

# NEWS FROM CEBU

## — FINALLY FOUND —

**CSC** has been caring for homeless children in Cebu for almost 40 years. Our children fall into different categories. Some are abandoned by their birth parents or other relatives. Some are surrendered by parents who simply cannot take care of them. Some are removed from abusive home situations. Some are referred to in the Philippines as “foundlings,” because they were found and there is no record of who their parents are.

John is a foundling child. He is

*Together we are helping build a life for John.*

somewhere around seven years old and was found wandering in a shopping mall in a small city in Cebu. He was all alone. He was lost. He could not tell the government

social worker where he was from, who his parents are, or how he had come to be at that mall. He could not even give them his name.

John now lives at CSC. Regardless of how he is legally classified, he now has a home where he is loved, accepted, and given direction for his life. Counselors are available if he is able to share any information about his past. House parents and child care employees make sure his needs are met. Compassionate nurses care for his health issues. The other children have accepted

him as a friend and playmate. Together we are helping build a life for John. We have given him a name and are working hard to give him legal status by filing for

a founding certificate, which will take the place of a birth certificate for John.

We have so many questions about John and would like to have the answers. Does he have birth family who might be wondering where he is? Could he have been kidnapped, or did he run away from a home where he was loved, or maybe where he was abused? Was he from the city where he was

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## Celebrating Hope: 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

In 1979, Paul and Marlys Healy stepped off the plane in Cebu City and started offering care to children in need. 40 years later, the organization has grown, and we have cared and provided hope to almost 1,000 children! We will be celebrating 40 years of ministry in the US and in Canada at our spring banquets and in Cebu this summer. We will be celebrating the goodness of God and the contributions of the many people who have given of themselves to make good things happen here. ■

### 2019 MN Banquet

April 27, 2019 | Bethel University

Register online: [cebushelter.org/banquet](http://cebushelter.org/banquet)

### 2019 Canadian Banquet

May 3, 2019 | Abbotsford, BC

Contact Irene ([bobea2@shaw.ca](mailto:bobea2@shaw.ca))

or Joan ([gleddiej@shaw.ca](mailto:gleddiej@shaw.ca)) for more information

### 2019 40th Celebration

June 28/29, 2019 | Cebu City, Cebu

Register online: <https://cebushelter.org/forms/-40-anniversary-registration-2019>

*"Finally Found" continued from cover*

found or someplace else? Did bad things happen to him that he simply cannot share with us?

And, of course, there are other questions that we ask each other. What is it like to be a foundling and to be totally on your own with nobody to check up on you, calm your fears, or provide for your basic needs? When you go to sleep at night with a hungry stomach, what do you think about? What do you dare to hope will happen in the morning?

We might never know anything

about John's past or what his thoughts and feelings have been in his short, troubled life. We might



not come to know if he has memories that he cannot articulate or share about

his first home. But we can love him and start to build a storehouse of positive thoughts and memories for him in this place called Children's Shelter of Cebu.

John is classified as a foundling, a found child. But in God's providence, he has found a place at CSC where he is cherished and accepted, where he can feel safe and secure, and where he will never be lost again. Thank you, God, for bringing John into our lives and into our home. ■



by Tim Holmberg,  
President

# PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

*Sometimes* the only thing keeping my wife and my mother-in-law from being twins is 25 years in age. They are wonderful people and a little feisty. "Growing old isn't for sissies," the older twin said recently. In a heartbeat, the younger twin responded, "Yeah, well taking care of them isn't for sissies either." Like many twins, they are best of friends and sometimes drive each other a little crazy.

Being an orphan isn't for sissies either. They see their world differently. It's not that they see the loss of possibilities – they never saw any to start with. It takes great courage to face that unknown.

At CSC they get what they need: a safe bed, meals to eat, a wonderful playground, medical care, good friends, and a school just for them. They also get what they may not know they need. They get hope. They come to understand their soul exists, that it is eternal, and that it is valuable. They get the gospel.

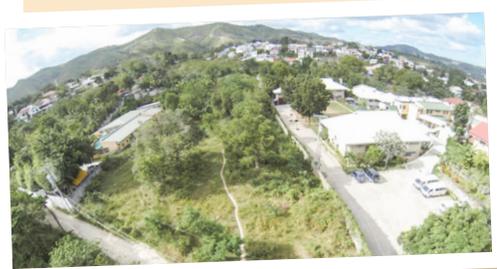
Taking care of orphans isn't for sissies either. How do you provide care to a four-year-old who has only ever known suffering and thinks that is normal? Who even though she sits with others, still feels she eats alone? Who hoards her food in the fear there may not be another meal?

These children see aunts and uncles who welcome them at home and help them. Who help them feel the safety and joy of the CSC family. For some it takes a longer time and for some a shorter time, but eventually CSC becomes home.

The children at CSC love the employees, the employees love the children, and they drive each other crazy once in a while too... just like any family. ■

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For more than 20 years we have dreamed, hoped and prayed about the possibility of purchasing the "center lot." The center lot is a strategic piece of property that lies between the shelter and the school. This property is potentially available for purchase soon. This would be a major step of faith for CSC, and we would need the owner to set a fair price with terms of payment that would allow us time to raise the



considerable amount of money that the property would cost. Please pray for wisdom as our leadership staff and board of directors work through this process and that we would follow the Lord's leading in this.

- After many years of service, Lindsay and Marwin Abong returned to the U.S. with their daughter Sabrina. We are thankful for the impact Lindsay and Marwin had at CSC in the Child Care/Counseling and Physical Therapy departments and ask for prayers for their reintegration into life and culture in the States.

## PRAISES

- We finished our fiscal year on December 31 and are once again so very grateful for God's faithful provision. We have met our income needs for 2018, which allows us to continue care for so many precious children. We are so thankful to the Lord for once again providing the needed resources to continue the work in Cebu, Philippines. We are also thankful to all of you for stepping up in response to the call to care for children in need.
- CSC received a prestigious award in the Philippines from Pag-IBIG Fund, the Philippine government financial agency that handles mortgages for Filipinos. They are overseeing the mortgages for the employees who are Habitat Home recipients. The award recognizes the role of CSC in the project. We are thankful to God for our small part in the project and for so many individuals who worked hard to make it possible.
- Joel and Jinkee Reasoner have returned to Cebu after a furlough in Minnesota. We are so grateful for their faithful commitment to the work of CSC and look forward to their contributions this coming year.

The goal of the project was to provide safe and adequate living conditions.



CSC partnered with Habitat for Humanity (both in the U.S. and in the Philippines) to build 63 homes for CSC employees. Although CSC pays reasonable wages, many employees care for entire extended families and as a result live in less-than-ideal conditions. Applicants needed to qualify for a home based on Habitat requirements. **The goal of the project was to provide safe and adequate living conditions. In addition, home ownership is a huge step in breaking the cycle of poverty.**



Each home is approximately 400 square feet, with a kitchen, living area, and a bedroom space.



*Precious* (10 years old) is one of the children whose family moved into the Habitat housing project. Her mother Celerina is a cook in our Duterte home. Precious and her mother had been living in temporary housing with extended family members for years and were excited to move into permanent and safe housing. Precious said she could not wait to use the little piece of land between the sidewalk and the front door (8 feet by 13 feet) to have a picnic. This dream is now a reality because her family finally owns a home!

# — HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT —

for CSC Employees

*Walking* into the CSC Happy Homes village, the afternoon breeze moves through the leaves of the plants in front of the new homes. When you are welcomed into one of the houses, you enter a home. Building these 63 Habitat for Humanity homes has taken several years. Although the road was slow and bumpy at times, this project for CSC employees is already changing lives and families. It feels safe and peaceful. It is a quiet space in the middle of the city's noise and bustle.

The turnover ceremony in October 2018 was a joyous day, and there were many smiling faces. Homeowners were joined in celebration by family, friends,

Habitat and CSC staff, donors, and government representatives. It was the culmination of many people working together to make this dream a reality. Nearly half of the families have moved in already. The others are waiting for the final electrical connection to be finished or for the school year to end.

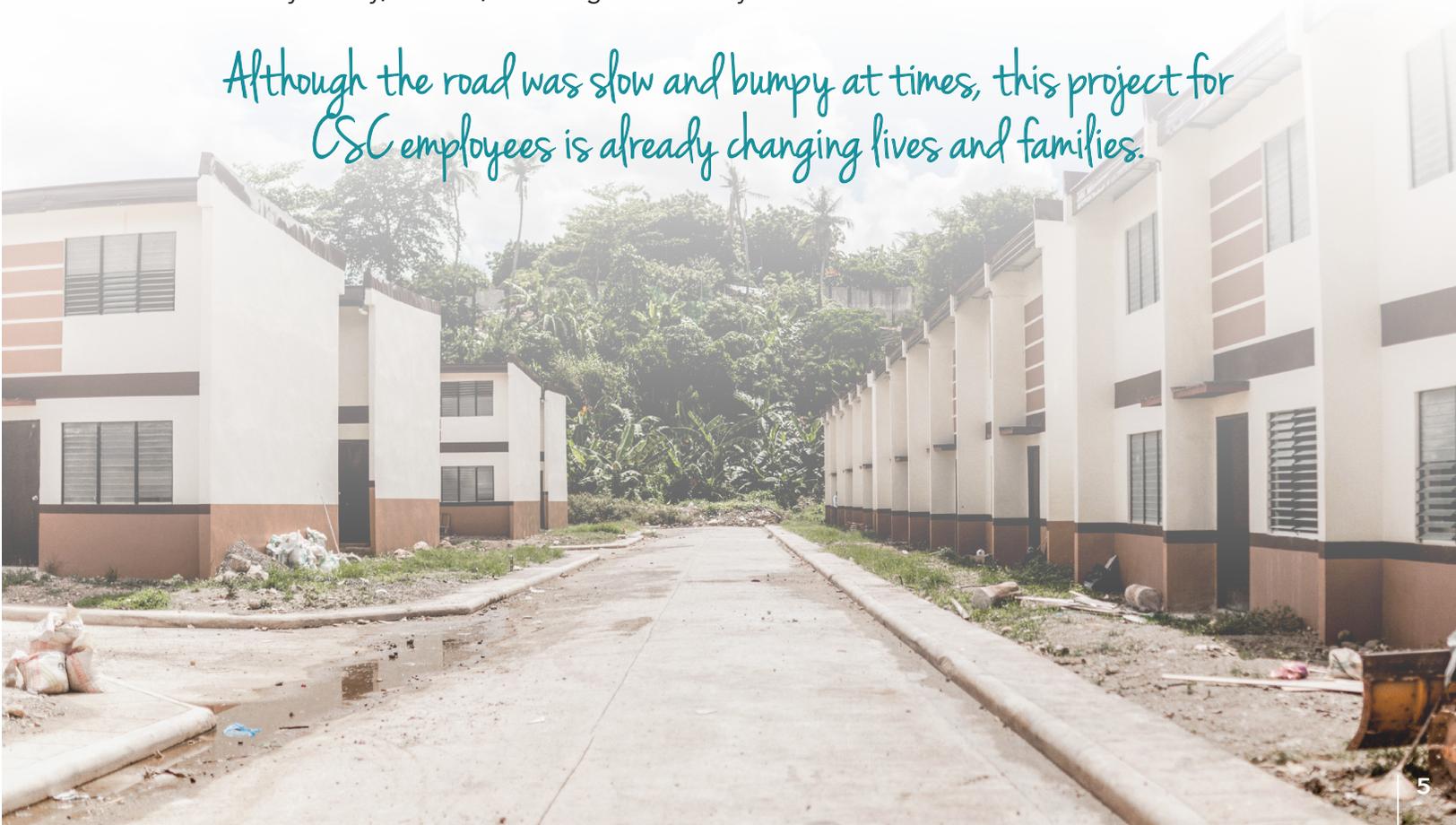
Already children are playing, running, biking, and laughing in the streets. Parents are outside watching their children having fun. People are greeting their neighbors as they come home from



work. This a place where you would want to live.

This cluster of homes is a village and will grow into a community. It is exciting to think how this new community will fit into the surrounding neighborhood in the years to come and how lives will be changed. ■

*Although the road was slow and bumpy at times, this project for CSC employees is already changing lives and families.*



## KIDS' CORNER

### *New Kids:*

**SHENLY (4 MONTHS)** has been at CSC since just a few weeks after her birth. Her 16-year-old birth mother knew there was no way she could provide for her precious baby girl, so she signed the papers to surrender her. CSC employees traveled many hours by boat and ferry to pick up the little one on the Island of Negros. After a long return trip and a medical check-up, followed by some time in the hospital, Shenly is being cared for by our loving group of aunties. We are grateful to welcome her to CSC.

**NOAH (4 MONTHS)** was born in October and came to the shelter shortly thereafter. The Philippine Department of Social Work was involved with the mother during her pregnancy. It was determined to be in the best interest of the child to refer him to CSC shortly after birth. Noah spent some time in the hospital initially and eventually made his way to the shelter. He is now cooing and crying in the nursery.

**JOHN DU (UNKNOWN; POSSIBLY 7)** was found alone by government authorities. He is now at CSC and making the Cherne Residence his home. We have very little information on his background but are working on filling in the gaps and look forward to learning more about John. He is starting school at Cebu Children of Hope (CCHS) after being assessed for his education background. He will be placed in the appropriate setting in school. John is one of many examples why CCHS is so important in being equipped to take in and help kids with a history like his. We gladly welcome John to CSC.



*Shenly*



*Noah*



*John Du*

## Recently left:

**KAYE (10), KYLIE (10) AND TOM (9)** arrived at CSC in 2015. Their birth parents died, and the children were being cared for by their grandmother. She was unable to continue to care for them, so they were brought to CSC. What a giggly group! They were good students and made friends easily at CSC. We saw them grow by leaps and bounds during the three years they lived at CSC. They received the good news that they had an adoptive family and moved to Wisconsin at the end of 2018. One of their first adventures was to play in the snow! We are so thankful for this new start for them. Please pray with us for Kaye, Kylie and Tom as they continue to transition into their new home.

**MICHAEL BRIAN (3)**, who lived in the Eicher Home, was adopted by a family in Norway. He came to CSC as a newborn, and he learned to sit up, crawl, walk and talk at our shelter. We strived to meet the needs of this sweet baby and encourage him every day. His family was so excited to meet him, and we are thankful for the time he was at CSC and for the blessing of his second chance at a family. We pray for his growth and attachment in his new family.

## Leaving soon:

**SHEENA MAE (14)** lived in another shelter in the Philippines, and when it closed, they asked if we'd take her. That was in 2014. She was quiet but quick to smile, and she adjusted well to life at CSC. Now it is difficult to think about her smile not being at the shelter! Sheena Mae has taken on many challenges and done well, including high school. She studies hard and gives 100% effort in all that she does. She hopes to be a teacher or a nurse one day. Sheena just received the exciting news that she has an adoptive family! She is so excited, and we are very happy for her as well. Please pray with us for Sheena Mae and this huge adjustment in her life. She will get to meet her new family in the coming months.



Kaye, Tom & Kylie



Michael



Sheena

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## — Staying Active at CSC —

