



Children's  
Shelter of  
CEBU

# NEWS from CEBU

## -A SWEET REUNION

We recently got to witness a sweet reunion at the Children's Shelter of Cebu (CSC).

In September, a baby arrived at just a week old. Wenceslao (or Wency as he is called by our aunties) was admitted into our Eicher Home. His mom was unable to support another child

and made the difficult decision not to bring her new son home.

Wency has done well. He is curious, social, and playful. If he is not in the midst of the excitement, he will let us know he isn't okay with that! He started crawling in March and is progressing well.

*Nino went directly to Wency's stroller, kneeled down to get eye-to-eye, and began to rub his hair.*

For a variety of reasons, months after we admitted Wency his mom decided it would be best to surrender two other children. She wanted them to go to CSC, and we agreed to admit them. In late June, Asia Nino (7 years old), who goes by Nino, and Mary Joy (5 years old) joined their little brother.

We mourn for the circumstances that led to these children not being with their full family,

but the siblings being together is reason to celebrate. **Keeping siblings together is a core value at CSC.**

When Nino and Mary Joy were first admitted to CSC, like almost every other child, they ended up in isolation in the infirmary for a while. There are usually parasites that need to be dealt with, as those present a risk to the other children. But as soon as they got cleared to move into the Eicher Home, seeing Wency was their top priority.

Nino went directly to Wency's stroller, kneeled down to get eye-to-eye, and began to rub his hair. He told Wency how handsome he is and that Grandma said hello. He went on to tell Wency how happy

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The last time I was in Cebu, our Development Officer, Jill Grasley, and I took the Teen Home out for pizza. It was fun to catch up with our young adults and their house parents, and it sometimes takes an outing to get on everyone's schedule.

As we sat together I suggested we each share one high and one low from our day. My wife, Theresa, and I do this with our kids at the dinner table. It's a simple exercise, but it gets people talking.

As we worked our way around the table and got to the house father, Undoy, he had a response that has stuck with me. He said, "My high is I'm happy we get to have a fun night and special meal with Matt and Jill. My low is that we passed many people on our way here who have nothing to eat."

For a few moments, you could have heard a pin drop at our table. We were doing something that wouldn't stand out to the average American, but in Cebu this meal wasn't average—it was a privilege.

I know Undoy was genuinely happy we got to go out together, but it was paired with awareness and concern for those who couldn't. He wasn't blind to the needs around us.

Undoy reminds me of you. Your support of CSC shows you aren't blind to the needs of others either—including people you can't regularly see. I'm thankful your gratitude for what you have includes concern for those who don't have the same. Because of you there are children in Cebu—children who once had nothing special in their lives—getting to enjoy a small privilege every once in a while. I can't think of anyone more deserving. ■



**SWEET REUNION** *continued from page 1*

Grandma was that the siblings would be together now. It was very sweet.

Nino and Mary Joy have fit in well at CSC already. Nino is an active boy who has taken to riding the wave boards around the shelter grounds. He is a good older brother to Mary Joy. He often looked after her before they came to CSC.

Mary Joy is smiley and friendly. She was quiet when we met her on admission visits, but once she arrived at CSC she showed her energetic, bubbly, and affectionate side.

The two older children started

at our Cebu Children of Hope School shortly after moving to CSC. They were both taken aback by their new school. Nino smiled the whole day! When Teacher Cora introduced a song about numbers and counting, she had the kids sing up to number four. Nino turned

to his new teacher and asked, "Teacher, where is number five?"

We'll get to that soon, Nino. There will be lots of things to learn and do now that you and your siblings are together at CSC. ■



# SEASONS OF LIFE

- Paul Healy, Field Director

Marlys, Jenny, and I have been in Minnesota for about six weeks. In that time I have attended three funerals of faithful CSC supporters and a wedding involving one of our former residents. In a few days I will be helping officiate another wedding, as two of

CSC uses all gifts, including memorials, according to the designation of the giver. Usually, memorials are not designated and are used for the regular operation of our homes. They help us purchase food, medicine, and school supplies, and pay the salaries of our child

These young people, who were adopted more than 20 years ago, still feel connected to CSC and recognize the impact our ministry has had on their lives. As we watch them say their vows and begin their lives together, we will be standing in for the many people



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our former residents join hands in marriage. **These are all celebrations of lives well lived and those just taking off. It is an honor to be able to share in them and to reflect on the many ways that CSC affects lives, in all their seasons.**

CSC is often designated as a recipient of memorial gifts at funerals of our supporters. It is very humbling to know that CSC was such an important part of the lives of CSC friends that they wanted to recognize us by giving family and friends an opportunity to make a gift in their honor. These departed friends were faithful in support of CSC during their lives. And it was important to them that, even in death, their commitment to CSC would be honored. What a fitting gift of life to children in the Philippines.

care workers, teachers, nurses, therapists, and social workers. They provide a cushion that protects us from the weight of unexpected expenses, such as the medical costs of children needing expensive tests or emergency surgeries.

But sometimes the donor or the family has something specific in mind for a memorial gift. Over the years CSC has been able to purchase equipment and construct rooms or buildings in honor of departed friends. The laboratory in our infirmary, the piano in our school, and a parcel of land in Banawa all are living memorials to donors' love and compassion.

In a few days we will be standing with two of our former residents as they marry each other. Although the emotions will be very different than at a funeral, there will be some similarities.

who helped make this day possible: child care workers who prepared meals, washed clothes, and changed diapers; house parents who gave wise counsel, imposed discipline, and taught them about Jesus, and supporters who gave to make that all possible. **We are humbled to have been used by God to give these two former CSC kids, the bride and the groom, another chance at life and family.**

CSC is present in the lives of people at all seasons of life, and beyond. For all of these seasons and situations, God speaks to people through the loving staff and supporters of CSC. Thanks for being with us, as a part of this ministry that brings hope, joy, and fulfillment to the children in Cebu, and to those who faithfully support them through Children's Shelter of Cebu. ■

# HOUSE PARENT HIGHLIGHT

## Undoy and Edith

Undoy and Edith Ayop have been the house parents of our Wally Johnson Teen Home since 2004. They have two children: Lyra May, who is married and has one child, and Lady Marie, who is a college student in Cebu City.

Undoy is calm and soft-spoken. He has a good sense of humor, which helps in some of the difficult situations he faces as house father at the Teen Home. He is a handyman and does lots of repairs on the house and our aging appliances. Undoy is a deacon at the Banawa Bible Fellowship, where the Teen Home residents attend.

Edith started at CSC in June of

1988 as a child care worker and was promoted to houseparent with her husband in 2004. Edith is a warm and kind person with a good sense of humor. She is patient and loving, and has a forgiving heart. She loves to cook for birthday parties at the Teen Home, putting impressive spreads on the table, including delicious baked goods and her famous chicken chop suey.

The work of house parents in the Teen Home is challenging. Most of the residents have “aged out” of adoption at CSC, many after having lived with us for at least several years. **Some of these teens and young adults have a profound disappointment with not having been adopted, which affects their self-esteem and forces them to establish new life goals.** They need to be redirected towards living their lives in the Philippines and preparing themselves through education or

vocational training for that reality.

Others have special needs that may have prevented them from adoptive placement. Undoy and Edith have supervised residents in the Teen Home who live with blindness, cerebral palsy, learning difficulties, behavioral issues and other cognitive or social delays. Keeping them motivated for their studies and their responsibilities in the home can be difficult at times. The Ayops’ faith in God is an important part of their ministry at CSC.

Recently one of the Teen Home residents, Julieta, graduated from high school. It was a big day for him and for the Ayops as he walked across the stage to receive his diploma. It culminated years of study, struggle, extra help, prodding, and encouragement. In a way, Edith and Undoy might have qualified to walk with him and receive the diploma jointly, for their patience and support were a big part of his success in school. And this has been true for many other Teen Home residents over the years who have finished their education and moved out into the world.

Please pray for Undoy and Edith as they continue in this challenging work at the Wally Johnson Teen Home. ■

*The Ayops’ faith in God is an important part of their ministry at CSC.*



# PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES

*During the month of July, a group of CSC supporters engaged in a prayer journey we've called 31 Days of Prayer. It has been a tremendous encouragement to have a team of people lifting up our ministry each day. If this endeavor is of interest to you, please let us know. We'd love to add you to the list should we do this again in the future.*

## REQUESTS

Please pray for our recruitment of new missionaries. There has been encouragement in this area lately and we are hopeful as we give attention to this need.

Please pray for all our new children! We have taken in many new children lately and it's an adjustment for every department in addition to the big transition the kids are making.

## PRAISES

We are very excited to have new missionary, Grace Anderson, starting in Cebu in August. She is a great addition to the team.

Thank the Lord for the incredible leadership team we have at our Cebu Children of Hope School. They had to make a lot of adjustments in anticipation of this new school year and did a great job.



## -CANADA UPDATE-

Did you know there is an arm of CSC in Canada? A wonderful group of committed volunteers there raises money to provide for our children. This year, Matt Buley spoke at their annual banquet.

Our children are loved in Abbotsford, British Columbia. You just never know where hearts for Cebu will come together. Thank you Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada! ■



## Check out our new digs!

**Our US office has moved.** Our old space was sold and is being torn down. Thankfully, we found a space that is very economical for our small staff of four employees. Our new office needed some work but thanks to staff and donors who volunteered their time and talents, we whipped the place into shape. Come see us on Lexington and County Road E in Shoreview, Minnesota! Please note that all mail, including donations, should still be sent to our lock-box at: P.O. Box 247, Cambridge, MN 55008



# -KIDS' KORNER

We have had lots of changes in the last few months. Here are our new kids.

## Introducing...

**JEFFERSON** (6) and **JUSTIN** (4) are brothers who arrived here in early May. They have spent most of their time at CSC in the infirmary due to illness. Jefferson is able to attend school for half of the day, then return to the infirmary, but Justin is still in isolation full time. They are sweet boys, who are excited to meet other children. We hope they can come out of isolation soon!

Late in May brothers **HAROLD** (8) and **CHRISTIAN** (3) became CSC Kids number 899 and 900! Harold and Christian came to us from an American-run orphanage on another island that closed. They have energy that rivals our most active kids already here (and we have some very active kids!). Both boys are bright and are curious about everything. They love to ask questions and seem to always find fun and silliness in any activity.

**SHEAN** (2 1/2) arrived the same day as Harold and Christian. She quickly became more proficient at walking by trying to keep up with all her new nursery mates. She only had one word when she arrived and now is adding words on a daily basis. She was painfully shy when she was admitted but now loves to play and even seeks out attention. Shean has significant developmental delays, but she is already cutting down the lag time between her developmental age and her chronological age.

**ISAY** is 8. She has been with us for about 6 weeks, but it seems like she has been a CSC kid for a long time. She adjusted quickly, made friends, figured out the rules, and won our hearts. She is confident of herself in most situations. She is very happy to be in school and is doing well there too. We are wondering if this is all still a honeymoon stage or if Isay is simply this amazing.

**CRIS** is 6. Or at least that is what he tells us. His history is a mystery. He does not remember—or is choosing not to tell us—too many details. He is excited to be at CSC. His smiles and hugs are genuine and are something we see and receive many times a day. He does have memories of abuse and of running away from the abusers. We are happy to see that he trusts us. He seems to understand that he is safe at CSC. Thank God we were here for him.

**ASIA NINO** (7) and **MARY JOY** (5) are siblings who joined us in late June. They joined Wenceslao, their now 10-month-old baby brother, who has lived at CSC since he was one week old. Asia Nino and Mary Joy jumped right into life at CSC. Asia Nino is active and affectionate. Mary Joy is very attentive and bright, but she is just watching and observing things for now.



Jefferson & Justin ↗



Shean ↗



Asia Nino & Mary Joy ↗



Isay ↗



Cherry Mae ↙

Harold & Christian ↓



↙ Trexie



Cris ↓



↙ Jafet & Jahzet



- Sandy Swanson, Child Development Director

**CHERRY MAE** is 9. She has pretty much smiled and asked questions ever since her arrival in late June. She got here in time for the second week of the new school year. Cherry Mae has a beautiful and caring heart. It is precious to see her seek out Jacob and Ginda, two young adults who have special needs and are wheelchair bound. Both Jacob and Ginda were quick to recognize Cherry Mae as a new friend. Cherry Mae is very verbal and a real joy.

**JAFET** (boy) and **JAHZET** (girl) are twins. They were born prematurely and had to stay in a special nursery for the first month and a half before they were able to come to CSC just a few weeks ago. Jafet sleeps a lot, eats a lot, and is growing fast. Jahzet does not like to sleep, is not a good eater, and is not growing as fast. Jahzet is slowing improving and we are confident that she will catch up to that "big" brother of hers.

**TREXIE** is our newest CSC kid. She was three weeks old when she arrived in early July. She is a beautiful little one who is already smiling.

We have said goodbye over the last few months as well.

## Saying goodbye...

**JHULES** left with his excited adoptive parents from Norway in April. He was 21 months old and had been with us since he was a tiny infant.

**MARK FRANCIS** spent about 2 1/2 years of his 5 1/2 years of life with us. He went home with his new adoptive family from Australia in May.

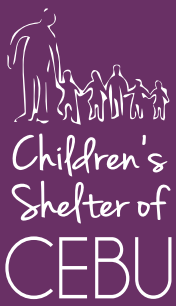
**MARK MANUEL**, whom we called EmEm, is also now home in Australia. He was about 1 1/2 when he arrived and left us as a much more mature 3 1/2 year old in May.

**NESTHLY** was 1 week old when she arrived at CSC. She got to celebrate her second birthday here in the Philippines with her very happy adoptive family in June. Nesthly is also in Australia!

**JULIET** was 1 month old when she came to CSC and was 21 months old when she left. She was adopted by the same adoptive family in Finland who had adopted her older biological brother a couple of years ago.

Siblings **MICAELA** (5) and **CARL JOHN** (2) left CSC in mid-July. They have lived with us since April 2012 and have grown so much over that time. They went home with their excited adoptive parents to the USA. ■

We still have a few empty beds to fill in a couple of our homes. Please pray that we will be given wisdom and discernment to choose who can come because we only have room for about half the children that have been referred to us.



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# NEWS from CEBU

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Box 178, Cebu City  
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The babies and toddlers at CSC are now eating in style, thanks to a donor who gave gifts designated for the high chair special project. These high chairs are top of the line industrial chairs that are built to last; proving a safe and comfortable place at mealtime.

We feature some projects that are part of our regular budget, such as feeding the kids, fuel maintenance and medicine/vitamins, as well as other projects that are on our wish list of items that we'd love to have at the shelter, including musical instruments, a sound system or new carpeting for our school.



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

**[www.cebushelter.org](http://www.cebushelter.org)**