I was having a hard time understanding the lessons he taught. It was with you, Teacher Alfie, that I had the most memorable and unforgettable moment. Because no matter how I misbehave, I know that you still love me. You even taught me how to play chess and you encouraged me to love Math.

To Uncle Eric for spending time with me.

To my house parents, Auntie Reza and Uncle Tarex for being so patient and understanding.

who has shared their time with me. Thank you for loving me, giving me hope, and for being a light that has guided me to have a relationship with God.

Before I end my speech, I would like to share with you my life verse that keeps me going and grounded, from Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." May God bless us all! ■



Recently, Angelo has taken an interest in gardening



OUR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

IMPROVING SERVICES FOR OUR OLDER RESIDENTS

PILLARS OF THE PROGRAM

ADMISSION: Life planning with children who will "graduate" from the shelter to the transitional home

- Engaging children at an earlier age to take an active role in their case management while at CSC
- Equipping children for their exciting future, regardless of the path the Lord has laid out before them
- Ensuring our children feel loved and supported every step of the way

ADVOCACY: Learning the art of self-advocacy, self-care and self-leadership

- Training children in basic life skills in accordance with their goals for life
- Fostering dignity, worth and sufficiency as they develop a sustainable physical, emotional and spiritual maturity
- Providing educational alternatives and opportunities specific to the child

COMMUNITY: Building support systems with a community outside CSC

- Developing relationships with trusted adults who can advise in areas of life from personal health to personal finance and everything in between
- Identifying appropriate social and emotional support networks, such as churches, affinity groups, and social groups
- Contributing to society and in the lives of others in tangible ways

SUPPORT: Aftercare, outreach and post-launch monitoring and assessment

- Creating a plan to ensure children remain committed to their personal goals and continue to feel connected to the CSC family
- Developing an outreach strategy that provides sustainable support to children who launch from CSC
- Walking alongside former residents as they journey through life's joys and sorrows, letting them know CSC will always be the family they can come home to

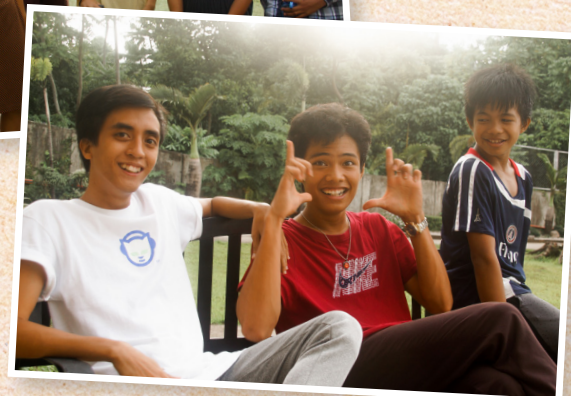
CSC is in the process of augmenting its programs, services and facilities that benefit our older residents, many of whom will not be placed through adoption because of age or myriad other factors. A new and much improved home will help us fulfill our mission and vision for our older residents by:

- Launching them into independent, adult living in the Philippines
- Providing long-term assistance, housing, and services to those with special needs or who cannot live independently.

CSC has actively sought to learn from partner agencies and organizations with a similar mission and with similar goals and clientele. To bolster our programs, we have crafted a framework that takes what we have learned, emulates what works, and augments what doesn't. ■



Snapshots of older students
←





FACILITY PLANS

F.A.Q.

Q: Why does CSC need this initiative?

A: Many children at CSC are getting older and cannot be adopted. We are committed to investing in the future of our children and preparing them to live healthy adult lives, whether placed into adoptive families, launching out on their own, or staying at CSC long-term.

Q: What will be different about this program and building?

A: This facility will meet the needs of the residents where they are currently and will allow them to be prepared for a life either independent of CSC or in a thriving semi-dependent and supportive environment.

Q: How much is this going to cost?

A: This is the first major initiative for CSC in more than a decade. This initiative will require a significant financial investment as well as increased operating costs for the program and the personnel who will administer the program. The total cost could exceed \$1.5M USD.

Q: How many kids are benefiting from this?

A: Our hope is that all at CSC will benefit from this program. More than 20 of our residents will be served concurrently, and the program will be integrated into the rest of CSC as a way to encourage our older residents' development and prepare the younger residents who are not adopted for a hope-filled future.

Q: What is CSC doing to help kids be independent?

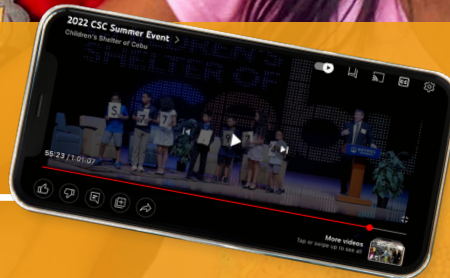
A: Our social workers and house parents are intentionally engaging our older residents in ways to explore their gifts and abilities to allow the child to dream of their future life in the Philippines. These children are discovering God's plan and purpose for their lives through this process.

Q: What is the projected ratio of adults to residents?

A: Maximum capacity might look like 6-8 semi-independent residents living in apartment-style housing and 14-20 residents living in dorm-style housing for a total of 20-28 residents. There will be 2 live-in house parents as well as social workers and case managers.



— 2022 SUMMER EVENT Recap —



You can still watch the program on the CSC's Facebook page or YouTube channel!

cscshelter.org   

This year's "banquet" was held in July in MN, after two years without the event. We had a new format, with reception and informational booths prior to a short program. It was great to be back together to celebrate God's faithfulness to CSC over the past 44 years.

Program highlights included hearing from our former residents. Irene and Justin DeRushia helped welcome the program and shared a little about their memories of CSC.

Former resident Thomas and his adoptive parents, Joshua and Christen Arbogast, shared their family story and talked about the important role CSC played in giving Thomas the life-saving medical attention necessary to give him hope for a future.

Former CSC resident Janice Glader also shared about how grateful she was for CSC and her wonderful family. Her unique story includes two older brothers who will continue to live in Cebu and who will be supported better by the new programs and facilities being planned for CSC's older residents. ■

WE HAD AMAZING PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING:



ADOPTIVE FAMILY: JOSHUA, CHRISTEN & THOMAS ARBOGAST Thomas came to CSC as an infant in 2013 and lived at the shelter until he was adopted in 2018. He lives with his family in Arizona and likes to memorize Bible verses, play soccer and bake cookies with his mom.



FORMER CSC RESIDENT: JANICE GLADER Janice lived at CSC for ten years before being adopted in 2016 by the Glader Family here in MN. Janice wants to work in business or marketing.



FORMER CSC RESIDENTS: IRENE & JUSTIN DERUSHIA Irene and Justin lived at CSC for four years and were adopted in 2020. Irene is going into 8th grade and plays soccer, basketball and runs track and field. Justin is going into 5th grade and loves to practice piano and play basketball and ping pong.

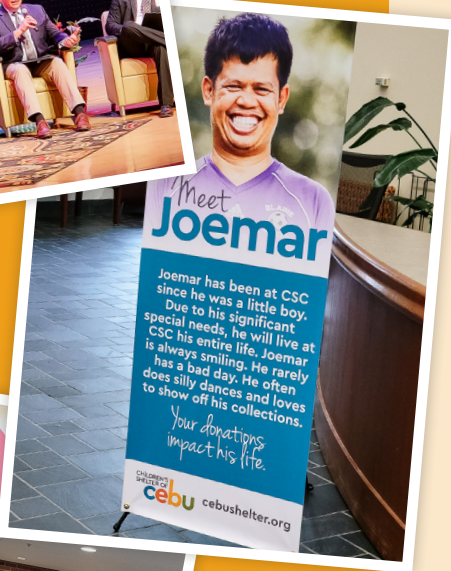
PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the upcoming site visit from the Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD) as a part of the accreditation process. CSC has applied for the next level of accreditation, so a lot more work has gone into this process than in years past.
- Pray for our Children of Hope School (CCHS) teachers as they finalize preparations for the start of the school year in Cebu. School in Cebu began the first week of August.
- Pray for the continued planning for the programs and facilities being designed to support our older residents. In the coming months, there will be some transitions taking place for children and staff to temporary housing and office space.

PRAISE REPORTS

- Praise that CSC's Children of Hope School can begin meeting in person and on site this year after two full years of in-home and virtual learning. Classes at CCHS began on August 1 for our younger students and August 8 for our high schoolers.
- Praise that Joel and Jinkee Reasoner and Roberto and Heather Atienza and their families were able to travel to the US to attend the summer fundraising event, connect with family, friends and supporters, and take a much-needed break.
- Praise that we were able to have an in-person fundraising event this summer. We are grateful for over 300 friends and supporters who came together in support of the ministry of CSC and for the incredible stories of hope that were shared as well as the funds that were raised for ministry support.



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— OUR NEW SCHOOL YEAR IS Starting This Month! —

We are so excited to start our new year of teaching back at our Cebu Children of Hope School!

