



My Preschool Class

By teacher Amy Luck

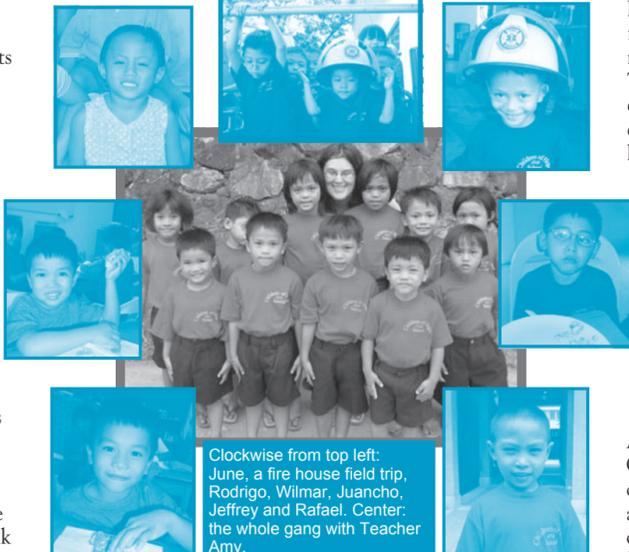
Two years ago, on my 30th birthday, I started teaching preschool for the first time. I was excited for the adventure and not sure of what it would entail. It has been a wonderful two years and God has blessed me with amazing kids, great learning experiences, funny stories, lots of laughs and more patience. I would like to share with you some things about my class.

As usual at CSC, we had many changes throughout the year. We had one child with us for the first week of school who was then returned to his birth mother. Soon after that Juancho arrived at CSC. Juancho had been found living on his own at five years old. He added excitement and enthusiasm to our room. He was unaware of rules and what it meant to share, but he quickly began to learn. I thank God for the lessons He has taught me through Juancho. I am reminded that regardless of my circumstances I can have a love and zest for life. Shortly after our school year began, Lynette left us for adoption. We were all excited to see her join her forever family. With Lynette's leaving, Jeffrey, Rafael, Mariemea, Rodrigo, April Boy, Wilmar, Janice, Juan, Armand and Juancho made up the preschool class. Jeffrey is our class leader and organizer. He is always thinking creatively and making sure the class is kept in order. His little brother Rafael attempts to overtake this position but finds his claim to fame as line leader. He is determined not to

give up that position. Rafael is small in stature but teaches us each a lesson about determination. Mariemea loves to play. We can all learn from her relaxed "let's have fun" personality. Rodrigo has a smile that can light up any room. His glow is contagious. Wilmar is Mr. Enthusiastic! He loves to be where all the action is. For most of Wilmar's time in preschool he has called me "Amen" instead of Amy. That brings a smile to my face each day. Wilmar has the gift of making all those around him laugh. Janice is Wilmar's partner in crime. She does a nice job of being a friend to him despite his special needs. Juan is our neat and precise guy. He makes sure his work is exact. Armand was our Mr. Affectionate! He left us before Christmas to join his forever family.

At the start of our 4th quarter CSC took in a sibling group of nine. Charydyn, Charryto, and June entered the preschool class. It has been great to see how they have adjusted to CSC in just a few short months. Charydyn and Charryto were proud to graduate in April along with Jeffrey, Mariemea, and Janice. We were sad to say goodbye to April Boy in March but happy that he was able to join his adoptive family. We miss his great smile. We have had a great year in preschool. I am thankful for Teacher Myrna and her love and devotion to the kids. We had a lot of fun together this year and look forward to more great years together. I praise God for giving me the opportunity to teach preschool the past two years. It is an adventure I love immensely!

Clockwise from top left: June, a fire house field trip, Rodrigo, Wilmar, Juancho, Jeffrey and Rafael. Center: the whole gang with Teacher Amy.



1. Praise God for Joel Reasoner who is going to Cebu in late June to join our staff. Joel will be mentoring with the older CSC boys as well as helping in the school and doing a variety of administrative tasks.
2. Praise God for our recent CSC banquet and for all who attended and gave so generously. Thanks to God for our faithful supporters and the new people who attended and heard about CSC for the first time.
3. Thanks to God for Elisa Saavedra who has given so much of herself for our Children of Hope School. Pray that her retirement will be fulfilling and that she will enjoy good health.
4. Praise the Lord for gifts to our Building a Legacy of Hope capital campaign.
5. Praise the Lord for the very successful fundraising banquet and auction sponsored by the Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada.



1. Pray for Craig Sturm, CSC's new Board Chair, as he assumes his duties in helping direct the ministry.
2. Pray for James Francis and Jeremie as they prepare to go to Montana on the Summer Miracles Program. Pray for good health and that they would be a blessing to their host families.
3. Pray for Sandy Swanson as she prepares for her furlough year in the United States. Pray for the Heals as they wind up their time in the States and get ready to return home to Cebu.
4. Pray for the promotional efforts of Matt Buley and the Heals as they continue to share the ministry of CSC with individuals and churches across America. Pray for responsive and generous hearts, for safe travel, and for wisdom in planning and prioritizing.
5. Pray for the health of the children, staff and all the workers in Cebu, and for our stateside staff.



Change Service Requested

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(10), Birny (9), Jeffrey (7), and Rafael (6), have been with us more than two years. All six are a wonderful mix of personalities and talents.

Adoption is an important part of Children's Shelter of Cebu and the way God brings CSC children and families together is always a wonder. At CSC we celebrate God's blessings to our ministry for the 450 children who have realized hope through adoption. Likewise, we carry the burden that the job is never done. The dozens of other children currently in our care, and those who will come to us in the future, still have reason to hope. They just need loving people to help them realize their dreams.

Joel Reasoner Prepares for Next Phase of Life in Cebu

When I was in seventh grade my family and I went to CSC in Cebu. That is when the seed was planted in me. January of 2006 found me at CSC again, this time with my mom, Shari, who has worked with CSC for several years. After that trip, I knew I wanted to return for more than just a visit.



I am looking forward with anticipation to June 17, the day I depart Minnesota for one year at CSC. My mind sometimes wanders from the carpentry jobs I am doing to what a day will hold in a month, six months or a year. This day-dreaming puts a smile on my face as I pound another nail. I enjoy carpentry, but I can't contain myself when I think

I can't contain myself when I think on the next phase of life the Lord has set up for me.

foreign. There is no easy way to learn the ins and outs of a new culture, but being open to learning about it is a big first step. It amazes me to begin to see how the Lord has collected the pieces of my life on the next phase of life the Lord has set before me. I can't wait to be with the kids and help them in any way I can. I will be working with the Foster Friends program, the website, mentoring the older boys, and assisting with the organization and maintenance of the buildings.

Often when I think of Cebu, questions arise. How did I decide to go work at CSC? How was I prepared for such a change? How will I be able to manage in a place so foreign to me? The answer to these questions also brings a smile. The Lord has been directing me throughout my life. God's guiding hand can be seen in my past experiences. From living in Japan as a child, to life at Calvin College, to jobs since college ended, I see God's preparation in my life. Living in Japan at a young age helped me to see foreign cultures as different, but not foreign. There is no easy way to learn the ins and outs of a new culture, but being open to learning about it is a big first step. It amazes me to begin to see how the Lord has collected the pieces of my life to point me in the direction of CSC.

As I tie up loose ends before my plane takes off, I am constantly reminded of God's goodness. I am reassured and given courage to know I have God's preparation and guidance and the support of so many people as I venture out into the next phase of my life.

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Some Realize Dreams, Others Wait

by Mitch Ohlendorf, Executive Director

The day children arrive at Children's Shelter of Cebu they begin to learn about adoption and how it may play a part in their lives. CSC is all about love, care, healing and hope, and adoption becomes an important means towards making all of these things happen for them. The nature of a child's stay at CSC is that it be a temporary stop in a child's life where he or she will find these physical, emotional and spiritual treasures before realizing the ultimate goal of adoption. Sometimes those stops are relatively short, especially in the case of healthy infants and

difficult decision to admit a sibling group of nine children in February. While we have no idea what God has in store for these wonderful children, we are confident that He knows all their needs and that He has a plan for their lives after their stay at CSC.

As is always the case, we have many children waiting for adoption. Our staff and social workers are at various stages of preparing the children and their documents for placement. We are encouraged that 14 of these children have already been matched and



Neil, Michael Angelo, Jeffril Ann, Crezillah and Paul Montebon



Analiza, Jenive, Bernardo, Rafael, Jeffrey and Birny Padua.

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toddlers. Inevitably, though, the wait at CSC before adoption becomes longer when the children are older, have special needs or belong to sibling groups.

In some ways you might say that we are risk-takers at CSC. Certainly it is less involved to care only for infants and toddlers than it is to care for older children or sibling groups. But God has regularly brought needy children to our door who require a longer stay. When we receive a referral of a child 13 or 14 years old, or a sibling group of four, five, or six children, it gives us moments of pause. Will there be a family to adopt these children? But God has clearly shown us through the years that there are families willing to make these children a part of their lives. He has brought them to us through the Philippine inter-country adoption program, via various adoption agencies, and even through word of mouth. God's answers to prayers for the needs of our children to have parents definitely helped our staff make a

are currently waiting for the time when their adoptive families will come to pick them up. For Niña Rose, Niña Luz, Juan, Daniel, Jenalyn, Mark Timothy, Lydia, Alvin, Erlyn, Erwin, Remir, Mary Joy, Rey Mark, and Raymund, God has prepared families. They will bring the number of children adopted over CSC's 28 years to more than 450.

Our other children wait. And among all those waiting children are two sibling groups we have a particular burden for at this time. A sibling group of five children, 14-year-old twins Jeffril Ann and Neil, Michael Angelo (13), Paul Christian (7), and Crezillah (6), have been with us for four years. These are beautiful and gifted children, who have a strong desire for an adoptive family. They certainly feel some sense of hurt when they learn other children will be leaving for adoption before they do. Another group of six siblings, Analiza (14), Jenive (11), Bernardo

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28 years of Ministry in Cebu

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On The Flip Side

by Matthew Buley
U.S. Director

Our Child Development Director, Sandy Swanson, has always given us permission to have favorites among the CSC kids. She's never promoted it, but contends that as long as every kid is on somebody's list of favorites, it works out in the end.

This whole idea of favorites has been taken to a new level ever since Theresa and I committed on February 28, 2007 that we would do whatever we could to make Remir, Mary Joy, Rey Mark and Raymund our children. It turns out God had our family of six planned from the beginning of time. The inter-country adoption board of the Philippines officially "matched" us on March 21, and the kids were told on April 1. The picture above was taken just minutes after they were told that Uncle Matt and Auntie Theresa were now Dad and Mom.

It's quite surreal being a dad-in-waiting of four kids. It should be stressful because we're spending money hand over fist to make this happen, or because we have so much work to do before they come home, but what really drives us nuts is the fact that we're not with our children!

Very few days go by in which one of us doesn't stop in the middle of something and say, "I just wish the kids were here." Our house suddenly feels so empty and quiet. There are spots on the sofa, at the dinner table and in previously unused bedrooms just waiting to be filled by kids...our beautiful kids.

So, I admit it, I have some favorites at CSC. Four of them are consuming a lot of prayer, planning and pondering. I can't say Theresa and I wait patiently for them, but we thank God we can wait without worrying about their care. We're as blessed as ever by the knowledge that every child is loved at CSC.

Building a Legacy of Hope For the Children of C.S.C.

CSC has embarked on a capital campaign to fund ministry expansion in Cebu and to help secure the financial future of the ministry. Our primary goal in all of this is to continue to improve the services that we provide to the children under our care. Although the needs in the Philippines are great, and we would like to be able to care for more children who do not have better trained staff and more financial security for the years to come. We owe it to our children to provide the best care possible at CSC.

Our campaign will raise \$2,000,000 for the following components:

1. At a cost of \$355,000 we will construct a new infirmary building to better care for our sick children.

Because CSC takes in children who are sick, malnourished and neglected, medical care is an important part of our program and budget. Our current medical facilities do not provide adequate space for the care of our children who are ill, including those who need to be isolated on admission.

In a residential setting like ours, it is not uncommon for many children to get sick at the same time. We need an infirmary that will provide room for at least 10 children, with quality facilities and equipment to be able to get them well.



Our desire is not strictly to increase the number of children that we are able to serve, but to improve the quality of care that we are able to offer our children.

This building will be a cost saver, as we will be able to provide medical interventions in our own facilities for children who might otherwise need to be hospitalized.

Our medical building will also contain office space for our nursing staff and a small laboratory where we will be able to do simple lab tests for our kids.

2. \$405,000 will construct a new residence for our children with special needs.

Throughout our history, CSC children have included those with special needs. These special children deserve the very best that we can provide for them. Many will spend their entire lives in our care.

Our current facilities do not provide well for the eating, sleeping, bathing and toilet needs of our special kids. We will build a residential facility that will have living space for special needs children on the lower level, and able-bodied children upstairs. As an inclusive environment for children, we do not want our kids with special needs isolated or excluded. So we will make a residence where they can have the facilities they need, but also live and interact with other children. This will provide the best environment for everyone. CSC has cared for children with cerebral palsy, brain damage, blindness, autism, developmental delays and other special needs. This facility will allow us to continue to reach out to these children in the years to come.



3. Our Building a Legacy of Hope campaign will raise \$605,000 for the construction of a new Teen Home and CSC office complex on the current Teen Home site.

Our Wally Johnson Teen Home has been operating since 2001 in facilities that are less than adequate. The Teen Home program provides transitional care for children who will not be adopted and has been successful in helping teens find educational and vocational opportunities and build bridges to the community as they prepare for life in the Philippines. We really need a completely new building with totally separate facilities for boys and girls, as well as room for recreation, study, leisure and group activities.



We know that, whether they are adopted or not, God has a special plan for the lives of our children. We want our Wally Johnson Teen Home to be a part of helping prepare our older children for whatever He may have in store for them.

Our CSC office is a very busy place. It provides work space for our administrative staff and social workers, and is visited by clients, government officials and representatives from welfare agencies.

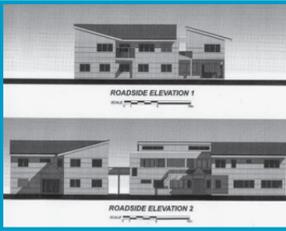
For the past 20 years our administrative staff has been using cramped space in the Teen Home. Our social workers have had to use their small space for client meetings and make room for the ever-increasing number of filing cabinets for the children's files. Our new office building will provide for all



of this, as well as spacious records rooms, a small apartment for visitors and larger rest rooms. It will be an efficient space where our staff can do their important work.

4. Our campaign will raise \$635,000 for our Luke Fund Endowment.

For many of those for whom CSC is important, the years are ticking away. For our staff who pioneered the ministry, retirement and future leadership are being discussed. Some of our supporters and volunteers are getting to the age when they might think about the future of CSC - a ministry to which they have given time, talents and financial gifts. We all want to leave the leadership and support of CSC in good hands and in a strong position.



The Luke Fund Endowment is one of the ways to help secure the financial future of the ministry. While some prefer their gifts to go for buildings or the more immediate needs of food or medicine, others enjoy the idea of making gifts that keep on giving, long after we are around to support CSC.

If you would like to make a donation to the Building a Legacy of Hope campaign, or desire more information, contact Matt Buley at the CSC office at 763-689-6558.

FROM CEBU TO THE WORLD



The 2007 CSC Banquet was a rousing success, with 826 friends in attendance. The program theme emphasized the international flavor of CSC through adoption. This theme was developed by the entry of flags



featuring former CSC residents, and a video presentation entitled, "It All Started in Cebu." The evening featured cultural dancers, Filipino food, humor, excellent music, and two former CSC residents, Rosalynn Robb and Herman Rott, who spoke about CSC's impact on their lives. Music featured Beltran



Holmberg, Sarah Reasoner and Craig Wasner. Paul and Marlys Healy gave ministry updates and introduced CSC's capital campaign. Will Healy emceed. The offering for the evening was over \$94,000!

Juliet Erickson led a group of volunteers in decorating the Robertson Center, creating a festive atmosphere for the evening.



Other highlights of the 2007 banquet included live connections with the staff and children in Cebu. Jeffril Ann Montebon prayed for the offering, and the children sang "God Will Take Care of You" as a benediction.

Updates on Children We Serve

by Sandy Swanson

Kid's Korner

We are in the midst of hot season here in Cebu City, which means our regular school days are replaced with summer fun classes, summer school, kites, basketball and sweating...all the time. It seems that global warming has "attacked" Cebu City this year! We still have lots of activity going on despite the high temperatures.

has finally been answered! She will be leaving for the USA and her adoptive parents, brother and sister sometime this summer!



mischievous and outgoing little girl. It has been fun to see all the firsts in her life: first smile, first tooth, first steps, first birthday-but now it is time for her to leave us for adoption. She will be leaving within a few weeks.

JACOB (21) has been at CSC all but three months of his life. Jacob has cerebral palsy. His mind is bright and alert but he has a body that just will not cooperate. As he grows and matures, the spasticity of his muscles becomes "stronger." The poor guy has trouble sitting in his wheelchair now. We have a walker/stander that he does well in for a few hours each day. Jacob is very uncomfortable in the heat of the summer. He misses the air conditioning at school!



JAMES FRANCIS (12) and JEREMIE (8) who have been at CSC for three years and a year and a half respectively, are not siblings, but will be traveling together to



Montana for a month this summer. They will be hosted by families that will show them around Montana and give them an experience of what it is like to live in a real family. The hope is that permanent adoptive families will be found for these darling boys through this summer program.

ARGEI KEM (12), ARDIAN (11), ADELYN (9) and JANICE (6) came to us from severe poverty just ten months ago. All of them have done well, regaining their health and learning to live with electricity and running water.



Kem has major concerns academically. He tries hard but struggles with very basic reading and math skills. Ardian is one of the nicest kids we have ever had; he loves people and tries hard to improve himself academically, despite learning disabilities. Adelyn loves to work! She volunteers to fold clothes and clean the yard all the time. She too has difficulty in school but has a good attitude and tries her best. Janice seems to be able to catch on to things in school much easier than her siblings and is not beyond letting them know that fact! Janice is the little spitfire of this family!



MARY has left us for her adoptive home in New Zealand. Her adoptive Mom, Dad and two teenage brothers came to get her!

JENALYN (14) has lived at CSC for six years. She has made great progress but still suffers with low self-esteem. Jenalyn's long time prayer for an adoptive family

LYDIA is 17 months old and has lived with us since she was one day old! Her personality has blossomed in the last few months. She has become a



Left to right: Jeneviev (14) Nino (13) Riza Mae (12) Leheca (10) Charydyn (8) Charryto (6) June (4) Bart (2) and Jashley (1) have lived with us for only three months but they are very much a part of CSC. Their mother died shortly after Jashley was born. Dad tried to keep things together but realized that was impossible. He desires that the kids be adopted together. Jeneviev is shy but is gaining in confidence daily. She has a beautiful smile and a good sense of right and wrong. We are impressed with her good adjustment in spite of her age. Nino enjoys all the sports and activities that CSC has to offer. He is working on controlling his temper. He is a great kid. Riza Mae is the toughest one of this group and has had the most trouble dealing with their past. But she loves being at CSC and is making progress. Leheca is still starved for attention. She loves hugs and we make sure she gets lots every day! She is very verbal and says what is on her mind. Charydyn is bright and inquisitive and so happy to finally be in school! She has a soft heart and has taken our rules seriously. Her ability to trust us already is amazing. Charryto has a smile that lights up a room! She is doing well and progressing but misses her birth family that was left behind (father, grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins). She is also very verbal so this helps her with dealing with her feelings. June is the little actor of the family. She has learned how to make herself stand out in this group! Bart has become everyone's little darling. He loves all the attention and enjoys being one of the big kids at the house when all the school kids leave for the day. Jashley arrived as a severely malnourished 18 month-old who could not even walk. In three months time she is running around the house and starting to talk. Her siblings all dote on her and she makes sure this keeps happening!