

NEWS *from* CEBU

- WATCH AND WAIT

Watch and wait. For many CSC children those words describe a lot about their life at the shelter. Adelyn and Janice have been watching and waiting for nine years while living at CSC. They have watched literally hundreds of children leave with their new families while waiting for their own chance to be adopted.

The waiting is over. Adelyn and Janice have been matched

with a family! Recently they were told about this exciting development, and the emotion was overwhelming as the staff gave them the news they had been waiting and praying for. **Now they will be watching for the day their new parents pull into our green gates to bring them home.**

Adelyn and Janice came to CSC in July of 2006, together with their two brothers. They had a very difficult past; their mom had died, and their father, despite working hard as a driver, could not provide for their basic needs. They had known sickness, hunger, and despair. At CSC they were given good food, a safe place to live, loving caregivers, and a chance to go

to our Children of Hope School.

As the years passed the four siblings prayed fervently for a family. It was so difficult to wait. Friends and housemates came and went, even large sibling groups. Was God hearing their prayers? Did he have a family

for them? Things became even more discouraging when the two boys eventually aged out of adoption eligibility in the United States. The CSC staff wrestled with the idea of

placing Adelyn and Janice in an adoptive home without their brothers. After further counseling and soul searching, we decided to pursue adoption for the girls. Months later, a family heard about them, inquired with their agency and

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Three of my four kids have been involved in track and field at school. One, whom I won't name here, has taken a lot of family teasing for a tendency to look up in the stands and smile during the 100-meter dash. My wife, Theresa, and I liked that approach better than the coaches did.

Our kids have been sprinters, long jumpers, and relay team members. I've always found the job of a relay runner especially interesting. In a relay, running isn't the only thing that matters. In fact, I'd guess most relay teams spend a lot more time practicing the baton pass than anything else about the race. Many well-timed steps need to take place when a baton goes from one hand to another's.

While it's not happening suddenly, we can't help but recognize the baton passes happening at CSC in this stage of our ministry. One was passed when Paul Healy asked the board to move the

President title from under his name and over to the U.S. office nearly five years ago. That became my new role. Passing the baton continues with the retirement of Filipino leaders, like Warlita, who turn over medical duties to other qualified leaders, like Arlyn (page 5). And, of course, it continued when we celebrated Sandy Swanson's years of service in September.

CSC has had some goodbyes lately, and those come with the territory when an organization is 36 years old. No one really likes goodbyes, but they've led to other "hellos," and that's been encouraging. One such hello goes out to our new Child Development Director, Lindsay Hoeft. Lindsay is a licensed therapist and led our counseling department for four years. She has a new baton in her hand now and is very much up to the task. Let's pray for all the CSC folks passing and receiving batons in the coming years.

I rejoice that ultimately we are all in God's hands—hands that will never let us drop. ■



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

WHAT'S STRONG:

- Our cash position is strong enough that we don't anticipate any delayed monthly wire transfers to Cebu.
- Our supporters have given more this year than last year.
- The banquet met budget, and Foster Friend givers are beating budget by 15%.

WHAT HAS OUR ATTENTION:

- We are 6% behind our budget. We have \$65,000 to make up as we pull into the biggest quarter of the year.
- The federal employee giving program called the Combined Federal Campaign is lower than expected.
- Church giving is down 9%.

Please pray that we will have the resources we need to do the work of CSC. Thank you for caring about what we do, and deep thanks to those of you who give!

the Philippine Inter-Country Adoption Board, and decided to bring Adelyn and Janice into their family.

the opportunity their sisters have been given. We all would have rather the four could have been adopted together, but we

this home do not have to leave CSC at any set age, but depart only when they have completed high school, and usually college or trade school, and are ready to live on their own. The adoptive parents are well aware of the situation with the four and are committed to including the boys in the girls' lives, even though they will be thousands of miles away. **This will be a uniquely blended family that God put together, and we on the staff feel honored to have been a part of it.**



The boys are happy for the opportunity their sisters have been given.

It came down to the wire. The adoption paperwork needed to be processed by the U.S. government before Adelyn turned 18 years old this month. It was approved on the final day before her birthday!

Although this outcome wasn't what CSC staff imagined when the children came to live here back in 2006, we are thanking God for his perfect plan. The boys are happy for

are thankful for the resources CSC has developed over the years. Each of our children participate in regular counseling sessions, and the boys will have the chance to talk with someone who cares about them regarding the transition--just as their sisters will. In addition, CSC has the Teen Home program, a residential care program that houses young adults who are not adopted. The residents of

Soon Adelyn and Janice will be leaving Cebu with their new parents. The watching and waiting will be over for them. For others it will continue as they wait for God's perfect timing to happen in their lives. Pray for the children as they wait, for the staff as they help them to be patient and trusting, and for the families that are needed to take them in. We thank God for his work in all of this, changing lives and building families. ■



-STAFF HIGHLIGHT *Arlyn: Head Nurse*

Lisa Saavedra, the former Principal of our Children of Hope School, had a saying that guided and inspired CSC during times of upheaval and change. **When a faculty member would leave, sometimes unexpectedly, she would remind us that "God always fills the slots." And He has.**

We are reminded of that truth as our Head Nurse, Warlita Manlun, retires after 20 years of service at CSC. We will miss her greatly, but God has filled that slot with a talented and dedicated person. Arlyn Verdelflor, who has been a part of our medical team for 7 years, has moved into the Head Nurse position. She brings a wealth of nursing experience and leadership ability to the job. The medical needs of our children will continue to be met with professionalism and compassion under her leadership, and the medical team will be led by

a woman who loves the Lord and the kids who live at CSC.

Arlyn came to CSC in 2008. She started her nursing career as an intensive care nurse in Davao City, in the southern Philippines. In addition, she had several years of experience as a nurse in the Middle East, working with the royal family of Saudi Arabia. **When Arlyn returned to the Philippines, she wanted to use her talents and experience to serve God in a Christian ministry.** CSC has been a great fit for her and now it is time for her to move into a leadership position, working with CSC's Medical Director, Marlys Healy, to lead our team of five nurses as they provide the best possible medical care for our children.

In addition to her nursing skills, Arlyn is a talented public speaker, trainer of child care workers, and teacher of hygiene to CSC

children. Her husband, Fred, is a pastor and evangelist with the Southern Baptist Conference of the Philippines. They have three children, two of whom are serving in the Philippine military.

We are thankful for Arlyn, her talents and dedication, and her willingness to take on leadership responsibilities of our medical team. And thanks to God for filling the slot left when our dear Warlita moved into retirement. ■



*Precious Grace,
Nurse*

*Honeylin,
Nurse*

*Arlyn,
Head Nurse*

*Zenefer,
Nurse*

-SCHOOL CONFERENCES-

Like most schools, we hold teacher conferences for our students. These meetings are attended by each child's house parents, a member of the child development team, and the school staff that work with the student. That means our house parents participate in about 30 conferences! These meetings are a great way to make sure that we're meeting the children's needs. Academic progress, behavioral problems, and social adjustment are common topics. We also have a representative from therapy if the child is receiving physical, occupational, or speech therapy. It is encouraging to see the progress each child makes. It is also fun to see the personality of each child come through in the conferences. Here are a few stories from the beginning of school conferences this month. ■



The teacher says Wilmar “brings happiness into the class.” He is a clever child who inserts humor in his daily interactions. His housefather gave him a math word problem the other day: “If I give you two bananas and one mango, what do you have?” Wilmar answered without missing a beat: “Fruit salad!”



The reading challenge just ended and Meriam didn't win. Her teacher overheard her say, “The winner reads so fast. I will win next year.” It is encouraging to see her strive to improve.



Christian is in pre-kindergarten, getting ready to move into kindergarten next year. The students are learning about animals and their babies. Dogs have puppies. Cats have kittens. Pig babies are piglets. One of the kids asked the teacher, “What are baby fish called?” Christian answered, “Fishlets!”



Harold remembers previous topics and connects them to current ones, sometimes interrupting the teacher. He tries spelling new words to himself as the teacher is explaining the meaning. He is enthusiastic about knowing things.



Juliet doesn't like holidays because she likes school and doesn't want to miss even one day.

-KIDS' KORNER-

Arrivals:

JESSA (11) had been living in a local church for over a year. The church members and elders loved Jessa and wanted her to have a second chance at a real family, so they asked us if we would take over her care. She is now living in our Cherne Home. Jessa is an amazing young lady who is happy for a chance to have a family to love and nurture her.

We admitted siblings **MARY IRENE** (8) and **MATTHEW JUSTIN** (4) this past month to the Eicher Home. They were injured in a fire nearly two years ago. Mary Irene has severe scarring and does not have use of her hands and her arms because of her burns. She has a strong will and a love for life that is absolutely amazing to see. For her to have survived at all is a miracle. Matthew Justin has a joy for life that is contagious. He has some scarring as well, but he has full use of his arms and legs.

Identical twin sisters **KAYE** and **KYLIE** (7) and their younger brother **TOM** (6) are the newest CSC kids. They live in our Duterte Home. Kaye is treated as the big sister by her siblings. She is obedient, responsible, and observant. Kylie is sweet and talkative. The girls have fit in well in their new home. Tom has had a harder time adjusting, but he seems happy to be here and is enjoying all the activities available to him. He likes to be called Tom Tom, so we have two Tom Toms in our Duterte Home!

Please pray with us for each of the children who have left us as they adjust to having everything new and different. Pray also for the new children as they adjust to life at CSC. We currently have 86 kids, young adults, and adults with special needs living with us and depending on us.



Jessa



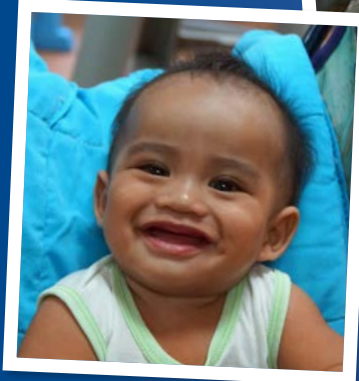
Mary Irene and Matthew Justin



Kaye, Kylie and Tom



Denmar, John Robert and Roquena



Cyrus



Andrew



Sally and Verma

Departures:

Siblings **DENMAR**, **JOHN ROBERT**, and **ROQUENA** are now with their adoptive family in the USA. They arrived just a few days before school started.

CYRUS was only 10 months old when he went to the loving arms of his adoptive parents in the Philippines.

ANDREW is now with his adoptive family in the USA. He was all smiles when he left with them.

Sisters **SALLY** and **LERMA** recently arrived in the USA with their new parents. They grew a lot in the three years they were at CSC.

Twin sisters **JOANNA** (14) and **JONNALYN** (14) recently met their adoptive family and left for their new home in the USA.

Little **CYNTH ZANIAH** (3) just left with her parents. She is now in the USA adjusting to her new home.

Will be leaving soon:

Sisters **ROSETINA** (11) and **ROWENA** (10) are looking forward to the day their adoptive family will be cleared to come and bring them home.

SHAN (2) is also waiting for his family from the Netherlands to come for him.

Siblings **PRETCHY** (15), **EDWARD** (13), and **JAIME** (11) were told the good news that they have a family. They are hoping to be with them in the USA before the end of the year.

ANDREA (15) is looking at photos of her family and looking forward to the day they can come and get her.

CHERYL MAE (14) and her two nieces, **LADY HEART** (7) and **LADY ANNE** (3), will be adopted together. They recently learned they have a family in the USA waiting for them, and will likely be able to meet their family sometime early in 2016.

Joanna and Jonnalyn



Cynth Zaniah



Shan Rosetina and Rowena



Pretchy, Edward and Jaime

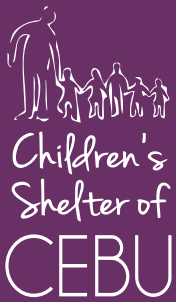


Andrea



Cheryl Mae, Lady Heart and Lady Anne





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PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES ↓

REQUESTS

As we approach end of fiscal year, please pray with us about our finances. We continually need to trust that God will provide for our needs through our faithful supporters.

Please pray for direction and guidance for Paul and Marlys Healy as they seek God's plans for the next few years.

PRAISES

Praise to God for our board members. We have a fabulous group of professionals who gather regularly to pray, discuss, and discern big-picture decisions.

We are so thankful for younger staff stepping into important roles at CSC. The future is in good hands!

One of the most exciting events at the shelter is getting to share the good news of a forever family with a child. That has been happening a lot lately. We are so thankful for the way God has provided loving families for these children. Some have waited years for this exciting step.



If you are interested in contributing or learning more about any of our special projects,

head to www.cebushelter.org