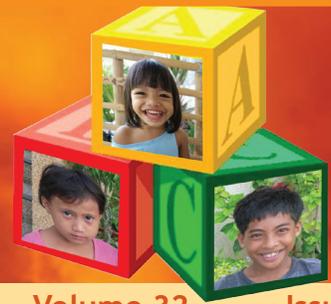




CSC NEWS



Children's Shelter of Cebu

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Issue 2

CSC's Open Doors Admit a Variety of Welcome Guests

by Mitch Ohlendorf
CSC's Executive Director



"We'll leave the light on for you," a well-known slogan for one of America's hotel chains, might well be the best catchphrase we could use at CSC. We have a steady stream of adoptive families, visitors, volunteers, and returning former CSC kids that pass through our doors. The early days of CSC seldom saw visitors. We could go months without having anyone from abroad at the shelter. During our last few years, hardly a week or even a couple of days go by without several people or groups coming to see what the ministry of CSC is all about. Everyone who comes is made to feel welcome, even if our staff may be going in lots of different directions on a given day.

There is a tremendous benefit to having many people involved with CSC's ministry, usually outweighing the costs involved.

Comparatively cheaper travel and a changing attitude about missions have brought about these changes over the last 30 years. Three decades ago, missions was something you heard about when the missionary came home on furlough or spoke at a missions conference. Today, missions is something that people want to experience for themselves, whether it be for a few days, weeks, or even several months. When missions work is something that a person or group gets to see, hear, and feel, it becomes a lot more mean-

ingful than seeing a three minute Power-Point presentation in the Sunday morning service. And it stays in the hearts and minds of visitors much longer, too, giving them the chance to share it with family and friends.

Having many dozens of visitors each year to our shelter and school adds a different dynamic to our ministry. It also presents some challenges with logistics, finances, and time. Making different kinds of visitors welcome and helpful at CSC involves scheduling their time and supervision, assisting with travel, lodging and meals, giving orientations, creat-

ing recreation and social opportunities, and advising on safety and health issues. All of that can require a lot of time and effort for our missionary staff and some financial cost to the organization.

But there is a tremendous benefit to having many people involved with CSC's ministry, usually outweighing the costs. God has gifted each of us with a variety of talents, and our visitors bring theirs to CSC. Our children benefit from academic and Christian education, encourage-

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31 Years of Ministry in Cebu

Every child deserves a family.

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I was watching one of our kids clip his fingernails once, one who would have been young enough to need help doing it when he lived at CSC. I asked him if he could remember who clipped his nails back then. He answered in a split second: "Auntie Pureza," the house mother in his home.

Auntie Pureza clipped his nails? I was really surprised. Wasn't she too busy managing the child care workers in her home, planning meals or overseeing some other operational component? Well, no, she wasn't too busy.

She's not the only one. The shelter is chock full of people who aren't too busy for these kids. I see it when a security guard stops to adjust a bike helmet, when a teacher shows up in the middle of summer break to visit or when a counselor ignores a day off to meet some new kids we're considering taking in.

And then there are those Americans living in Cebu. I wonder if they ever count the hours they work in a week. One night I went out with Mitch, Tammy and a group of eight kids to a swanky hotel for an evening of "pig," a highly competitive billiards game.

I could see that Mitch and Tammy were having fun. In fact, I can tell all the missionaries enjoy the extras they give the kids. But, they really don't have to do these things. They could have spent that time unwinding at home but instead made it a priority to plan this event, and to do it on a night that I could enjoy it with them. They gave a special memory to all of us in the process. I hope they had more fun than a night curled up on the couch might have provided. I know I did. And so did some amazing kids.

Financial Report

CSC continues to feel the pinch as giving lags behind our budget. People are giving faithfully and generously, but others who would like to give are not able to. The needs in Cebu are the same: food, medicine, school expenses, transportation, child care services.

Income to Date: \$545,000
Budget to Date: \$676,000
Deficit: \$131,000
Budget for July: \$89,000
Budget for August: \$80,000

A compounding problem for us is that our stateside reserves have been depleted, and the lower giving months are still upon us. We need a significant upturn in giving now to avoid having to make unwanted cuts in our program in Cebu.

Ministry Statistics

We currently have 82 residents.

Cherne Home	28
Eicher Home	16
Duterte Home	32
Teen Home	6
Siblings	60 (73%)
Boys	45 (55%)
Girls	37 (45%)
Matched	10



In U.S. for summer hosting program	5
Students at Children of Hope School	53
# of meals monthly	7,626
Monthly parroll for Filipino workers	\$20,000

Open Doors, continued from page 1



ment, music, computer technology, prayer, sports, camping, and special activities. Others feel a burden to support the shelter or school financially after having been personally involved. All of our buildings and most of our major furnishings are a testament to that. Still others leave feeling a more personal connection to some of our older children or

sibling groups, to the extent that they might pursue their adoption.

The result of our doors always being open to many visitors each year is that CSC's family in Cebu has grown to a very large caring and giving extended family around the world. And that comes back to benefit the very place where it's all centered - the 82 kids at Children's Shelter of Cebu.



Amy Luck experiences a year in the U.S. ...

It's great to be back in Cebu after a year furlough in the States. I had a wonderful time reconnecting with family and friends, visiting former CSC kids, sharing CSC with many people, and spending time at the CSC office in Cambridge.

Having time in the States gave me a chance to reflect and spend time with many wonderful people who love CSC and are part of the CSC family. I was able to visit with adoptive families. I enjoyed having meals with them, going to sporting events, attending kids' musical programs, hanging out, and just having fun. It was great to reconnect with the kids and their families. Thank you to all of the families who welcomed me into their homes while I was in the U.S.

It is always a joy to spend time with people who love CSC! I had the opportunity to travel to many places and to share what God is doing through His ministry

in Cebu. I enjoyed sharing in churches, kids classes, small groups and at mission conferences.

I also had the opportunity to spend some time at the CSC office in Cambridge, MN. Our staff there works diligently to get the word out about CSC and makes sure we get the things we need in Cebu. I enjoyed attending mail-outs and getting to know many of our volunteers who faithfully come each month to help spread the news about CSC.

As I have reflected on this past year, I am thankful for the opportunities I had to refresh, reconnect, and be reminded of all of the wonderful people God is using for His ministry in Cebu! I am encouraged and blessed to know there are so many people all over the world who love and support CSC with their time, prayers and financial support.

...and a return to Cebu to minister to the kids

Since June Amy has been back in Cebu, rejoining the Children of Hope faculty and welcoming eight pre-school students into her class. In addition to her duties at school, she will be assisting with the child-care program of CSC, working with individual children, and planning special programs .

For Amy, readjusting to life at CSC means getting to know a lot of new kids who came while she was away. Four of her pre-school students are new this year. And there are more than 20 new faces among the children in our homes. In addition, there are six new teachers and aides at the school for her to get to know.

Like all the CSC staff, Amy has learned

that working for CSC involves a lot of emotional welcomes and goodbyes. Within a few days you say goodbye to your family and friends in the U.S., and you are given a hug-filled reception when arriving back at CSC. You learn to live your life on both sides of the ocean, to draw blessings from caring for our children, but also to thank those who make that care possible.

"It's great to be back to the place I love," declares Amy. "After being gone for a year, it feels like home and things are familiar. I enjoy teaching in the mornings and helping out with kids in the afternoons. I look forward to what God has in store for this year and the years to come at CSC!"



It is always a joy to spend time with people who love CSC!



I look forward to what God has in store for this year and the years to come at CSC.



JOHN arrived in mid-March when he was two days old. He is a calm baby who enjoys watching all that goes on around him. He loves to “talk” and has the most wonderful facial



expressions to go with his verbalizations. He is rolling around on the floor already and seems to enjoy the fact that he can actually get somewhere else by rolling!

MICAH arrived as a one day-old at the end of March. She has been “in charge” of the nursery from that day forward!



When Micah wants something she gets it! She cries hard and loud to get what she wants and quiets immediately when she has received it. She desires to be in someone’s arms during every moment she is awake. She is very interactive so has lots of fans who enjoy spending time with her. She has a beautiful smile!

JOLYNZ arrived the beginning of May as a one week-old baby girl. She, too,



is quite interactive and aware of her surroundings. She has a temperament in between John (the easy going little guy) and Micah (the demanding little girl). Jolynz smiles and giggles and makes sure that she gets held often.

Siblings **JAMES, MARICRIS** and **VENUS** arrived in late May. **JAMES** turned 12 years old two days after arrival. He was quite pleased with that timing and certainly approved of the first birthday party that he has ever had! James will go down in CSC history as being the first child to set off the fire alarm. His curiosity simply got the best of him and he had to see what that button did. He did this after being here for only about 10 minutes! James is strong-willed but also very desirous of doing the right thing. He is bright and inquisitive and has made a good adjustment to CSC. **MARICRIS** will be 11 years old on Christmas day. She is also quite strong-willed but very willing to learn the rules. Maricris has a very vivid imagination that we are just beginning to understand. We



are working with her to be able to differentiate between the real story and her imagined one. The imagined ones are always much more exciting! **VENUS** is 7 ½ years old. She loves her older siblings and enjoys being with them. Venus loves to joke and is especially happy to be in school! She is a natural gymnast and enjoys showing off how flexible and coor-

inated she is. Venus loves giving us the “V” (for Venus) sign. We are so happy to be able to help these three siblings to have a chance to reach the potential they were born with.

Sisters **ROSETINA** and **ROWENA** arrived at the end of June. They arrived only a couple of weeks after their birth mom’s death. **ROSETINA**



is 6 ½ years old. She has been diagnosed as microcephalic and having cognitive delays. We are excited to see the big difference in her in just the short time she has been with us! She is speaking quite well and even asking good questions. She is overjoyed to be in pre-school. What a blessing to see the difference that a little love and acceptance does for a child! We are now confident that Rosetina will be able to progress significantly. **ROWENA** is 5 ½ years old. Much of the time, Rowena plays the role of “big sister,” but we are already seeing that Rosetina is willing and able to take that position in certain situations. Rowena is more hesitant than Rosetina in entering into new situations. Rowena is entering into life at CSC with “careful consideration,” it seems. She is happy to be here, but she wants to make sure that things are really as they seem. We are excited to see these two darlings grow and develop. They live in the Eicher Home.



Building Self-Esteem at CSC by Paul Healy

Building self-esteem in our children is an important part of the work of CSC. They come to us from situations of neglect and abuse. Many have been taught that they are nothing, that they are the cause of their family problems, and that they will never amount to anything. They often don't believe they are worthy of love. They feel that they are stupid and not capable of doing well in school. Some believe that God has abandoned them.

Self-esteem building begins as soon as a child enters our doors. CSC is a place of hugs and expressions of love.

It's a place of inclusion and healing. While some children are not ready for hugs when they arrive, it usually doesn't take too long before they will accept and even seek out affection from our staff and workers.

Our Children of Hope School is a great place for building self-esteem. Students are met at their point of ability, and not meant to feel like they are behind or slow. We celebrate the things



they can do rather than what they cannot. They are valued as individuals with their own way of learning.

Music is a very special way that CSC residents come to feel better about themselves. Our music teacher, Francis Georsua, is excellent at inspiring our kids to learn an instrument. Being able to play in front of an audience doesn't always happen right away, but when they are ready there are many fans waiting to cheer their efforts. Any effort. We have seen music help transform kids who are almost paralyzed by self-consciousness into musicians who enjoy being up in front.

CSC has two full-time counselors who work with our children. They talk with them about their past experiences, teach them that the things that happened to them were not their fault, and that God loves them as they are and that He has a plan for their lives. Having Jesus as their friend and Savior is the best way for building true self-esteem.

Check Out CSC on Facebook



CSC has a page on Facebook for our friends to see the latest developments, watch videos, see pictures from Cebu, and post words of friendship and encouragement. Check us out on Facebook at Children's Shelter of Cebu.

Healys Stateside for a Year

Marlys, Paul and Jenny left Cebu late in July and will be in the U.S. for one year. They are available to speak in churches and share the ministry. They would love to meet as many CSC supporters as possible during the year. If you would like a presentation in your church call the CSC office at 763-689-6558.

Wish List on Web Site

For those who enjoy giving towards specific needed items, check out our Wish List at cscshelter.org. These are things we really need!



PRAYER ITEMS

1. Please pray for **Paul, Marlys, and Jenny Healy** as they start their year in the U.S. Pray that they would have lots of opportunities to meet people and share CSC.
2. Pray for the finances of CSC during the summer when giving often slumps. Pray for generous hearts.
3. Pray for **Ginda**, who is fighting pneumonia in Cebu Doctors' Hospital Pray for wisdom for her doctors in finding the right antibiotic.

Our CSC Circle of Prayer



Pray for our darling Ginda.

PRAISES

1. Praise God for the progress of some of our new kids.
2. Praise the Lord for the people who have visited us recently from around the world. Pray that they will have a stronger commitment to CSC.
3. Praise God for friends who have responded to our financial needs lately with generous gifts.
4. Thank God for those open to adopting our sibling groups.





CSC NEWS



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FOSTER FRIENDS

For the modest sum of \$25 a month, you can be a Foster Friend. You will be assigned a child and will be given a picture and background information on how your child came to live at CSC. You will receive regular updates with pictures so you can chart your child's development. If your child is old enough, he or she will send you an occasional letter. Since it costs much more than \$25 a month to provide for the many needs of a child, your gift will be combined with those of others to form an extended family of support for your child.

Yes, I would like to sponsor a child through the Foster Friends Program. I will support this child at an amount of _____\$25 U.S. a month _____\$25 Canadian a month
Enclosed find my first payment of \$_____ to cover _____ months.



- I cannot become a Foster Friend at this time, but I would like to make a contribution of \$_____.
- Please send me more information about CSC.
- Name (please print): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: *Children's Shelter of Cebu.*
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Contributions to CSC are tax-deductible

