

32 Years of Ministry in Cebu

Children's Shelter of Cebu

Summer 2011

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Issue 2

Change is Constant at CSC

new children have

come in recent months to

by Paul Healy, Field Director

few hours and it will be different. Change

almost daily basis.

Never have we experienced change guite to the exof recent tent davs in Cebu. 23 children have been adopted already this year. Our staff, counselors. teachers and house parents work to prepare these children for I

the significant changes they will face when tomorrow. It would not be uncommon for a they join their adoptive families. And preparation is also needed for the children who will experience their leaving while they remain behind.

Life at CSC is a little bit like the weather Almost every day brings something unexin Minnesota. If you don't like it just wait a pected, and schedules have to be changed. Our staff members come to accept the is a major part of life in our ministry, and changes that occur at CSC as part of the job everyone in Cebu has to deal with it on an of managing the ministry. When we inter-

view a prospective staff member or short termer for CSC we always tell them that the most important personality trait for working in our ministry is flexibility. You never know exactly what a day might bring, and the realities of today might not be true

day to include a child or sibling group leaving with their adoptive family, a new child being admitted, another being hospitalized or being released from isolation, a toddler

When we interview a prospective staff member or short termer for CSC we always tell them that the most important virtue for working here is flexibility.

experience the life-changing love of CSG.

When children leave others are admitted. Coming to live at CSC entails a huge adjustment for the children. Everything changes. They have plenty to eat, they are safe, they have a chance to go to school and they are treated with respect, compassion and Changes can often bring stress with them. love by everyone.

In addition to the comings and goings of the children, we have staff leaving for furlough and coming back from the U.S. We have a short termer coming out and lots and lots of visitors. Children get sick and need to be brought to doctors or have lab work done.

taking his first steps and a group of visitors arriving. CSC is an exciting and emotional place to work. But we must embrace the constant changes that the work entails.

New children don't know the rules and procedures at CSC. Many of them never lived with positive expectations placed on them. They know little about respecting others' property because they have never owned anything. Many have never set foot inside a school before coming to live with us and

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Every child deserves a family.





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Children's Shelter of Cebu



At this year's banquet we had the privilege of hearing from a woman named Arlie, a former resident who was adopted when she was young. Before she left the shelter years ago she ended up in the most famous picture around CSC, the one with Uncle Paul and five kids holding hands, walking along the road. It was the picture that became our logo. Arlie was the child on the end.

Despite her relative fame at CSC, for years Arlie had no idea how to find us. She so desired to see her former home, but there wasn't any trace of us to be found in her searches. This was partly because the place she was looking for, Corpus Christi Foundation, had changed its name to the Children's Shelter of Cebu years ago.

Arlie shared about the stunning moment when she finally found us, and how things came together for her to take the life-changing trip back to Cebu. Dry eyes were hard to find at the banquet when she shared how being back at CSC made her realize she found the family from her past that she'd always wondered about.

Alot has changed since Arlie left CSC. All those new buildings, a school, a teen home program and who knows what else. For that matter, a lot seems to have changed recently with all the adoptions and new admissions we've had at the shelter in 2011. I will be meeting lots of new kids when I head to Cebu soon.

Maybe the real beauty of CSC, though, is that in all that time since Arlie left our care, nothing fundamental did change. We are about giving our best to kids who need us. Loving those with special needs. Keeping siblings together. Acting on God's call.

Lots changed, even the name, but nothing that matters did.

CSC Donors Help Change Lives With Their Gifts

CSC's donors are in the life-changing business. Their gifts and prayers make it possible for our staff to administer the healing balm of love, good food, medical care, and attention to the various needs of our children.

Some give to our **General Fund**, which allows our staff to meet the regular, budgeted needs of the children and to pay the salaries of the many people who work for CSC.

Some support an individual CSC child through our **Foster Friends** program by giving \$25 a month for the care of that child.

Others choose CSC as a **beneficiary** in their will or other planned gift.

Some give monthly, while others prefer to give once or twice a year.

Some federal workers give to the ministry through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Some friends and families sponsor a day of our school at \$350 through our new **Day of Hope** program.

Some give on-line through our **CSC Website**, while others prefer to mail checks or pay automatically through their bank account.

Some friends give the gift of time through volunteering or by becoming prayer partners through our Frontline Prayer Team.

Every gift, pledge, prayer or minute spent in support of the ministry of CSC pays dividends in the lives of the children we serve. Our supporters are changing lives, building a foundation of hope, trust, faith and joy.

For more information about giving to CSC call Matt Buley at 763-689-6558, or visit our web site at www.cscshelter.org.

Change is Constant, continued from page 1

are slow to learn about paying attention or completing assignments. Some act out in significant ways to gain attention or to test the rules and relationships. Our childcare workers, house parents, counselors and teachers are people who understand the chaos that our children have gone through, and anticipate and face the challenges that come from helping them through the changes in their lives while they are at CSC.

Of course, there are a lot of things that remain the same at CSC, even when change seems to surround us. We serve and worship a God who does not change. His love for us and the children is constant. Because of this our values stay the same. We remain committed to providing the best care possible for the children that He brings into our homes. We love the children unconditionally, and work very hard to protect their rights and best interests. We pro-



"Veteran" Sheena (four years at CSC) befriends newcomer Pretchy.

vide care that addresses not only their physical, educational and emotional needs, but presents God as a loving Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ as the ultimate answer for their lives. And we remain committed to seeking adoption for our children for whom that is possible.

For every toddler's step, for each healed hurt, for every tear that dries, for each case of despair turned to hope, for every childhood restored and for each child rescued from homelessness, we thank God and our faithful supporters who make it all possible.







FROM ADOPTIONS TO ADMISSIONS

When children leave for adoption, new one's take their place. In the past several months we have had 23 kids leave for adoption, and 24 were admitted. More children will be placed and admitted in 2011 than at any time in our history. It has been a busy time for our staff and workers!



FROM SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO SCHOOL

Our Children of Hope School began in late June. Although the kids loved the special summer activities of swimming, badminton, basketball, music and ping pong, they were happy to be back in school. Our teachers welcomed 49 students to school, including many new students, some whom are attending school for the first time.



FROM AUNTIE SANDY TO AUNTIE LINDSAY.

Sandy Swanson, CSC's Child Development Director, will be gone from Cebu for one year starting in mid-August. During that year Lindsay Hoeft will be going to CSC to help out with some of the child care duties. Lindsay has been working in the counseling field in Minnesota. She is from Willmar, Minnesota.



FROM DESPAIR TO LOVE AND HOPE

Little Jacob was in pathetic shape when admitted to CSC in late June. We found him in a government hospital and he was badly malnourished and had scars and injuries from abuse. He needed extended hospitalization. His emotional scars will be more difficult to heal, but he is already responding to the acceptance and love of our CSC family.



FROM THE U.S., BACK HOME TO CEBU CITY

Paul, Marlys and Jenny Healy have completed their year in the U.S. and are heading back to their home in Cebu City. From a year of spreading the word about the ministry and working with the stateside staff and the Board, they will return to the ministry with the children that has been their work for 32 years.











Updates on the Children We Serve

This is a year of changes at CSC. We have already had 23 kids leave for adoption this year! Six more are matched and waiting. Since January 1, 2011, we have admitted 24 new kids. Adding so many new kids in a short amount of time makes adjusting a little more interesting. All of our new kids have been neglected by the adults in their lives, and guite a few were abused in some way. Our counselors, house parents, staff and childcare workers have a big job ahead of us. We know that God brought these kids to us and we thank him for the opportunity to make changes in their lives. And, just for the record, all the new kids are cute, so our record of only admitting cute kids is still intact! The kids who have left since the last newsletter are Jeneviey, Niño, Riza Mae, Leheca, Charydyn, Charryto, June, Barto, Jashly, Jimmy, Frank, Gigi, Darel, John Lyod, Danielle, Niño Augustin and Paula.

SALLY (6) and LERMA (4) are sisters who arrived in mid-April. Sally has made good friends and is happy to be attending school. She smiles easilv and is showing enough selfconfidence



express her opinions. Lerma is still in isolation because of a contagious illness. We will all be happy when she gets out of isolation, and the isolation building will be much quieter!



JOVIENEL joined his sister Trixine (8) here at had not lived together previous to coming to CSC. Juvienel was guite shy when he first arrived, but has

recently decided that he has lots of opinions to share and lots of ideas of things to do, no matter what we think of them!

PRETCHY (10), EDWARD (8) and JAIME (7) arrived in mid-May. These siblings were at first very excited to come to CSC quickly but decided that they did not like being in



isolation. They were convinced that keep our attention. She is affectionat the first moment possible they would run away and return to their birth mother. Pretchy is very opinionated and had some trouble with her initial adjustment here. She is now convinced that she wants to live at CSC and is showing an ability to trust us to care for her and her brothers. Edward is a fun-loving and observant boy. He has shown good values and an innate desire to please those that he trusts. He is happy to be given a nice place to live and a wonderful school to attend. Jaime has been busy learning how to ride a bike, roller blade and to master every physical activity that we have to offer him. He is a sweet little boy who loves life and is a joy to have in our home.

CSC in May. They ADRIAN (11), ANDREA (11) and NIÑO (8) arrived late in May. Adrian and Andrea are twins. Adrian is very



active and excels at dancing and gymnastics. He loves sports of any kind. He is very verbal and is happy to be at CSC. He has already made many friends. Andrea is almost the polar opposite of her twin brother. She has very low self-esteem and struggles socially. Academics are difficult for her. Andrea thrives on adult attention and will ask us the same question over and over just to

ate and needs constant assurance of our love for and commitment to her. Niño is confident and happy to be at CSC. He is very affectionate, giving all of us long and genuine hugs many times a day. Niño is still flitting from one activity to another. Slowing down and listening to what is being said is very hard for him. He has a beautiful smile and a desire to please those that he trusts.



JACOB (4), JAMAICA (2) and JOSEPH (1) are three darlings that arrived in late June. Jacob was severely malnourished and had been physically abused. He was a little boy without hope. What an honor it has been to see him smile often, to hear him ask to be held in loving arms and to express opinions about what he would like to do. Jamaica seemed to be in better physical shape than her brothers. She is active and playful. Joseph was also very malnourished. He is delayed in his development and we are observing him for signs of abuse that may be responsible for his developmental concerns. These three children needed CSC just to survive. We can help them survive, but we can also give them back their childhood and give them hope that they have never had.

Children's Shelter of Cebu

Unchangeable Fun at CSC

For more than 32 years, CSC has been a place of fun. When visitors come through our gate they hear the sounds of children laughing and playing. If they listen closely, they can also hear the happy voices of our staff and workers, because, in spite of changes, CSC remains a fun place to live and work.



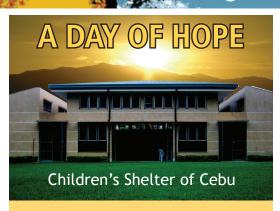


Badminton was one of the favorite choices of the older children for a summer activity. The children, led by the pre-schoolers, head to school for opening day. Gibby loves his guitar and Wilmar has fun learning to use a computer at school.









Children of Hope School has been an important part of the ministry of CSC since 1998. We provide quality education to our children and others from the community. To help us fund this amazing school we are offering our friends an opportunity to underwrite a day of school operations - a program we are calling A Day of Hope.

For a gift of \$350, individuals, families, church groups, civic organizations or former CHS students can support the school program for a day, paying the salaries for our teachers and therapists, electricity and other utilities, and school materials. We will announce the sponsorships on the CSC web site, and will send a certificate to the person being honored by the gift, should the donor choose to recognize a significant person with their sponsorship. We will send the sponsor a special recognition from Cebu.

www.cscshelter.org

Our CSC Circle of Prayer

PRAYER

- 1. Pray for Sandy Swanson as she prepares to leave Cebu for a year in the U.S., and for Lindsay Hoeft, who will be helping out in the child care department for a year.
- 2. Pray for the children who are waiting for adoptive families. It is hard to see friends leave with their families while they wait.
- 3. Our board has some important decisions to make this year. Pray for wisdom.
- 4. Pray for patience for our staff and workers as they deal with difficult issues with some of our new children.



PRAISES

- 1. For several generous designated gifts that have allowed us to purchase needed vehicles and other equipment in Cebu.
- 2. For little Jacob's improvement. He was so malnourished and suffered from injuries from abuse, necessitating hospitalization. He is back at the Shelter and doing better.
- 3. Praise God for the people who have opened their hearts and homes to CSC children through adoption, and for those who are considering doing so. We are thrilled to have had several sibling groups adopted this year.



Box 247, Cambridge, MN 55008 Change Service Requested

Cebu Staff

Field Director: Paul Healy
Executive Director: Mitch Ohlendorf
Medical Director: Marlys Healy
Outreach Director: Ruth Ohlendorf
Child Development Director: Sandy Swanson
School Consultant: Shari Reasoner
Teacher: Amy Luck
Teacher: Tammy Vosika
Asst. Director: Joel Reasoner

Stateside

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Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada P.O. Box 141, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

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FOSTER FRIENDS

er 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.

1/2	
S.M.	ARINE
	S.M.

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.

U.S. donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CSC, Box 247

Cambridge, MN 55008

Canadian donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CCSSC, P.O. Box 141

Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

Contributions to CSC are tax-deductible



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Wilbert and Charlotte Strelow

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