



What We're All ABOUT



We exist to glorify God by demonstrating His love to the Philippines as we provide a loving, Christ-centered home with comprehensive medical, educational and placement services for homeless Filipino children.

SIBLINGS

We specialize in the care of sibling groups. At CSC, siblings can be reunited and we keep them together through adoption. Generally, about 60% of the children in our care are siblings and we have placed groups of up to seven together in one family. CSC is one of the few residential programs that will accept large sibling groups.

OUTREACH

CSC reaches beyond our gates to meet the needs of children and families in communities near to us. Our outreach centers on children who once lived at CSC but were returned to their families. This includes educational assistance, emergency medical care, job training, counseling, small business loans and social work services.

ADOPTION

We desire adoptive placement for most of our children. We realize our limitations in providing for their emotional needs and know that a family is the best place for a child to grow up. We have placed almost 400 children in our history. CSC cooperates with the Philippine Inter-Country Adoption Board for the placement of our children.

INCLUSION

CSC's population includes children with special needs. Within limits of manpower and finances, we seek to offer our services to children who are blind or who have cerebral palsy, brain damage, developmental delays or learning disabilities. At CSC, we include these children in the life of the home as well as in our Children of Hope School.

CHRISTIAN LIVING

The most important gift that we can give to our children is a knowledge of God's love and His provision of everlasting life through His Son. At CSC we teach Christian values and encourage the children to pray and seek to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our staff, house parents, counselors and teachers are all committed Christians.

LOVE

From our staff and workers in Cebu to our stateside staff, volunteers and supporters, this ministry is about extending love to children who have been deprived of that in their lives. CSC is a place of hugs and expressions of love and affection. Most of all, we want to shine the light of Christ's love into lives that have been dark with despair.

CORE VALUES

1. We are Christ-centered and prayer focused.
2. We are committed to keeping families together.
3. We value the lives of all children, regardless of their limitations or challenges.
4. We value adoption and make it a primary placement option for most of our children.
5. We will continue to invest in children who can't be adopted and assist parents who have surrendered their children.
6. We view the introduction of new donors, prayer warriors and potential missionaries to CSC as a ministry.



Change Service Requested

Cebu Staff

Field Director: Paul Healy
Executive Director: Mitch Ohlendorf
Medical Director: Marlys Healy
Outreach Director: Ruth Ohlendorf
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Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada
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Foster Friends is a long-distance friendship that develops between a sponsor and a CSC child. The sponsors may be individuals, families or church groups—people who desire an intimate relationship with the ministry of CSC through involvement in the life of a particular child.

Foster Friends is a "win, win, win" situation. The children receive quality care and the security that comes from knowing that people across the world care about them. The sponsors receive the joy of knowing that they are making a difference in the life of a child who has been deprived of the love and care of a family. And CSC receives financial help for the purchase of food, medicine, school materials and other needed items. Everybody wins through Foster Friendship!

For 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 important 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 us 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.

You can join our winning team at Children's Shelter of Cebu. Fill out the application below or call our office at 763-689-6558 and we will enroll you immediately in this program, will match you with a child and send you information. For only \$25 a month you can help CSC make a difference in a child's life.

- 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 _____\$25 Canadian a month**
- 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, 237 SW 2nd Ave. Cambridge, MN 55008

Canadian donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CCSSC, P.O. Box 141 Abbotsford, BC V2S 4N8

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Our Plans Are Not God's Plans

by Paul Healy



Who would have guessed that God's purpose for Ben and Mari went way beyond their involvement in the Children of Hope School... that He would use them to help six children find a home.

When Ben and Mari Bonnett agreed to go to Cebu in 2003 to serve as teachers in our Children of Hope School, it was a tremendous answer to prayer. Mari was an experienced teacher with lots of energy, talent and love for children. Ben had mentored kids in the inner city and had a great heart for ministry. They were young and were willing to commit for two years! The staff was overjoyed, even daring to dream that they might become permanent staff members.

For two years they poured their hearts into the ministry of CHS. Mari helped teach the older children and worked with the school library. Ben taught math, PE and directed the school band. They tutored children in the evenings and helped plan faculty development programs. The Bonnetts were a tremendous blessing to CSC and seemed to be enjoying their work and being a part of the staff. Our prayers accelerated that God would work in their hearts to stay on and join our permanent team.

But something was going on that would eventually lead them to leave Cebu. They were falling in love.

The Lanuza siblings had been living at CSC for more than six years when Ben and Mari came to Cebu. The older five had come from a small island to the north of Cebu to live with us in 1997. Three years later their newborn brother, Joshua,

joined them to make an even half dozen.

The Lanuzas were great kids to have around. They were bright, full of fun and happy to be with us. And hard to place. Finding a home for six children is a formidable task. In spite of all our prayers they remained at CSC. Watching many of their friends leave was tough. These kids needed a family!

God was working towards that end. Ben and Mari were developing special feelings for the Lanuzas. Though it didn't dawn on them at first, He was preparing them to become the parents of these six children and preparing a host of other people to be involved in the process. He was showing us that His plan for Mari and Ben's coming to Cebu was much different and more significant than our minds

had grasped. He was building a family!

It would take too many pages to relate how God worked in the process of this "family building" and all the people that played a significant role. Suffice it to say that the combined efforts of the Bonnetts, Mari's parents Larry and Kathy Severson, Ann Sinnott of Crossroads Adoption Agency, the CSC staff in Cebu, the Philippine Inter-Country Adoption Board and lots of prayers from the CSC family were needed for it to happen. And it did happen! The Bonnett family left Cebu on August 29 to begin their new life together.

We will miss the kids and Ben and Mari at our school but we give thanks to God for His greater purpose and our chance to be a part of it.



26 years of Ministry in Cebu

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A Note to our Friends

The staff in Cebu would like to thank our praying friends for their prayers in recent weeks. We have felt those prayers, especially in relation to the health of our children. God has really been working as we have not had any sick children in the past few weeks after months of major health issues. Please be encouraged in your prayer as it means so much!

1. Continue to pray for our children's health. Recent days have seen big improvements for which we are thankful.

2. Pray for Sandy Swanson of our Cebu staff. She recently lost her mother, Helen. Pray for the whole Swanson family during this time of transition.

3. Pray for another strong finish in giving as we approach the year's end. We need two strong months to make our budget.

4. Praise God for answered prayers about the placement of some of our older children. Pray that He would provide homes for all the kids.



5. Praise God for the new computers in our Children of Hope School and the good folks in Canada who support the ministry so generously.

6. Pray for our teachers as they work hard to learn our new language arts curriculum, Open Court.

7. Pray for Jenalyn, our 13 year-old who is having lots of emotional struggles these days. Pray that God would help her to feel loved and important.

8. Pray for some of our former CSC children who are struggling in the United States. Pray for wisdom for their parents.

9. Praise God for each person who gives or prays for the ministry. Pray for blessings on their lives and their families.

From This Corner

by Matt Buley
U.S. Director



I like the fact that CSC doesn't publish a list of donors in gift categories in our newsletter. Our privacy policies are strict for good reason and I wouldn't change them. There are times, though, that I wish we could put somebody's picture on the cover of a newsletter and say, "Look what they did with a blessing from God! Look how much they love this work!"

Sometimes the gifts are big - the kinds that can change an entire month or year. Some come in smaller packages but carry just as much wallop.

Last year, just past the mid-point of December, we got a gift that would completely alter our financial standing for the year. I looked at the deposit report for the day and thought, "Is this right?" The amount we had deposited that day was honestly almost as big as some months. It was amazing.

The family who made the gift are faithful and generous CSC donors but we had no idea anything like this was in store. It turned out they had sold their business and decided to tithe the proceeds to homeless children at CSC. It was a joy to call them and celebrate together what they were able to do.

Some of our most incredible gifts come like those of a woman who had but one coin to give and, in doing so, unknowingly caught the attention and approval of Jesus. One such giver is an individual who longed to be a Foster Friend to a CSC child. She loved the idea of focusing on one child to support with prayer, relationship and finances. The only problem was that this program couldn't fit into her fixed income. It was simply too great a cost.

When an opportunity to take a part-time job came her way, she took it with a CSC Foster Friend at the front of her mind. And every month she supports one of our kids with the money she's earned. We only learned the story of her sacrifice through a common friend. Again, it's amazing.

The stories of your faithfulness are all significant. We thank you, all of you. We couldn't feed, house or clothe even one child without you.

Another Exciting Finish!

One of the great lessons that we have learned at CSC over the years is that God provides for our financial needs through spectacular giving at the end of the year. So far in 2005 CSC's financial picture has had both bright and dark spots. March and April were record-setting months highlighted by the largest banquet offering in our history and kept our financial status strong throughout the spring.

Unfortunately, things started to weaken in July. Late summer is always leaner and we budget our months based on that history. This year we even missed those lowered expectations by a combined \$30,000 in July and August and didn't come out of it in September as hoped. In fact, we were

A strong finish to 2005 will ensure that our staff can pay all the bills for the year. We don't know all the ways that God will touch the hearts of our supporters to give at the end of this year but we know that He knows each of our needs and each of our hearts. Here are some ways that God has blessed us through our friends in the past:

Land - Children's Shelter of Cebu is able to receive land and property donations. This type of donation is unique to a small percentage of donors who own property on which they don't reside. Land donations offer considerable tax benefits to those who donate it to charity. If you have an interest in donating property prior to the end of 2005, you will want to contact Matt Buley, US Director, as soon as possible as CSC needs to assess the land and its value prior to acceptance. CSC is most likely to seek a buyer for the property immediately and use the converted funds to support our ministry in Cebu.

Automatic Withdrawal - Would you prefer to give to CSC without having to write a check? This year CSC began offering automatic bank withdrawal. By filling out a simple authorization form provided by CSC, our bank will

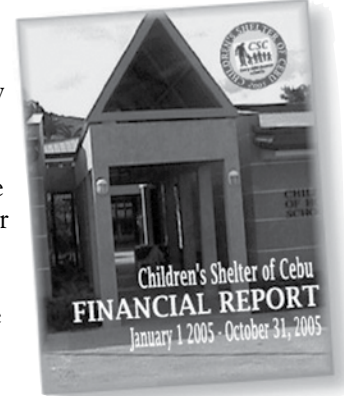


STEER, Inc. - By raising feeder cattle or a crop, a farmer can support CSC without writing a check, just by using his or her expertise. The farmer provides the feed and care for livestock or labor, use of land and machinery for seeding and harvesting crops. STEER, Inc. provides the farmer with funds to purchase livestock of his choice or to plant and seed the crop. When feeder cattle are sold or a crop is harvested the gain is processed by STEER, Inc. and converted to cash for CSC's ministry. All that is required of CSC is that we connect you to STEER, Inc., an evangelical ministry that we trust greatly. Please contact our U.S. office to learn more.

Stock - CSC can accept stock gifts throughout the year and does so most regularly during December of any given year. Stock holders often own a company stock as an employee benefit, a mutual fund that's been used for savings or own stocks to supplement income. Regardless of how stocks have been acquired, the tax benefit of getting a stock transferred to CSC prior to December 31st can make a big impact on a donor's 2005 taxes. Please contact CSC's U.S. office at 763-689-6558 to inquire about this major gift opportunity.

automatically withdraw from your bank account whatever amount you designate on the 15th of every month. No extra work for you, no stamps to purchase and your gift will be providing for our kids each and every month.

Foster Friends - This program is the perfect fit for a lot of donors. Are you the type of person who wants to have a deeper connection to our work by focusing your giving on just one child? Foster Friends is the perfect fit. For as little as \$25 per month, you can directly support a child living at CSC. Because CSC provides all of a child's needs, you will be teamed with other donors to cover every expense associated with your Foster Friend. For those who are interested, the opportunity exists to communicate with their sponsored child. See page six for more information and a response card.



forced to draw \$35,000 from our reserve funds to make our September wire transfer to Cebu. We keep a reserve account for these instances but this is more than we've ever had to draw out of that account at one time.

Please consider a generous gift to CSC and watch as God shows us, once again, His perfect love for the children that it is our honor to serve.

Cebu Children of HOPE SCHOOL

Our school is a very busy place with lots of different people involved. It is a place where we strive to offer high quality education to children who would otherwise never have a chance to go to school. "Hope Through Education" is our motto and we offer inclusive, multi-age instruction to our children in the primary level.

This year we have 45 students. Our faculty includes teachers, aides, occupational therapists and counselors in addition to our beloved principal, Dr. Elisa Saavedra. Five of our faculty members are new this year. Our children truly enjoy going to school and consider it a privilege. Their enthusiasm is matched by our staff who see the school as a place of ministry.



LEFT: One of our new teachers, Laarni, demonstrates math applications with students in Level B. RIGHT: Teacher Amy Luck is handling the pre-school group this year with help from Myrna Alejado. We have ten pre-schoolers this year so things are always hopping in their room. The pre-school class meets in the mornings from 8-10:30.



The Children of Hope School includes four students who are not residents of CSC, all of whom have special needs. John Ray and Rafa Mae recently started attending CHS. They both have Osterogenesis Imperfecta, commonly known as the "brittle bone" disorder, a genetic disorder characterized by bones that break easily, often from little or no apparent cause. This disorder affects a person throughout their lifetime.

John Ray and Rafa Mae have never had a chance to go to school. Their parents are afraid to let them mingle with other kids for fear of serious injury. They are bright and fun loving but their disorder has kept them inside their house for most of their lives. But one day, while visiting their auntie in the city, they happened to meet Joanna from our staff who referred them to our field director. Now they are enrolled at CHS and are getting a chance to do what they have always dreamed of

doing: get an education. Their mom and older sister accompany them to school every day.

Life is not easy for this family. They are very poor and the older sister had to stop her schooling to help out John Ray and Rafa Mae. Getting them to school is very difficult and John Ray had to miss several days of school recently when he bruised his hip. Often when going out, the mother has to carry him in a basket because the bumpy roads are too painful for him in public transport.

CSC is hoping to be able to find a better housing situation nearer to our school for this family. They are a great family and we are blessed to be able to help.

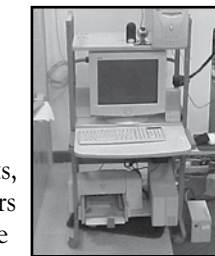


International Blessings

Computers from Canada



Our school has new computers thanks to the generosity and vision of our friends in Canada and a grant from Worldwide Missions Thrift Centers in Minnesota. The Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada designated part of their banquet offering for the purchase of these units, the first new computers for our school since we opened in 1998. For you techies, our computers are all Intel 4 with 2.68 ghz. We have 11 new computers so far, several of which are on carts so they can be used throughout the school.



Volunteers from Denmark



For the second year in a row, our school has benefited from the services of volunteers from Denmark. Martin HolNielsen and Trine Groenkjaer will be with us through the end of this year. Martin is helping with our computer installation and networking and Greta works with the preschoolers.



Dawn from the United States



Dawn Youngren is serving as a volunteer in the school through February. This is her second tour of duty at CHS, having been here in 2002. According to Dawn, she was never able to get CSC and our children out of her mind since leaving Cebu. Dawn assists with the level C students and helps them with their homework in the evenings. Dawn is a special education teacher who lives in Duluth, Minnesota. We are blessed to have all our volunteers!



Updates on the Children We Serve Kid's Korner

by Sandy Swanson



ERLYN (7) & ERWIN (5) came to live at CSC on August 1, pretty much taking the place by storm. They moved right into the homes and school, made friends and acted as if they had always lived with us. Erlyn knew all her numbers and letters when she came and is very self-confident. Erwin has had some difficulty in following the rules in the homes and at school but has made a positive adjustment to life at CSC. The children had been living with a kind neighbor after having been abandoned by their parents. The neighbor did her best but eventually felt that she needed to refer them to CSC for proper care and for a more advantageous future.



ROSELYN (12) & ROMEO (8) came to live at CSC on September 19, exactly two months after their younger brother, Rodrigo, was admitted. They had been living in a government drop-in center after their father died and their mother ran away. They are very personable and bright and seem to be very happy to be living at CSC. Both of them had been attending school so have had an easier time adjusting. Roselyn is very friendly and affectionate and has already made lots of friends. Romeo is very active and thoroughly enjoys all the activities around the home. One of the great joys of this ministry was seeing the happiness in these kids to be reunited at CSC!



MARIE MAE (5) & MARY BETH (12) are cousins of Roselyn and Romeo. Their father died around the same time as their cousins' dad. Their mother's whereabouts is unknown. They were living in the same center as their cousins and are very close to them. They will all live together in the Cherne Home. Marie Mae and Mary Beth both have Hepatitis A and have to be isolated for a couple of weeks. That has not been easy for them. Marie Mae is an inquisitive, outgoing girl who loves to talk. Mary Beth is still taking things in and trying to decide if CSC is as good a place as her cousins have told her it is. She is very sweet and bright and will soon be enjoying life.



JEREMIAH JACOB (1 WK) is CSC's 700th child! He came to live with us on October 10 when he was a whopping six hours old. So far he has been sleeping, eating and not too much else. He is a very handsome little guy. His mother was referred to CSC by a church friend before she gave birth. She is poor and not married. Jeremiah is already being called "JJ." by the kids.



MARIA RACHEL (3 WKS.) was just three days old when she came to live with us. She was referred to us by a local government official who knew the situation of her birth and the problems that her birth mom was facing. Relatives were cooperative and very desirous of having Rachel surrendered to CSC for proper care. Rachel was named after a former CSC music teacher, Rachel Lecher. She is a beautiful baby who has a great disposition. She has been healthy and content.

At this printing CSC has 71 children under our care; 29 in the Eicher Home, 33 at Cherne and nine in the Wally Johnson Teen Home. 30 children have left for adoption already this year.

Wally Johnson Teen Home



Pray that **Jomar** would be motivated to improve in his work skills as a cook/chef and would be able to find a full time job soon. Pray for safety as he goes to work on his motor scooter!



Arlene has been struggling in some of her classes. Pray that she would continue to work hard towards her dream of being a music teacher. Pray for safety as she navigates around the high school.



Marilyn will be graduating from high school in a couple of months. She wants to go to college. Pray for that important decision and for her as she contemplates her future after CSC.



Ronilo needs prayer as he tries to decide what he wants to do with his life. He has lots of skills and interests and has been taking vocational classes. Pray for his ability to focus.