



## THE DECLASSIFICATION OF OUR CHILDREN

by Paul Healy

In the Philippines, CSC is classified as a child caring organization. In our work there are a lot of catego-



ries for the children under our care. It starts at birth, when they are described on their birth certificate as being either "legitimate" or illegitimate," according to the marital status of their parents.



When the children are admitted to a child caring institution like CSC, the classification increases. Because they cannot live with their families and need alternative care, they are considered to be *dependent*. But within that general category they may be

*abandoned, surrendered, neglected, abused, malnourished* or they may be termed as *foundling*. When we fill out our forms for the government agencies that license us, there are check boxes for all of these categories.



When the children go to school they might take on the classification of being learning disabled, ADHD, low I.Q. or may get any number of behavioral tags. Medical classifications are also part of the child caring process and the reporting that we must do. Is the child healthy, or is she asthmatic, hearing impaired, malnourished, lactose intolerant or brain damaged? And since we are working for the placement of our children, there are additional terms that are used in the adoption process: healthy, special needs, "normal," or "hard to place."

A child with significant needs could accumulate a whole bunch of labels: *Our illegitimate, abandoned, dependent, learning disabled*

*and ADHD child, will be hard to place because she is asthmatic!*

The problems with these classifications are many. For one thing, they all tend to be negative. There are no "illegitimate" children at CSC, or those whose nature can be summarized by a few labels. A visitor to CSC once told about being teased as a kid because he was overweight. When his classmates would point out that he was fat he would say, "Yeah, but I'm other things, too." And



so he was. And so are the children of CSC who, for the purposes of government lists and adoptive placement, are classified with labels that tell so little about who they really are: beautiful, priceless children of God who deserve the very best that we can do for them. At CSC, we strive to "declassify" our children, replacing the negative categories and labels with positive words and high and loving expectations. Thanks to all who help us in this blessed process.



Every child  
deserves  
a family.

### INSIDE

Campaign News	2
Kid's Korner	4
Prayer Items	5

# Capital Campaign Progress

Joel Reasoner



During my last trip to Cebu I became familiar with the heartbreaking details of what brought one of our kids to CSC. I hear lots of these stories, and they're always affecting, but this one was especially hard to hear.

I woke up with jet lag the next night and felt compelled to pray for this child with, I confess, more emotion and conviction than I often bring to prayer. Imagine my excitement a couple of days later when I heard there was possibly a breakthrough counseling session with the child and there was reason to be encouraged for the healing process.

That day I ended up walking down Good Shepherd Road back to a place where I could find a cab. I mulled over what had transpired with excitement and praise. Then a dangerous thought crept in, "Did my prayer have anything to do with this?" As soon as I thought it I was humbled by my typically self-centered thinking. Instead of just rejoicing in what God had done I seemed to insist upon weighing my own value in things. Right then and there I was reminded this must be one big reason why God so often responds to prayers with "wait," or "no." Certainly, if He always gave me what I asked for, even when it was on someone else's behalf, I would begin to give myself too much credit for the good news.

We are constantly reminded that God deserves all the credit at CSC. We do our best to be diligent, but God always responds to our prayers in His time alone. It is another lesson of the ongoing capital campaign; we continue to receive the best news from unexpected places. We're praying for more surprises and celebrating the ones that God has given us so far.

Things are changing by the day on the new third residence and infirmary at the main campus. The support structure of the third residence has been finished. It has reached its maximum height. The roof level has been poured and the trusses are being welded into place. It will have a similar design to the infirmary with skylights in the center and slanted roof lines on the sides and back. The interior walls are being filled in between the supporting columns. The basement floor will be poured once the needed waterproofing materials arrive.

The infirmary is nearly ready for the finishing stage (which includes tiling the floors and pebbling the exterior walls). Capstones need to be put into place on the roof to make it watertight before the finishing can get underway. The plumbing system has been tested and the entire floor has been poured. The workers are concentrating on installing the capstones on the roof, leveling the interior walls, installing the last few door and window frames, constructing the cistern, and digging the hole for the septic tank.

Another fun aspect of the campaign is how it is involving our young adults already.

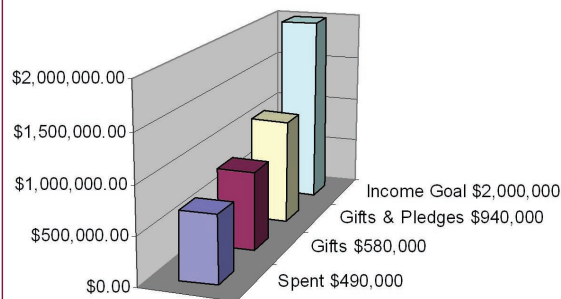


*Current progress on the third residence (above) and the Infirmary (below).*



Ronilo and Julieta both live at CSC's Wally Johnson Teen Home and are working on construction. Ronilo has been involved for several months and Julieta too was able to get a job on the crew for the new residence. Less than a week after turning 18 he filled an opening as a general laborer.

## Capital Campaign Income & Spending



Money still doesn't grow on trees...  
...but this is almost as easy.

CSC has joined GoodSearch, an online search engine that gives back to charity. For each search made on their website a penny goes to the organization preselected by the web surfer. It's easy, and the search engine itself works quite well (some supporters use another as a backup).

We were skeptical when we started, but sure enough, we've gotten checks because a handful of people are now using GoodSearch and entered Children's Shelter of Cebu in the "Who do you GoodSearch for?" field. Head to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) and your daily activity of searching the internet can really add up for CSC!

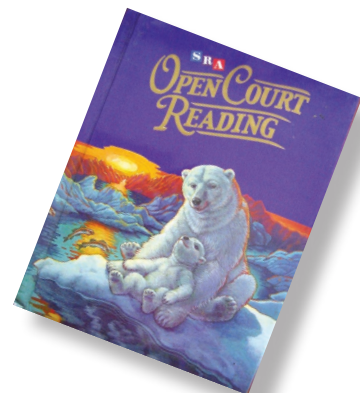
# Children of Hope School

## Reading And Writing Emphasized at Children of Hope School



*"We have seen remarkable progress in the children's ability to read, comprehend and write."*

Shari Reasoner, CHS Advisor

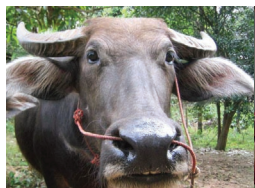


Children of Hope School Library

One of the significant advances in our Children of Hope School program was the addition of a language arts curriculum three years ago. Thanks to a generous gift from the Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada, we were able to purchase the Open Court curriculum from SRA, and it has been a tremendous resource for our teachers. According to CHS Advisor, Shari Reasoner, "Open Court Reading has proven to be a good fit for our teachers and children. It provides a complete language arts framework for our teachers. This is important because they are teaching in their second language, using methods different from their original training." The OC curriculum provides exposure to a broad base of knowledge that is

lacking when the children arrive at the Shelter. So while learning English, reading and writing, the children are catching up on a host of areas of learning. In

the past few years we have seen the children become excited about reading. According to Shari, "This might be simply the maturation of our school. But we have seen remarkable progress in the children's ability to read, comprehend and write. Reading can be infectious, and it only takes two or three students to get a bunch of other kids excited. News travels fast about fun new books in the library or a cool story one class is reading." It's open season for reading at CHS, thanks to Open Court, our hard working teachers and our generous supporters.



### The Challenge

The students are buzzing these days about the special reading challenge offered to them on the first day of school. Each level has been given a number of pages as their goal for the quarter. If all of the levels reach their goal, they will be able to throw Uncle Paul (Healy) into the swimming pool, and Uncle Joel (Reasoner) will ride a carabao (Philippine water buffalo). As of this writing the Uncles are starting to get a little bit nervous as the page counts rise daily.



### The Faculty

Our school faculty works hard to teach and inspire our children in language arts. Front row (L-R): Glenda, Laarni, Claris, Eunice, Myrna, Cherryl, Gabrielle, Criselda. Back row: Lloyd, Frances, Cora, Laura, Tammy, Amy and Shari. This group includes classroom teachers and assistants, therapists and tutors. Our school principal is Criselda Tabra, who has been teaching at Children of Hope School for eight years.

We are always in need of new books for our school library, so we set up a wish list on our web site to guide our friends who want to help out the school. Our teachers and advisors maintain a list of books that we would really like to have in our library, and with a few mouse clicks a book can be on its way to Cebu for our students to enjoy. This list has been a great asset to our school, and helps us feed the voracious reading appetites of our children. Go to [www.cscshelter.org](http://www.cscshelter.org), and click on Wish List to donate a book to Children of Hope School.

**Francis and Justin (5 months)** came to live in CSC's Eicher Home



on July 16th, the fifth set of twins at CSC. They were born to a teenage mother who had no desire to keep them. They are smiley and quite healthy and are starting to adjust to life in the Eicher Home nursery. Justin seems a little more laid back than his brother, but both are adorable.

**Paula (10)** came to CSC at the end of April. She had been living with her grandparents on a neighboring island.



Paula is a very sweet and affectionate girl who is very happy to be able to live at CSC and attend school with the other children. She has not had an easy life but has come through difficulties with a smile and a zest for living.

Paula is very athletic and talented, and has already made a lot of friends at CSC.

**John Lloyd and John Loue (2)** are the veterans in the Cherne Home nursery. They were one week old



when they came to live with us. They enjoy playing outside or in the playroom, throwing and chasing balls and running wherever they can. They enjoy being with each other but can have fun even if they are apart. The boys will soon be ready to be matched for adoption. The boys have both been healthy during their time at CSC.

**John (10) and Jocelyn (7)** are the brother and sister of Jovan and Jeralyn. They came to live with us on June 3. They had been referred several months earlier but we did not have any vacancy. John has not stopped smiling since he came to us except a few hours after he injured his wrist on the playground. He is a bright and affectionate boy with lots

of talent and enthusiasm. He is very athletic and loves to try any game. Jocelyn is also very active and enjoys being with friends more than John



does. She is learning about conflict resolution and following rules, something she did not have to do before coming to us.

**Christian (11)**

is a quiet, respectful and fun young man who loves to play basketball. Several of the older boys have left for adoption recently, so Christian is now one of the best players. He enjoys drawing and has a lot of talent. Christian has a good sense of humor and almost always has a smile on his face. He has a good friend in the Cherne Home named Arnel.



## Jovan Continues to Amaze!

It doesn't seem possible that the little guy running around in the nursery is the same little boy who came to us a severely malnourished 11 month old. We weren't sure that he would make it when we first saw him, and he spent much of his first several weeks with us in the hospital. But good nutrition, needed medicines and lots of love and cuddling have made the difference for Jovan. He still has recurring upper respiratory infections, but he has been much healthier lately, and is working hard to catch up on his development. We were able to reunite him with his twin sister Jeralyn a few weeks after he arrived, and that has been a great thing for both of them. Thanks for your prayers and support for this precious boy.

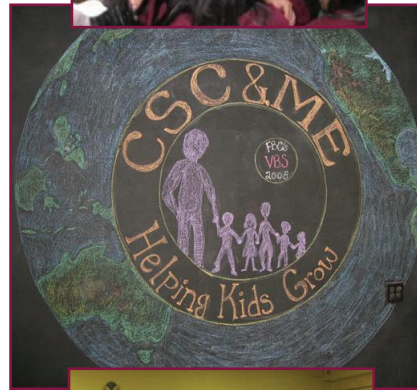


*From death's door to a happy and healthy boy – all in six months!*



# Kids Helping Kids in Japan and Wisconsin

There is something special and powerful that happens when kids reach out in love to other kids. Such has been the case in recent weeks as children from Japan and Wisconsin used their enthusiasm, talent and compassionate hearts to impact the lives of our CSC kids. Aryo is a 12 year old boy who lives in Japan. A couple years ago he had some serious health problems that caused him a lot of discomfort and eventually forced him to quit school. With the help of his family, he eventually showed improvement and, little-by-little has regained his health. For a school project Aryo put together a book entitled Tackle Your Troubles, which is a collection of short articles written by himself and his school friends. They have sold the book in various places in Japan and Aryo has donated all of the proceeds to CSC. He and his family visited CSC in June. He spoke to the students at CHS and presented a copy of his book to the school



library. Aryo's big heart allowed him to turn his own adversities into blessings for the children of CSC. If you'd like to purchase a copy of Aryo's book you may contact him at [mhadi@myagent.ne.jp](mailto:mhadi@myagent.ne.jp). Thousands of miles away in Wisconsin, children from the First Baptist Church of Sturgeon Bay were bringing their offering money for Vacation Bible School. CSC has been the featured ministry at FBC before, and they have raised some very impressive amounts of money. But this year was something for the record books. Bolstered by a matching gift from someone in the church, the FBC kids raised over \$10,000 for CSC! For a small church in a not so large town, that is amazing stewardship. Kids can often teach us a lot about giving. Such is the case with Aryo and the children from Sturgeon Bay. God has blessed your generous hearts and given you and the children of CSC a chance to be a part of something truly wonderful.

## Prayer

- Pray for Jacob. Jake suffers from cerebral palsy, and is extremely tight and spastic. He has taken some medications that have helped somewhat. Recently he has been having frequent urinary tract infections, so he needs to be catheterized three times a day. He was also vomiting blood so the doctors feel that he probably has ulcers. Pray for wisdom for our staff in helping Jake, not only with his medical needs, but in finding things for him to do so he will feel useful.

- Pray for some of the young kids in the Cherne Home who are having difficulties obeying rules and are exhibiting anger.
- Pray for the staff and house parents as they deal with these issues.



## Our CSC Circle of Prayer

## Praise

- Praise God for some recent donations to our Building a Legacy of Hope campaign that have allowed us to continue with the construction at the main camps.
- Praise the Lord for successful surgeries for Michael and Sheila May in recent weeks. Michael had a hernia operation and Sheila had plastic surgery.
- Join us in thanking God for his provision during difficult economic times in the Philippines and in the U.S. And help us pray for his blessings for all our faithful donors.

- Praise God for the good health of most of our children during recent weeks.
- Join us in thanking Him for Arlene, our new nurse, who is a tremendous blessing to the children and staff.



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- Field Director: Paul Healy
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Medical Director: Marlys Healy
Outreach Director: Ruth Ohlendorf
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2009 CSC BANQUET

Its not too early to start planning to attend the 2009 CSC Banquet at Bethel University in Arden Hills, MN. The date for next year's affair is later than usual -May 2. As usual, there will be lots great people to meet, uplifting music, tasty food and updates on the ministry. Humor and surprises will also be on the docket. The theme for next year's banquet will be "Living the Dream." CSC was founded on the hopes and dreams of a group of American young people. Thanks to the faithfulness of God and the generosity of his people, that dream is still being fulfilled in Cebu. Come and see! Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and on our website at www.cscshelter.org .



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 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 you child is old enough, he or she will send you an occasional letter. Since it costs 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.

- 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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