

NEWS FROM CEBU

HOPE AND HEALING

CSC is a happy place and is welcoming to our friends and special visitors. But recently that changed for a time as an epidemic of respiratory illness went through the campus.

At one point, the two hospitals nearby were both full, as illness swept through the city. Through a difficult time, everyone pulled together to make sure that our children got the care they needed.

We had to close the gate to anyone but staff for a while as 54 children were isolated in our infirmary and three were hospitalized. Volleyball games on the playground were reduced

to two on two, masks adorned the faces of children and aunties, and CSC vehicles made frequent trips to the doctor or hospital. And the houses were much quieter than usual.

It was a stressful time for Medical Director Marlys Healy and her faithful team of nurses, and for Homelife Director Jinkee Reasoner, as her team scrambled to find child care employees for infirmary and hospital duties.

At one point, the two hospitals nearby were both full, as illness swept through the city. Through a difficult time, everyone pulled together to make sure that our children got the care they needed. And our wonderful infirmary, though stretched to the limit, served us well and helped prevent the further spread of the virus.

continued on Page 3

INSIDE *this issue...*

- 2** Prayer Requests/Praises
- 3** Hope and Healing (continued)
- 4** Leadership in Cebu
- 6** Kids' Korner
- 8** Highlight - Year End Giving



PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS

- We continue to work on our Bridge Program, a life-skills program for residents ages 11 and older. This will give them a significant benefit in their maturity process and preparations for life, whether that is in an adoptive family or in the Philippines. We are excited about this program and ask that God will bless our efforts and that we will be obedient to caring for these children in the best way that we can.

Please pray for our year-end finances. November and December are typically our biggest giving months. It is easy to get overwhelmed with the amount we have yet to raise. Please pray that we trust God to meet our needs.

PRAISES

- Our Cebu Children of Hope School United Nations Day went well. We like to celebrate various countries and their cultures. Our students learn a lot and have fun!

We recently built a multi-purpose building at the main campus with offices, a garage and a space for employees to use between shifts. (Sometimes our child care employees work multiple shifts with a break between, so now they finally have a space to use.) Dedication for the building is this month in Cebu. The building is called the Gleddie Building, named after the late Trevor Gleddie. Trevor was a huge CSC advocate and long-time board member for the Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada. We are thankful for God's abundant blessing and want to use the space to honor Him!



FROM THE DESK OF TIM HOLMBERG, CSC President

There is often no better way to express the impact of the Children's Shelter of Cebu than to hear it from one who experienced it. What follows is a short excerpt from a former resident's story.

"I was six years old, and I don't remember much about my arrival at CSC. I didn't know what CSC was going to be like, but I knew that it would be safe. I didn't have that before. When my brothers and I arrived, the aunties helped us settle in, and we got to clean up. That was the day I learned what a shower was. That night they gave us toothbrushes. We didn't know what they were for. Someone brought coloring books to our room. We had never seen one before. I remember coloring page after page. We had never been on monkey bars or swings, on bikes or roller skates, shot a basket or kicked a soccer ball. I didn't know any of these things even existed.

I wanted to try everything. It was at CSC that I was able to be a little girl again. My big concern was what toy to play with, not what we were going to eat, or how I was going to make it. At CSC I got to eat three meals a day, take a shower, and have my own bed. I got to go to school and learn. My birthday was celebrated with cake and ice cream and gifts. Before that I didn't even know how old I was. I learned that Jesus cares for orphans, that he sees them and does not forget them. I learned my significance and my worth.

I want you to know that you made an impact on me in the four years I lived at CSC, and you continue to make an impact on so many children's lives. Thank you for your enduring and selfless support."

CSC celebrated 40 years of ministry this summer. For many the end of the year is a special time of giving. We ask that you include CSC in your plans as we look forward to another 40 years of providing hope and family to homeless children in Cebu.

HOPE AND HEALING (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

During the height of the sickness, we admitted a two-week-old baby who had a serious infection that required hospitalization. Although the other children have all recovered from their illness and are back in the homes, little Samuel remains in the hospital. When he eventually comes home to CSC, he will need one-on-one care.

At CSC we can give him that care. And we can offer the best medical care available in Cebu to all our children because of our generous supporters whose gifts help pay for doctors' visits, medicines, lab tests, and the care of our CSC nurses, aunties, house parents and child care employees. We never have to cut corners or deny our children the best doctors and medicines. And the prayers of our loving CSC family sustain our children, nurses and child care staff.

Praise to God for his love for CSC and the children to whom we give the very best that we have.



LEADERSHIP IN CEBU:

ROBERTO ATIENZA, FIELD DIRECTOR



We have an amazing leadership team! Roberto is our new Field Director and will oversee all operations in Cebu and supervise the leadership team when Paul Healy retires this next spring.



CSC has been praying and planning for the major change coming with the retirement of Marlys and me from the staff here in Cebu this next spring. The CSC Board of Directors selected a candidate, Roberto Atienza, who came to Cebu with his family in March of this year for a "look see."

Things went well, and Roberto was offered the job of Field Director. He accepted and recently moved to Cebu with his wife Heather and their four children. I am excited to have Roberto here. CSC has chosen the right person for the job of Field Director. Roberto and I are working together to manage this change. I am spending lots of time with him, explaining what we do and why we do it. We have discussed referral issues, manpower needs, new programs, and old traditions. He is learning the names of our employees and their roles at CSC. He is participating in important meetings and planning sessions, and he is learning the culture of CSC and the many ways that we minister to children,



employees, and families. Heather homeschools their children, and they have all settled in well to life in Cebu. The other day I was preparing a message for a preaching opportunity in a local church. My sermon was entitled "Show a Little Kindness." I mentioned that I have been thinking

a lot about what I want my legacy to be here in Cebu. We have beautiful facilities, a program recognized as among the best in the Philippines, and a great staff of talented people who care for these children. But the most important thing I would aspire to is kindness. If CSC is thought of as made up of kind people reflecting the kindness of Jesus, my career has been successful. Roberto Atienza is a kind man. He cares

about people. He demonstrated that attribute in his pastoral work before joining CSC. And he has shown us here in Cebu that his heart is for the children and the employees and all those here who need kindness in their lives. We are so excited to watch him lead this ministry!

THE TRANSITION HAS BEGUN

BY PAUL HEALY

KLARIS CABANSAL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

CSC offers a long list of services, from social work to medical care, therapy, counseling, and child care. We surround the children with good people, programs, and opportunities. This takes a lot of planning and coordination. We are thankful to have Klaris Cabansal as our Program Director. She helps ensure our children get quality care in all our programs and services throughout their time at CSC. Klaris came to CSC in 2016. She had previously worked for an organization that provides innovative services to deaf children and adults. Her three years with us have been times of significant change for the ministry, and her leadership has provided stability as we have introduced new programs and services, welcomed new leaders,



and reorganized our management structure. Klaris provides coaching and supervision to our social work team, attends meetings with other departments, and evaluates

CSC's programs and services. She oversees matching our children for adoption both locally and internationally, so she travels often to Manila for those meetings. She recently headed up the re-licensing and accreditation of CSC with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),

and she serves as a liaison with several government agencies that work with us. The future is bright for CSC in spite of many changes. One of the reasons for this is Klaris. She brings talent, dedication, fresh ideas, and a strong faith to her work, helping CSC strive for and achieve excellence in the care we give the children that God brings into our homes.



Second in command is Klaris Cabansal, our Program Director. Klaris supervises the child-caring side of our leadership team and makes important decisions based on how to best provide for the children in our care.

KIDS' CORNER

Julie Anmarie, Shahana, and Zacarie



JULIE ANMARIE (13), SHAHANA (11), AND ZACARIE (10)

We welcomed a sibling group of three girls: Julie Anmarie (who likes to go by Julie An), Shahana, and Zacarie to our shelter in late August 2019. Their mother took them to a temporary shelter a few years ago and did not return. The nuns who cared for them at the temporary shelter contacted us and asked us to take the girls in. The sisters are settling in well and making new friends. Julie An says she doesn't like school, but she enjoys reading good books. Shahana enjoys playing volleyball and laughing

with friends. And Zacarie has a beautiful singing voice and is eagerly participating in several activities at the shelter. We are so happy to have them at CSC!

Ivan



IVAN (3) AND JERICHO (9 MONTHS)

Ivan and Jericho came to CSC after our social work team was alerted by local police of the boys' situation. Their parents were addicted to drugs and used their children for begging on the streets of Cebu City. The boys initially stayed in our infirmary to receive treatment for their neglected medical needs. They have transitioned into one of the homes on our main campus and are enjoying

the stable, consistent, and

loving care from our aunties (caregivers). Their parents, too, are receiving care, support, and resources from our outreach program. We are grateful we can help these boys (and their parents) in their time of need!

Jericho





ELIJAH (3 MONTHS) Elijah came to CSC when she was only three days old. She goes by her middle name, which is Steffi. She has been very healthy. Steffi is a cuddly baby and always wants to be held by the aunties. She is quite engaging. If they talk to her, she makes little cooing sounds. She is adorable and very well loved by the Duterte Home aunties. What a blessing she is to have.

SAM (NEWBORN) In the midst of major illness at CSC, we were asked to take in a baby named Sam. Sam is the younger brother of Marcus, a three-year-old at CSC. Marcus came to us in 2016. His birthmother realized when Sam was born that she could not properly care for him and

asked us to take him in as well. Sam is a child with medical conditions, and he was hospitalized the day he came to us. We need to determine his long-term medical needs, but regardless of what they are, we will provide for him. Despite being sick for most of his life so far, Sam is a content baby who likes to be cuddled and cared for.



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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO IMPACT THE LIFE OF A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON?

\$35 will provide Christmas presents for a child this year

\$120 feeds one child for an entire month

\$327 provides medicine to all the children at the shelter for a full week

\$425 sponsors a day of school

FOR A FULL LIST OF PROJECTS THAT
NEED FUNDING, SEE OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.CEBUSHELTER.ORG/PROJECTS

