



NEWS *from* CEBU

Children's
Shelter of
CEBU

-SEVEN SIBLINGS MOVE ON-

Not long before the biggest trip of her life, our 13-year-old Mae Ann got sick. It wasn't serious. She had a low-grade fever, but we moved her to the infirmary. We didn't want her to infect anyone else in her home of 28 children. We also

wanted to keep a close eye on her. She needed to go to Manila with her six siblings before their new family could come to Cebu to bring them home.

The infirmary offers a little extra adult attention, some special treatment, and a quiet place to get better. Having rested and gotten caught up on schoolwork, Mae Ann selected a quiet activity before going to sleep for the night.

She decided to do a Bible study on 1st John. A rather stunning choice for a 13-year-old, but that wasn't unusual for Mae Ann. She became quite a leader in her home and our school while at CSC.

Mae Ann was able to travel for

Manila, and all went well for her and her siblings. **Just days ago, this group of seven siblings was united with their family and left for their adoption. We will miss all of them very much.**

Leaving CSC to travel across the world to join an adoptive family is not easy. Margie, Mae Ann, Manny, Marco, Merry Sheila, Mark Anthony, and Madelyn have new parents and siblings, a new church,

lots of new relatives, and lots of new things to learn and experience. And although the transition came with feelings of anxiety and loss, there were important factors that made it smoother for everyone.

First, the children experienced love, acceptance, and discipline

continued on page 2

INSIDE *this issue...*

- 2 Matt's Column
- 3 Camp 2014
- 4 Relief Report
- 5 Speech | Prayer Therapy | Update
- 6 House Parent Highlight
- 7 Kids' Korner
- 8 Through the Eyes of a Child

The seven share the same faith in God and love for Jesus that their adoptive parents and new siblings enjoy.



I confess there are a lot of things I don't know about CSC. I don't know how to calm Ricky after a nightmare. I don't know the best approach to help Andrea with her reading. I don't know all the Bible verses the kids have memorized. (I recently emphasized something with the older children using Galatians 2:20. Imagine my surprise when the group of 25 or so began to recite the words with me!)

I also know very little about how to take care of our residents with special needs. What with medications, feeding, and bathing, these dear ones would be in a desperate situation if I was expected to meet their needs. It takes a lot of work, patience, and know-how to do the job well.

The other night I needed to grab something left

for me at the Duterte Home—in Ginda's room. Sometimes her room has two or three aunts conducting the various tasks for Ginda's care, but on this night it was quiet. The bustle of her day was done. She was fast asleep.

I stopped before I walked out to look at her sleeping. I saw the evidence of CSC's love around Ginda. Her oxygen tube was set just right. She was surrounded by pink, her all-time favorite color. Her doll had been laid next to her, and she was made as comfortable as possible with pillows and blankets. Spending a day in a wheelchair can be hard on a body, and this setup seemed the perfect response.



Every day that same love is given to Ginda. In various ways, it is replicated for all the children.

It's true, hard as it may be to admit, that there is a lot I don't know about CSC. There is a lot I don't have to know. An exceptional team has every detail covered. ■

SEVEN SIBLINGS *continued from page 1*

at CSC. We try to simulate family life in the homes, teaching respect for each other, encouraging responsibility in helping with household chores, and presenting a Christ-centered environment that embodies love and acceptance.

Second, the children already knew their new parents. They had talked with them over Skype several times. They had an idea how everyone looked, and some feel for personalities and ways of communicating.

They had had fun together online, which was a good start to building relationships when their parents arrived in Cebu.

Third and most important, the seven share the same faith in God and love for Jesus that their adoptive parents and new siblings enjoy. Living in the Eicher Home, they received spiritual teaching from house parents Dondon and Ivy. Their new parents will continue that teaching with the children in their new home.

Adoption transitions are hard for all involved. At CSC we do our best to help in the prepara-

tion through love, technology, and by planting seeds of faith in the lives of the children that will benefit them greatly here at CSC, in their new families, and for their entire lives. ■



-CAMP 2014

Getting away for a few days can be a great thing, for people of all ages. For the children of CSC, going to camp is a blast. But going away to camp makes it even sweeter. For four days during February, 38 of our

the camp. This year's theme was *Jonah and the Big Fish*. Activities included swimming, nature walks, crafts, games, and chapel time. Chuck Sorlie, youth pastor at Central, led the camp for the third time. Chuck

testimonies of their love for Christ and their desire to serve Him, Pastor Chuck and Joel Lawrence, Central's Senior Pastor, baptized these precious kids in the warm waters of Santander Bay. It was such an emotional and important event that the team and

38 of our children got to experience an oceanside camp for a few days, which helped them learn about God and themselves. CSC staff are already talking about making this a regular part of each camp.

children had that opportunity, thanks to a team from Central Baptist Church in Saint Paul, Minnesota. For the fifth time since 2002, Central sponsored and ran a camp that not only got the children out of CSC and into an oceanside camp setting for a few days, but helped them learn about God and themselves, and soak up the team's love and attention.

is a great speaker and song and game leader, and has boundless energy and a strong desire for kids to know God better and love him more. **Hundreds of CSC kids have experienced the love and passion of Chuck and other team members over the years. Some have made decisions for Christ.**

This year something new happened at camp. Nine CSC children followed the Lord in baptism during a service on Sunday afternoon. Following their

Thanks to the Central team for their consistent love for our children and their willingness to come so far to take them to camp. ■



-STEPPING UP TOGETHER

Relief report

- by Paul Healy, Field Director

Reluctant relief workers. That term might describe the efforts of our staff during the months since two natural disasters hit the Philippines. We are reluctant, not because we aren't concerned, but because we lack know-how and experience in disaster relief. But in spite of that, CSC personnel have been active in extending help to families

filled with rice, canned goods, water, housing materials, and tools. The truck and one of our jeeps were driven onto a large ship and taken to the island of Leyte. From Biliran Island in the north to Hilongos in the south, they went up and down the western seaboard of Leyte bringing hope to families whose lives were turned upside down. Carmelita

spearheaded relief efforts in northern Cebu. We were able to give Dennis \$11,000 to build homes in Cebu. **In addition to these efforts, we have given cash assistance to several of our workers to help rebuild their family homes in various parts of the Philippines.**

CSC is made up of people who care. Our staff showed



Our supporters
donated money to
help the victims.
So we responded.



victimized by the October 15 earthquake that rocked Bohol island and Cebu, and the November 8 typhoon that brought destruction to the island of Leyte, as well as northern Cebu.

Central Cebu was spared from significant destruction and loss of life with both disasters, but our generous and loving supporters donated money to help the victims. So we responded.

Carmelita Baya, our senior social worker, led the charge to Leyte, bringing food, water, and construction materials to 10 families whose homes had been damaged or destroyed by typhoon Haiyan. They are families of our workers, as well as birth families of children adopted from CSC. We rented a large cargo truck that we

also traveled to northern Cebu to bring similar assistance to families on our own island.

Money has continued to come in from thoughtful CSC donors. Former CSC residents held fundraisers. Churches took special offerings. Regular CSC supporters added over-and-above gifts for typhoon or earthquake relief. To make sure the money got to people who needed it most, we partnered with two missionary friends who are extending major relief aid in Leyte and Cebu. Paul Varberg, a Converge BGC missionary, lives and works in Tacloban, Leyte, the worst-hit area in the country. **We were able to give Paul more than \$15,000 to rebuild homes.**

We also teamed up with Dennis Nordine, a Cebu-based BGC missionary who has

that through their enthusiastic involvement in praying, planning, and carrying out relief efforts. And our supporters expressed their concern and love through their financial gifts, even though CSC did not prompt people to give. We recognize that we are an organization with lots of skill and experience in caring for homeless children, but not much in terms of relief programs. We hope and pray that we will not gain additional experience in the coming months and years!

Thanks to all who gave and prayed, and for those who give faithfully to help us reach out to other victims: the children who have lost their parents and need us so desperately. ■

PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

REQUESTS



We are excited to have a new staff member starting in Cebu later this year, Grace Anderson. She is a young woman with a lot to offer our children.

Please pray for her and for our recruitment of other future leaders.

Please pray for our finances. We were conservative in budgeting this year, but it takes a lot of funds to make our work happen.

PRAISES

Praise God for three strong board members who will complete their third terms with CSC this summer: Heidi Erickson, Tim Doten and Dr. Stuart Cox. Praise too for the new members who are stepping in to take their places.

Thanks be to God that Thomas is recovering well from his major cranial surgery. We are so thankful for this sweet boy!



-SPEECH THERAPY-

Time with Tara

Time with Tara is time well spent. She is a professional speech and language therapist who volunteers with CSC. Tara does assessments, helps train our therapists and writes reports that are used in presenting our children for adoption. She lives in Hong Kong, but comes regularly to Cebu to work with our kids and staff. **She is a high energy person who loves our children deeply, and always has a lot of great ideas for treating those who struggle with speech.**

Danilo is one of her favorite kids to spend time with. He is a nine year-old bundle of energy who has a cleft palate and major speech challenges. Danilo started speech therapy in October of 2012, on Tara's recommendation. He loves his therapy, and they are working on articulating /g/, /p/, /b/ and

/h/ sounds. The structure of his mouth causes him difficulty in speech, and there is air that comes out of his nose when attempting some sounds. Tara has recommended assessment for surgery on his palate and continued work with CSC's therapists.



Danilo loves his time with Tara, as do the other CSC children. We are so thankful that God brought her to us! ■



-HOUSE PARENT HIGHLIGHT-

Tarex and Pureza

Our house parents have the most difficult jobs at CSC. They manage, discipline, purchase, encourage, report, love, host, and repair. They have more than 20 workers under them, and the huge responsibility of being substitute parents for 25-30 children, from babies to teenagers and young adults.

Tarex and Pureza Pongcol have been leading the Cherne Home since 2003. Pureza started working at CSC as a child care worker

in 1987, together with her sister, Mary Jane. When she and Tarex got married, there was an opening for house parents, and they applied. They have been a great blessing to many children since taking on that role.

Pureza is a soft-spoken person who is very loving to the children. She is a good listener and someone who easily earns

their trust. Aside from tending to kids, she loves to garden. **Her consistently even-tempered and happy personality serves her well when things get chaotic in the home**, and she brings stability to the lives of children who have had very little of that before coming to CSC.

They tend to the Cherne Home with commitment, love, hard work and laughter.

Tarex is a hard-working guy with many talents and interests. He has a great sense of humor, and makes people laugh with his jokes and

antics. He and Uncle Patrick of the Duterte Home are the annual co-emcees of the workers' Christmas party, and he has them rolling in the aisles before the program has hardly begun.

Tarex's humor often helps defuse difficult situations with the kids and workers. He is a great example of the fact that



life at CSC is fun and that laughter is a great medicine for the

soul.

Tarex and Pureza have two children, Jahleel (21) and Deuel (19). Jahleel is married and has a one-year-old baby boy, Caleb Rex, the apple of the Pongcols' eye. But they have lots of other apples to tend to in the Cherne Home orchard. And they do it with commitment, love, hard work, and laughter.

We thank God for Tarex and Pureza and what they mean to the children who live with them under the Cherne Home roof. ■



Introducing...



HANNAH NICOLE Hannah is 11 years old. She arrived at CSC a couple weeks before Christmas. Hannah is an amazing young woman. She lived with many different people during her 11 years of life. All those she lived with wanted the best for her, but she's never had legal or permanent standing in any family. She is now at CSC and we are working hard to prepare her papers to give her the stability and the chance for an adoptive family. Hannah excels at music and speaks English well. She never lived in a big group situation, so coming into the Eicher Home family which included 28 other kids was quite a leap. She has been a trooper and has made a good adjustment.



VINCENTE MOISES Vincente Moises arrived in November at three weeks old. Vincente had been abandoned shortly after his birth. A good Samaritan brought him to a local government hospital. We heard about him from the hospital social worker and soon were bringing him home. Moises has been sick, but he is growing and developing well.



MACHAELA JAMELLA Machaela was only four days old when she became a CSC kid in January. Because she appeared to be healthy and seemed to be developing well, we were surprised when she became seriously ill at the end of February. She had sepsis and was a very sick little baby for a few days. Thanks to God she has responded well to meds and is now back home in the Cherne nursery.

Saying goodbye

We have said goodbye to lots of kids in the last few months. Saying goodbye at CSC is bittersweet. We are sad, but the reason we are saying goodbye is that God has answered our prayers for a family! Goodbye brings happiness for answered prayer and a promised future, but sadness because we will no longer be a daily part of their lives.

Siblings **JAMES (15)**, **MARICRIS (13)**, and **VENUS (10)** joined their new family in November, after having spent 3 1/2 years at CSC. Our little **MARY ANTOINETTE (1)** was adopted by a couple here in the Philippines in December. What a Christmas that family had! Brothers **DANIEL (2)** and **ROBERT (1)** both spent their whole lives at CSC. Their excited adoptive parents and big sisters came to bring them home in January. Super Seven Siblings **MARGIE (15)**, **MAE-ANN (13)**, **MANNY (12)**, **MARK VINCENT (10)**, **MERRY SHEILA (9)**, **MARK ANTHONY (7)**, and **MADelyn (6)** left CSC in mid-March after living with us for four years. Thank God with us for adoption!

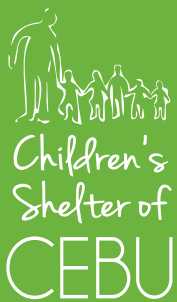
We have six more kids already matched and accepted by families! This is going to be a big year for adoptions.

Still at CSC

Lemuel (10), **Carlo (8)**, **Rhean (4)** and **Maylen (2)** are siblings that have lived with us for about a year and a half. They are an active bunch. Lemuel is an athlete; he is fast and coordinated and excels at anything physical (except growth!). He sometimes makes unwise choices in behavior, but he is learning to make better ones. Carlo spent his first year with us smiling and not saying much. That has changed. Carlo loves life and is not afraid to try anything once - or ten times - and tell us the details of each adventure. Rhean is four going on 14. She talks constantly, loves to tease and has an uncanny ability to change our watches without our knowing it! Maylen is pretty quiet most of the time, but she comes out with sentences at times. She is a sweetheart who loves to sit on laps and absorb all the attention that she can, but she is also curious and likes to check things out.

We have a few empty beds for older kids at the moment. Please pray along with us that we will be led to the exact kids that God wants us to bring into the CSC family. The needs are great and we want to help those who need us the most. ■





P.O. Box 247
Cambridge, MN 55008
Phone: 651.493.1551
Email: cscusa@cscshelter.org
www.cscshelter.org

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAMBRIDGE, MN
PERMIT #46

NEWS *from* CEBU

Spring 2014 ■ Volume 36 ■ Issue 1

NEWS FROM CEBU is published three times annually by Children's Shelter of Cebu, a nonprofit, Christian organization dedicated to providing for the needs of homeless children in Cebu, Philippines.

Cebu Address:
Box 178, Cebu City
6000 Philippines

Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada:
P.O. Box 141
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5

-THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

2014 Banquet

The theme for this year's banquet is "Through the Eyes of a Child." The world is a very different looking place to the children that we serve.

We need to try and see things like our children do.

We celebrate the adoption of a group of siblings as they meet, and eventually leave, with their new family. We see opportunity and a second chance at family life for these kids. But VenVen, 14, sees their departure through teary eyes. She will be losing three of her friends and housemates. Through her eyes the adoption is bitter sweet – joy mixed

with pain. During her two and a half years at CSC she has seen many friends leave with adoptive parents. She wonders if she and her siblings will have their chance, too. So we deal with those hurts as we continue to provide for the needs of VenVen and the other children that God has brought to us in Cebu.

Please come to the banquet on May 3 at Bethel University and join us in looking at the ministry of CSC through the eyes of our children. Look for a sign up page at www.cscshelter.org, or call the CSC office at 651-493-1551. ■

