



# NEWS FROM CEBU

## — MEDICAL NEEDS AT CSC —

*The* CSC medical team has been very busy lately! Three of our children have had major surgery and hospitalization, followed by after care in our infirmary. All of them will need additional surgery in the coming months, and one other child will need a major operation, so the

*Traditionally, the medical budget is one of the highest expenses at CSC.*

hand holding, encouragement, and bedside prayers will continue for at least the rest of this year and into 2019.

Traditionally, the medical budget is one of the highest expenses at CSC. We pay for doctor visits, medicines, lab tests, immunizations, physical therapy,

equipment, surgeries and hospital stays. It's the one category that is hardest to budget for because so many factors are unpredictable. This has been especially true in 2018 with the three surgeries, lots of medical needs for children admitted this year, and other unexpected costs.

The children received the needed medical care and are doing well. They are receiving loving and attentive after care in our homes. They are monitored by our team of nurses, but their care is also in the hands of our house parents and child care workers who know them well and love them

deeply. The support continues from members of our education department, as special tutoring is provided so the children do not fall behind while they are healing. **All of CSC comes together to ensure the best for our children who undergo medical procedures.**

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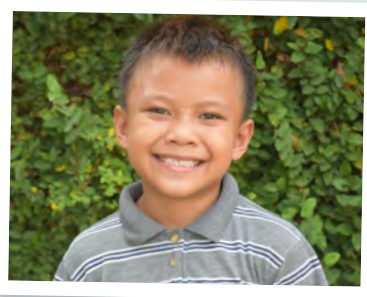
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**Mary Irene** was in a house fire before she came to live with us and suffered major burns over her arms, hands and torso. The doctors determined that she would need two grafting operations, and she underwent the first one in May. She was in the hospital for seven days and spent a month in our infirmary following her release.

She has had physical therapy both at CSC and at a local hospital and has had to wear a splint on her arm. She will need a second grafting operation in a few months. Mary Irene has been so excited about this surgery. She has had restored mobility in her arm and is able to run and play more easily now. She recently told one of our nurses that she is so happy that she is able to put her hand on her chest during morning flag raising at school, just like the other children do.



**Rovilito** also suffered serious burns from a house fire prior to coming to CSC. He had a grafting operation in May, shortly after he arrived here, and we are waiting to see how his therapy goes before scheduling his next surgery. He might have

a follow-up operation later this year. Rovilito has had a wonderful attitude throughout this whole process. He is thankful to be at CSC and grateful for the surgery to help repair his burn scars. When the nurse brought Rovilito home, his feet barely hit the ground before he was whizzing around the playground on the scooter and playing soccer. Imagine the joy when he is able to lift both arms to throw a basketball or climb the monkey bars again!



**Thomas** had two major, life-saving operations before he was six months old. One involved the insertion of nasal stents to help him breathe, because he had blocked nasal passages. The second was on his cranium. Recently, due to fluid build up around his brain, the doctors decided that he needed another operation. So in June, Tom went into the hospital again for major brain surgery to relieve the fluid build up and to

help ensure that he would not need a shunt. His Cebu doctors were assisted by a team of neurosurgeons from the US who were here on a medical mission and agreed to help with Tom's surgery. If things go well with the drainage, he will not require further surgery in the immediate future, but that could change at any time. Thomas has had an amazing spirit through all of his surgeries and recoveries. He has dazzled the hospital medical staff with his charming personality and continues to be a walking miracle. He makes us laugh every day!

The medical bills will continue to accumulate with the follow-up surgeries and other interventions needed for our children. Little Jacob will require major surgery on his colon later this year. Like Rovilito, he is new at CSC. Sometimes we know that a child we admit will need lots of medical work, like with Rovilito, Mary Irene and Jacob. Sometimes it is a surprise to us. But either way, we want to be able to offer the best medical care possible for the children that live at CSC. With skilled physicians, attentive staff and loving supporters, we have been able to do that for almost 40 years! ■

*Do you want to provide for the medical needs of our children? We have special projects on our website*  
**[cebushelter.org/donate/projects](http://cebushelter.org/donate/projects)**  
*where you can give towards medicine, lab and medical supplies or to cover doctor visits and hospitalizations.*



# PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray with us for our finances. We are running behind financially at this point in the year. We ask that God will meet our needs while allowing us to trust in Him during this time.
- We have admitted many new children to the shelter in the recent months. Check out our Kid's Korner section with pictures and more info! Transitioning to the shelter can be a drastic change for many of the children that come to us. We pray for all of the children new to CSC so they may feel God's embrace as they adjust to their new surroundings.

## PRAISES

- We have had so many children who have had medical needs, and they have received the needed care. All the surgeries that have happened this spring and summer have been so successful, and we thank God for this!
- We are so thankful for all that is happening at the Children of Hope School! We celebrated 20 years of the school in June and then had a great start to our school year! We have a wonderful teaching staff who are ready to educate and train our young eager students! We thank God for the blessing of our school building, the teachers and the students.

## - FROM THE DESK OF *Tim Holmberg*



*Chronicles* is probably not at the top of the list of favorite books for many Bible readers. Maybe it should be, as it is a kind of "people's book." *Chronicles* calls out a number of lists of people by responsibility, including gatekeepers, makers of the flat cakes, metalworkers, engravers, trumpeters, horsemen, masons, carpenters, mixers of the spices, keepers of the wardrobes, keepers of the threshold, keepers of entrances, treasurers, officers, and judges. All who did work in every kind of service.

An interesting side note to these lists of jobs is that there is only one individual called out by name. He is the maker of the flat cakes and is named Mattithiah. I am not sure why only Mattithiah is mentioned by name, but maybe it is because we are important for our collective work and also important individually.

**CSC is all about the kids. Always has been and always should be.**

However, "all about the kids" does not happen without all who did work in every kind of

service. Drivers, counselors, social workers, launderers, cashiers, nurses, therapists, house parents, finance directors, administrative folks, child care providers and a host of others. Somewhere around 130 in all showing up every day for the kids.

We are grateful and humbled by the service of each of them. They are all about their jobs, which means they are all about the kids. And we are so thankful for them. ■

*If you care to read about a modern day Mattithiah at CSC, check out Paul Healy's blog post about a longtime employee named Lena.*

<https://cebushelter.org/blog/571/lena-keeps-on-washing>

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

### WHAT'S STRONG:

- Despite a snowstorm that hit the day of our banquet in Minnesota, we almost met budget with the offering!
- We have had a few specific gifts to our Luke Endowment Fund, which provides for the needs of the future of CSC.
- We finished 2017 in a strong financial position.

### WHAT HAS OUR ATTENTION:

- We are 9% behind budget. Our income has been lower than normal for this part in the year and expenses have been higher than expected. We hope and pray for a good next few months to get us back on track.

*Please pray that we will have the needed resources to continue to work. Thank you for caring about what we do and deep thanks to those who give!*

# -EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT *SenSen*

**With** all the children needing medical care in recent months, the CSC nursing team has been busy bringing children to doctor visits, arranging for hospitalizations and surgeries, purchasing and dispensing medicines, and managing the care in our infirmary. Our team includes four Registered Nurses who work together to see that our children receive the best medical care possible in Cebu City.

One of our nurses, SenSen Baya, has been serving at CSC for six years. She has been an excellent employee with a big heart for the children of CSC.

One of the biggest tasks for our nursing team is the preparation of medical reports required by the Philippine government. These are used in the matching of our children for adoption and are very important. SenSen is the nurse assigned to writing those reports, which include records of immunizations, doctor visits, medications, and diagnoses. SenSen does an excellent job of getting accurate information

into these reports. Occasionally, she accompanies our children to Manila for their visa medical examinations.

**One of the best things about SenSen is her compassion and love for the children. SenSen has a tremendous rapport with our doctors, her co-workers, and most importantly, our children.** And when children are sick or scared, that relationship is especially important.

CSC is blessed to have SenSen as part of our medical team. Please pray for her and the other nurses in their important work. ■



Rovilito, Nead  
and Neal →



Jacob D  
→



↑ Rey Michael

## -KIDS' KORNER

### *New Kids:*

**ROVILITO (9) AND TWINS NEAD AND NEAL (5)** have been at CSC for about four months. Their mother had left the home a couple of years ago, and their father lacked the ability and desire to parent them and provide for them. They were often left alone. One night while the boys were alone and Rovilito was making dinner for the younger boys, a kerosene lamp accidentally fell and started a fire. Rovilito was severely burned and was hospitalized for three months. After he was released from the hospital, the boys stayed with various neighbors and extended family members before finally coming to CSC. They were quite ill when they arrived, but they are now doing very well, thanks to the love and care at CSC!

**JACOB D (5)** spent four and a half years at a different child caring agency in Manila before he came to CSC. When he was just five months old, he had been found in a fruit carton on the street. At age three, he was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and the agency in Manila searched for a different place for him - one with experience caring for a boy with Jacob's special needs. He came to CSC four months ago. Jacob also has been diagnosed with Hirschsprung's Disease and will soon need surgery.

**REY MICHAEL (3)** had been abandoned by his mother and was being cared for by his grandfather. The grandfather died in January, and Rey Michael went to live at a nearby shelter in Manila. That shelter has an age limit of five years old, and they detected signs of hyperactivity, so they referred Rey Michael to us. He has mild hearing loss in one ear and has a language delay. Both issues are being addressed by our therapy department.

*We have welcomed nine new children to the shelter in the past several months. What a blessing to be able to provide for these little ones!*

**JAIREH (21 MONTHS)** came to CSC a little over three months ago. His mother lives on the street and could not continue to care for him. When he was three years old, he contracted pneumonia and was admitted to a hospital. From there, he went to a different orphanage, but that orphanage does not provide long-term care, so he was referred to us. Jaireh is in great health now. He is a cute and personable little boy, and we are so glad to have him at CSC!



Jaireh

**PRINCESS (11) AND ACE (5)** came to live at CSC in May. They had been living with their birth father. Their mother passed away a few years ago from pneumonia, and the father was unable to provide for the girls so he brought them to CSC. He wanted them to have a brighter future. The girls are very sweet and seem to have been loved by their birth family, despite a lack of resources to provide for their needs and to properly supervise them. The girls had many health issues, but we have been providing much needed medical treatment. Princess and Ace are bright young girls. We know we can provide a safe environment for them and grow their talents and abilities. The day they moved into the Eicher home, Ace said to one of our staff members "I'm here now. I'm here to stay."



Ace and Princess

**JEREMIAS (9)** is our newest CSC child, having been with us for only a few weeks. A concerned citizen had notified us that there was a boy in need of care. CSC found that Jeremias was in need of immediate medical attention after he was hit by a motorcycle that fractured his leg bone. We discovered that the boy's father had been abusive and was not providing for the needs of his son. Jeremias left his home and was on the streets trying to care for himself. He has been at CSC for only a short time but seems to be adjusting well. We are providing for his needs and working with him to teach him how valued and loved he is! ■



Jeremias

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## —CHILDREN OF HOPE SCHOOL —

*(CCHS) is 20 years old!*

*Recently* we had a weekend of events to commemorate this anniversary. On Saturday morning, we hosted a carnival in the playground area of the shelter for the CSC children and the children of our employees. That night, we held a banquet. Friends and former teachers, along with current staff and faculty were in attendance to see videos, enjoy cultural dances by the children, eat, and celebrate 20 years of God's goodness at CCHS. On Sunday morning, we held a worship service at the school. We praised God for who He is and what He has done at CCHS. ■

