

Special Celebrations for Very Special Children by Paul Healy

If you are around CSC for long, you're going to attend some birthday parties. In October, for instance, there were 11 birthdays, and the only reason that we didn't have 11 parties was that the celebrants included three sets of twins! Birthday parties are indeed a big part of the social life of CSC.

Several years ago a woman spent a couple months helping out at the Shelter. After a week in which three parties were held, she asked if we had ever thought of consolidating birthday celebrations, having one big party each month. She had seen the amount of effort involved in making the food, purchasing the cake, and buying gifts, and the time commitment for the staff to attend every party.

To be honest, we have thought about that possibility. But we have always decided to keep things the way they are. In an environment



In an environment where a child is always competing for attention... it is important to have a time that is just for him or her.



where the children are always competing for attention and where most things are shared with everyone else, it is important to have a time that is just for the individual child. It's their special day where everyone's attention is focused on them. It is good to be the center of attention every once in awhile.

For those who will never have the chance to be at CSC for a party, here is the usual format. We start by singing Happy Birthday with loud clapping and tons of enthusiasm. When things quiet down we have a prayer for the celebrant, led by one of our staff. Then the eating begins. The birthday boy or girl gets to go first, with their siblings and those whom they have invited from the other house. Then the other kids get their chance. The celebrant gets to choose the menu for the evening, so we usually have spaghetti, pork or chicken barbecue, noodles or siopao (Chinese steamed buns). Then it's time for cake and ice cream, followed by the opening of gifts.

Each of our children is precious in God's sight and in our hearts. Birthdays are a time to show them how special they are and to celebrate another year of God's grace in their lives. Thanks to all whose gifts help make these celebrations possible.



28 Years of Ministry in Cebu

INSIDE

Year-end Gifts	2
Medical Care	3
Kid's Korner	4
Home for the Holidays	5

On the Flip Side

By Matthew Buley
U.S. Director



My time at CSC began 3 ½ years ago, and we've been talking about doing a capital campaign since. Each of those days has brought reminders in Cebu that we need a bigger infirmary, a residence intended for special needs kids and a teen home and office that have the capacities for the work required in them (today those two areas share a single family home).

Our newly unveiled campaign doesn't just provide more homes for more kids, but helps us serve the young people who will know CSC as their only family for the rest of their lives. The teen home kids and special needs kids who are too old for adoption are on my heart even more since becoming an adoptive father. CSC forever altered my family, and now I yearn to see us do all we can for those who missed that opportunity.

One of the classic truths of adoption trips is that the new parents at some point always mention how hard it is to see the kids who can't be adopted. Generally adoptive parents are so consumed with all that's about to change in their lives that they're not prepared for the hurt of looking at all those kids who don't yet have a traditional family-including those that never will. I understand that now in ways I couldn't before traveling to bring our four kids home. Thankfully, CSC is the best alternative one could ask for, and this campaign will help us love our CSC family even better.

I'm glad to tell you we're on our way. Generous donors have stepped up, and we have a chance at receiving the largest gift in our history through the campaign. There is still plenty of ground left to cover, and our efforts are doubled by your advocacy. If you're one of those rare, blessed souls who wants to pass along word of this project to someone new, we'd love to hear from you.

Eight Great Reasons for a Year-End Gift to CSC

8. We need it! CSC relies on strong year-end giving to survive. Usually we receive about 20-30% of our annual income during the last weeks of the year. We need to make up for shortfalls during some of the other months, particularly the summertime when people are away from home and when charitable giving traditionally slumps.

7. Medical Needs. We have incurred some unusual medical costs in recent weeks and this will continue into the new year. (See story on page 5.) Children like Lavinia, pictured at right, need tests, medications, doctors' visits and hospitalization as we assess their needs and offer treatment. Lavinia suffers from epilepsy and other issues.

6. Economic Factors. 2007 has been a difficult year financially in several respects. The shrinking US dollar has caused the exchange rate to lose more than 15% this year, which decreases our purchasing power and necessitates budget stretching for CSC on both sides of the ocean. Also, with our capital campaign in high gear, some have given for new buildings and not for the general fund.

5. Our School. Our Children of Hope School provides multi-age and inclusive education to our school-aged elementary students and children from the community who have special needs. Your support of the school helps us give our children a solid basis from which to build, no matter where they might end up continuing their studies.

4. Year-end expenses. December is certainly our most expensive month of the year. We have year-end retirement payments to make, as well as Christmas gifts and special parties for the children and workers in Cebu. And our December income is also used to re-pay funds that we have borrowed from our reserves during slower income months during the year. During the remaining two months of the year we need to repay \$108,000 of these reserves.

3. Hope. CSC dispenses hope to children who have had mostly despair in their lives. Hope comes in many forms for our children: their basic needs are met; they know that there are people who love and accept them; they feel safe and secure, both physically and emotionally. Your year-end gifts give hope to all at CSC, and confidence that the needs of the ministry will be met into the new year.

2. Tax benefits. Many of us take stock of our financial situation at the end of the year and realize that, aside from the great benefits of helping children in need, we can realize tax benefits from charitable gifts. For some, year-end is a good time for donating appreciated assets like stock to CSC and avoid sizeable capital gain taxes.

1. Children need us. This is the most compelling reason of all for most of our CSC family of supporters. CSC continues to take in children who have no place else to go. We may be their last chance for happiness, health and the chance to know about God's love. Your gifts are the lifeblood of CSC.



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MEDICAL CARE AT CSC: THE COST OF DOING OUR BEST



"Meeting the medical needs of the children is challenging and one of the most costly parts of our ministry. Although it is overwhelming at times, we are blessed to see their lives changed through improved health."



Marlys Healy, CSC's Medical Director

At CSC our philosophy has always been that our children deserve the very best that we can provide. This commitment to quality involves all aspects of our programs, services and facilities. Although this approach to child caring ministry is always challenging for those who direct CSC, it is in the area of medical care that our commitment is tested the most. Providing the best possible medical care for our children involves considerable amounts of time and money, and can sometimes stretch our resources to the limit.



had an immunization.) Some children go directly to the hospital from Dr. Onate's office. We have had children who were hospitalized or needed to be isolated for

heart conditions, and a long list of other orthopedic, neurological and medical maladies. These have involved long hospitalizations, surgery and expensive tests that have stretched our budgets and manpower. When we have a child in the hospital, we have to provide "watchers," which means three shifts of child care workers daily for each patient. When we have multiple hospital admissions, finding available workers can be difficult. And one prolonged illness, with all the tests and medications that are required, can eat up our entire medical budget for the



Children who are admitted at CSC come from difficult situations in life and have rarely had access to health care resources of any kind. Most are sickly and malnourished upon arrival. Once we have decided to accept a child, the first step is a visit to our pediatrician, Dr. Jorge Onate. All admitted children undergo chest x-rays, blood tests, stool examinations, urinalysis and, with the exception of the infants, de-worming. These tests tell us if the children have parasites, HIV, hepatitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis or other infections. Most incoming children are also treated for lice and scabies as well. When they get to the shelter they are isolated for a period of days or weeks, depending on whether they are contagious, and they are given immunizations for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, mumps, measles, flu and polio. (Even most of the older children have never

an extended period of time before they could come home to the Shelter or join the other children in the homes.

...one prolonged illness, with all the tests and medications that are required, can eat up our entire budget for the month.

These tests and treatments are costly, but it is important that we know the condition of the children so that we can begin treatment, get them well, and protect the other children in the home.

Although every child has some health issues upon admission, some provide us with special challenges. Over the years we have discovered that certain of our children have had epilepsy, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, asthma,

month, or even more. During times when money is short, these expenses can be particularly difficult to cover.

In spite of these difficult situations involving the health of our children, and the challenges to find the resources to meet those needs, we remain committed to giving them the best. We are thankful for the talented doctors we have in Cebu, some of whom work for free. We are thankful for our supporters who give generously to support this commitment.

When you give to CSC, you are enabling us to rescue children from the ravages of sickness and disease. Health and hope go hand-in-hand for these kids. Many have never known what it feels like to be healthy. Your gifts allow us to seek out the best options for diagnosis and treatment and the best chance for recovery and a healthier life.

Medical and Dental Needs of CSC's Current Children

Our one year-old twin girls have had lots of health issues. One has significant hearing loss, the other was diagnosed with epilepsy. The doctor has ordered an MRI which will cost \$250.

The oldest boy in a sibling group of three that was recently admitted is extremely short in stature and needs growth deficiency therapy for a few years. This costs about \$300/month.

One of our special needs girls has kidney stones and needs to be catheterized three times a day.

Two of our teens need dental braces. The cost for each teen will be \$1,000.

One of our Teen Home residents takes expensive medicine every day for Hepa B. This costs almost \$20/day.

Jacob has cerebral palsy and needs medications to control his spasticity. These are expensive drugs that cost \$50/month.

We have 13 children on tuberculosis medications and nine being treated for asthma.

We use lots of children's vitamins and pediatric antibiotics, which are very expensive. Recent donations of vitamins have helped out greatly.

Rael (13), Weeno (11) and Melrod (9) came to live in the Cherne Home in September. They had been living with



their grand-ma, but she felt she could no longer handle parenting them. They are very bright and

cheerful boys who are thrilled to be living at CSC. They are way behind in school but are working hard and making progress. These boys are all very short for their age. This is undoubtedly a combination of genetics and nutrition. Weeno, though younger than Rael, is taller. Although these boys have had a difficult life, they are making a good adjustment to living at CSC and seem excited about what the future holds for them.

Christian (11) came to live with us at the end of August.

He has had a very tumultuous life, having lived in several homes and having experienced lots of rejection. His first couple weeks at CSC were difficult, but he has made a good adjustment and is doing well. He is a very emotional young boy. He has a great smile and an outgoing personality.



Angela (four months) was just over a month old when she arrived at CSC. She was undernourished, and had a

very serious infection when she came. She had been cared for by her grandpa who had tried his best but couldn't meet her basic needs.

Angela is doing very well at CSC. She is very responsive and loves to smile and coo. We have some concerns about her health so she is scheduled for some laboratory tests soon.



Angillo (5) has only been with us for a few weeks. He had been living in a government shelter, and prior to that, on the streets. He was very quiet when he first

came to live at CSC. In fact, some of the children were wondering if he was able to talk. But after a few days he began to open up, and now talks freely. He has become very affectionate with a few of the staff. It is obvious that he hasn't received much love and attention in his short life. After a few days he started having skin irritation and needed to be isolated. He is not very happy about that arrangement!

John Lloyd and John Loue (15 months) came to live at CSC with their two older siblings at the end of July. Their mother was in jail and their grandparents weren't able to provide for their needs. When the mom got out she decided to get the two older children back and surrender the twins. The boys are happy

and healthy but are very delayed in their physical development. Our medical staff and therapist are working to help them catch up.

Lloyd and Loue are one of four sets of twins at CSC. Another set left just



last week for adoption in the U.S. These adorable boys are a blessing to have at CSC and we look forward to continued improvement as they receive the stimulation they need.



Neil and Jeffril Ann (14), Michelangelo (13), Paul Christian (8) and Maria Crezillah (7)

have been with us for four and a half years. The twins, Neil and Jeffril, and Angelo are in the highest level of our Children of Hope School. They have shown great improvement over their time at CSC. They are all outgoing and have many good friends at CSC. Join us in thanking God for the good news that we were able to share with these siblings recently. They will soon be leaving for adoption into a wonderful Christian home in the U.S. The kids are very excited that their prayers were answered! Praise the Lord!

Exciting Arrivals in Cebu

October 24 - Pastor Cory Dahl from First Baptist Church of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and Doug and Lois Kurchner will be in Cebu for one week. They are sort of an advance team for the church, which is considering sending a team to CSC next year.

October 31 - Lorraine Luck and Beth Vosika, mothers of staff members Amy and Tammy, will be at CSC for two weeks, visiting their daughters and the rest of the CSC family.

November 1 - Marilyn Plucar, a long-time friend and supporter of CSC will visit for a couple days. The Plucars used to live in Cebu City and work with the Evangelical Free Church Mission.

November 20 - Pastor Jonathan and Lois Larson, who serve the North Isanti Baptist Church in Cambridge, MN, will be in

Cebu for a week. Their church has supported CSC for more than 25 years.

December 18 - The Flower family of Colorado will be at CSC for three weeks. Dave is a CSC board member, and their daughter Danielle was adopted from CSC.

December 28 - A team from the Flower's home church, The Little Log Church, will come to be with us for a week. They will be getting to know the ministry and spending time with the children.

December 30 - The Mork family from Cambridge, MN will visit for ten days. Alan is a physician and visited CSC in 2005 with a team from First Baptist Church. They will be joined by Peter Holmberg, who will stay for a month. Peter is a pre-med student at Bethel University.

THEY'LL BE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Wherever in the World that Might Be by Paul Healy

CSC is a substitute family for children who can no longer live in the homes of their birth. We build "family" into our program in three ways:

First, we do all we can to strengthen Filipino families. In some cases, we provide temporary shelter to children when their parents are in a crisis situation. There are times when we return children to their birth families. Recently two of our



especially Christmas, is a blessed time of celebrating together as a family that God has put together. At CSC our children will have a loving home for the holidays.

Through adoption, some CSC children will experience family in a new and powerful way. Already in 2007, 25 children have



kids went back to live with their birth mom. They will be home for the holidays in a way that is seldom possible for our CSC kids.

A second way that we simulate family is within our homes at CSC. We do the best we can to establish an extended family environment for the children. They have house parents, aunts and brothers and sisters in the homes. They have chores, devotions and outings, and rules to follow. CSC is not the same as a real family, so we are strongly committed to pursuing adoption for our children. But while they wait for an adoptive home, our children are learning a lot about family life. The holiday season at CSC,



joined adoptive families, and a few more might leave to spend this holiday season with their new parents, brothers and sisters, cousins and aunts and uncles.

No matter where it might be, CSC kids will certainly be home for the holidays this season.



Happy Thanksgiving

Maayong pasko Kaninyo

Merry Christmas

Malipayong Bagong Tuig

Gledelig Jul

Hauska Joulua

Happy New Year

Joyeux Noel

Gott Nytt År

Manigong Bagong Taon

Praises

1. Thank God for our Canadian friends who work hard to raise money for the ministry. CCSCC is an all volunteer organization.
2. Praise God for friends who have responded to our Building a Legacy of Hope capital campaign with generous donations. We currently have \$650,000 of the two million dollar target.
3. Thanks to God for the friends who will be visiting Cebu in the coming weeks, offering encouragement and support to the staff and children.
4. Praise the Lord for providing adoptive families for our children, particularly the older kids who have been waiting so long.
5. Praise God for people who send or bring donated items to Cebu for the children. We have received clothes, toys, diapers and medical supplies in recent weeks.

Requests

1. We have need of a registered nurse to join our team in the Philippines. Pray for wisdom for the staff as they interview candidates.
2. Pray for Kirk Pilapil, who is studying in Canada. He struggles with cultural adjustments and some homesickness. We are thankful for the generous supporters in the U.S. who have underwritten all of his expenses for this great opportunity.
3. Pray for our little twins, Lavinia and Crystal, who have some major medical issues. Crystal has significant hearing loss and Lavinia has been diagnosed with epilepsy. They both currently have pneumonia.
4. Pray for difficult decisions that need to be made about our budget for 2008. The shrinking exchange rate has created difficulties in Cebu as our purchasing power has slid by almost 20% during the year.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle April 12 on your calendars. That is the date for the **2008 CSC Banquet** at Bethel University in Arden Hills, MN. Conflicts with other events at Bethel forced us to have the event a little earlier next year. Plan now to come for a night of fun, food and fellowship and exciting updates on the ministry.



Sandy Swanson, CSC's Child Development Director, is in the U.S. and is available to speak at your church or civic organization. Call the CSC office at 763-689-6558 to schedule a presentation.

Every child deserves a family.

The CSC web site is a great source for news, pictures, videos and information about the ministry. New Features are being added. See you online at www.cscshelter.org

Foster Friends is CSC's sponsor program whereby friends can get involved in the ministry by supporting a child. Sponsors receive introductory information on their child and regular updates with pictures. The cost of being a Foster Friend is \$25 a month. Contact the CSC office if you would like to begin a relationship with a CSC child through Foster Friends.



Significant progress is being made in preparing the site for our construction project in Cebu. The landscaping, the perimeter and the retaining walls are almost finished.



This is the site where we will build our infirmary and our residence facilities for our children with special needs. Please consider a gift to our Building a Legacy of Hope Capital Campaign.