

NEWS FROM CEBU

— A SPECIAL BOND —

It is our desire that all of our CSC children will trust the employees that care for them. Sometimes, we notice an extra special connection between a particular employee and child. Danneil and Teacher Pat are an example of this.

Danneil came to CSC as a newborn in 2012 and has had significant developmental delays

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in his young life. He has been slow to reach many milestones and has fallen behind his peers. We are blessed to have on-site therapists at CSC to provide the best care to help children like Danneil make all of the progress they

can. Danneil currently receives physical, occupational and speech therapies, where he works on gross and fine motor skills, balance, controlled movements, and word sounds.

Although he has worked with all three of our therapists on staff, Teacher Pat has become his favorite. They communicate so well. He signs "yes" and "no"

when she asks him questions, and she can tell by the sound of his squeal if he is happy or sad. She has clear expectations for his behavior and he strives to meet them. Although Danneil continues to be developmentally behind

other children his age, we have seen increased improvement since he has been working directly with Teacher Pat. He started vocalizing more and has learned to walk up and down stairs independently. We are thankful for Teacher Pat's work and for the way she is impacting Danneil's life. ■

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-ANNOUNCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT,-

Tim Holmberg



Tim and his wife Barb

We are excited to introduce you to our new President, Tim Holmberg! Tim is a CSC adoptive parent, former board member and shareholder of the ministry. His wife Barb has served on the CSC board in the past. Tim has spent many years in the business world, and as he considered an early retirement, he felt God nudging him in a different direction. Tim's name was suggested as a potential President candidate by several individuals connected to CSC over the last six months. After our search team conducted rounds of interviews with multiple candidates, the board of directors unanimously voted to ask Tim to accept the role of President of CSC.

Tim's leadership in the business world and service on other non-profit boards and within his church will be vital and valuable assets to CSC. Tim will be based in the US office and will travel several times a year to Cebu. He begins his work officially in March, and we are so excited for him to be in this role. We hope you get a chance to meet him in the coming months! ■



The Holmberg Family

Note from Tim: "I am thankful for the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization. For almost 40 years CSC has provided care for orphaned and surrendered children. As adoptive parents of a sibling group of five, my wife Barb and I have seen firsthand the amazing work done at CSC. I look forward to assisting in the ongoing work at the shelter and am grateful for this opportunity to serve."

— 2018 BANQUET —

Save the Date!

JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, APRIL 14
FOR OUR ANNUAL BANQUET!

If you were to get on a plane and fly to Cebu to visit CSC, we would do a few things to welcome you. You'd get a hand drawn sign with your name on it, a ride to CSC from the hotel, a city tour of Cebu and a departure song from the children. You would be welcomed at CSC!

The 2018 banquet, **Welcome to Cebu**, is meant to bring a little slice of CSC to Minnesota. We hope you'll join us!

Children's Shelter of Cebu **ANNUAL BANQUET CELEBRATION** Saturday, April 14

Register online:
cebushelter.org/banquet

If you are unable to attend, you can still participate in the banquet offering!

CANADIAN BANQUET FRIDAY, MAY 11 ABBOTSFORD, BC

Contact **Irene Funk** (bobea2@telus.net) or
Joan Gleddie (gleddiej@shaw.ca) for more info.



PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES

PRAISES

- We have such a great leadership team in Cebu and are thankful for all they do to lead the many employees that make this work possible. Our leadership team includes: Paul, Marlys, Klaris, Ging, Lindsay, Ben, Cris, Eunice, Jinkee, Eldie and Jerry.
- We have more toddlers who have been matched with adoptive families recently. We are so excited for their futures!
- Praise God with us that our new CSC President, Tim Holmberg, has been hired. What a blessing he will be to this ministry!

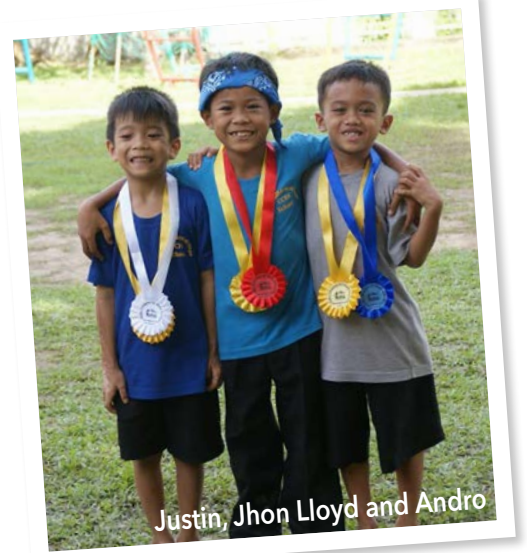
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Our income has been slow at the start of 2018. This is typical for this time of year. We know that God has His hand on CSC and He will meet our needs. At the same time, lower funds at any time can cause some worry. We ask that we can fully trust in the Lord for his provisions.
- Paul continues to recover from his heart attack and is experiencing reduced stamina. He continues to work hard in leading the Cebu side, and we ask for prayers for his health and for needed work/rest balance.

— SPORTS FEST —

Sports are a popular pastime in the Philippines. Our children can often be found playing soccer, basketball or riding bikes. **Once a year, the school hosts a Sports Fest, and the children at CSC get to compete athletically.** It is a fun day of games and contests and a welcome break from studying. There are individual and team events, and the children get to choose which events they will compete in. The activities vary but typically include traditional races, three-legged races, soccer, frisbee and an obstacle course. The winners of the various events receive medals and awards. We even choose a Mr. and Ms. Sports Fest every year!

This year, we had a trio of three boys who really took it seriously. Justin (6), Jhon Lloyd (8) and Andro (7) gave an extra effort in all of their events and walked away with a bunch of awards. It has made these three a little closer as friends, both on the playground and in the homes. They are already talking about next year's Sports Fest. ■



-EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT *Elesio*

CSC has many employees who work tirelessly to provide the for the children. We have a great crew of employees who keep the shelter and school safe and in excellent working order. Elesio is one of those employees, and he has been working at CSC for over 19 years! He is known around the shelter as "Sio" or "Uncle Sio."

Elesio has skills in carpentry, plumbing and masonry. He can repair just about anything!

Elesio works on our maintenance crew and has skills in carpentry, plumbing and masonry. He can repair just about anything! On a typical day you might find him fixing an electrical fan, repairing

a kitchen appliance, or mending shoes or toys that have fallen apart. Elesio is known for his patient and calm personality. **He is very dedicated to this work and is respectful, honest and reliable.** He also is very kind and gentle as he interacts with the CSC kids.

family lives in Paril, Barili, which is 61 km (38 miles) southwest of Cebu City. Every weekend he goes home by bus to Barili and returns to the city for work at CSC on Monday.

We are thankful for Elesio and the help he provides to keep things running smoothly at the shelter. ■

Elesio is married to Luz. They are blessed with seven children (three boys and four girls), the youngest of whom is 24 years old. Elesio's eldest son is one of the guards in our school. Elesio's



Samantha Nicole →



Jacob →



Mary Grace, Martin,
and Ricky Chan ↗

-KIDS' KORNER

Leaving Soon:

SAMANTHA NICOLE

Samantha Nicole has been in our care since February of 2016. She was just six months and three weeks old when she arrived at CSC. She has grown so much in the time she has been at the shelter. She learned to walk and to talk while in our care. Samantha is a happy toddler, who can clearly express her needs. Typical of a toddler, she recently started expressing preferences about the clothes she wears each day, and she is eager to pick out her own clothes. She even wants them to match! Samantha gets along well with the other toddlers and enjoys these interactions. The social workers on staff worked to obtain all the necessary paperwork for her adoption, and she has now been matched with a family. We are so happy for her and what this means for her future!

JACOB S

Jacob S was just four and a half months old when he came to live at CSC in July of 2015. He has made great strides in his development, and we have enjoyed watching him grow! Now this playful, boisterous three-year-old boy will have a forever family soon. He will keep them entertained and bring them a lot of joy.

Recently Adopted:

MARY GRACE, MARTIN, AND RICKY CHAN

Mary Grace (13), Martin (10) and Ricky Chan (8) just left CSC in February with their adoptive parents, and they are now living in Australia! The three were at the shelter for almost five years, and we witnessed many moments of joy and growth with them while they were here. We are so happy for them and pray for their transition.

Three of our boys are running out of time before their adoption window closes. Soon, they will be too old to be considered for adoption. Will you help by praying for them or sharing their information with others?

DANILO

Danilo (14) came to CSC in 2012 after living in a few different temporary homes. He had a cleft lip and palate and has undergone multiple surgeries to repair it. At CSC, Danilo receives speech therapy on a regular basis, and it has been wonderful to see the results. His speech is much more understandable, and he is taking care to pronounce his words. Danilo is an enthusiastic boy who can liven up an entire room. His teachers have described him as charming. He does everything with gusto -- singing, running, playing games, doing puzzles, going to school, and reading, but his favorite activity is creating art. He loves drawing and painting.

Danilo will be a bright light to any potential family. He is very affectionate and enjoys giving and receiving hugs. Danilo deserves a loving, permanent family. We pray for his future and what it might hold.



EPIFANIO AND MARK

Epifanio (16), who goes by JunJun, and his younger brother Mark (10) came to CSC in the middle of 2011.

JunJun brings a quick smile and a quiet diligence to most tasks, especially school. He is now in high school. This was a big adjustment for him, with more homework and more responsibility. He did well with the changes, and one of his favorite classes has been English. Outside of school, he loves playing basketball. He does very well in the sport, practices hard, and is now working on refining his skills.

Mark is a talkative, expressive boy and is described by his teachers as a helpful classmate. He likes his reading and writing classes, especially when they have spelling tests, because he has gotten really good at spelling! Mark is working hard to improve at basketball so he can be like his big brother. Recently, JunJun and Mark have become closer as brothers, and their bond seems to be strong. JunJun looks out for Mark and patiently interacts with him, while Mark looks up to JunJun and wants to be around him more and more.

JunJun will turn 17 this summer, so the boys' time to be considered for adoption will soon run out, as once he is 18 years old, they will no longer be eligible for adoption. We are praying for a loving, committed family to come forward for these brothers.



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- DRAW-AND-TELL



Two of our kids, Maribel and Christian, were chosen to participate in a draw-and-tell event for a local government adoption awareness event. They were both so excited. They practiced what they would draw and how they would explain it. They were counting down the days until the event. It went well and both Maribel and Christian represented CSC and adoption proudly! ■

