



NEWS FROM CEBU

— THE WAITING IS OVER —

Four years ago, a woman came to our shelter in Cebu City, Philippines and asked us to take care of her infant son. She was unable to parent him and knew we'd meet his needs. Baby Hugh has been a blessing at CSC from the first day! He was a smiley baby and cooed around all the caregivers. We had the privilege of watching his first smile, first step and first word. As

news; Hugh was matched with a family! His future adoptive parents, Boris and Marie, live in Belgium. We worked with the government to prepare Hugh's paperwork. This process normally takes three to six months in the Philippines. However, a few months later, COVID began to spread across the Philippines and around the world. Their adoption process came to a halt when the

that list. Their March appointment at the Philippine Embassy in Belgium was cancelled, and they were told to wait. Boris and Marie were not new to waiting. They had begun the adoption process almost eight years earlier.

They were also not accustomed to giving up. They shared their story with the media and asked their

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he grew, we provided Hugh with shelter, food, love and comfort.

We also continued to pray for his chance at a family. One day in the fall of 2019, we received good

Philippine Embassy stopped issuing visas; foreign travel had been halted. There was a short list of exceptions to the travel restrictions, but to this day adoptive families are not on

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MEET THE *New* CSC PRESIDENT KIRBY STOLL



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Sometimes wouldn't it just be easier to not go through a season of life if we didn't have to? Some seasons—like the one most all of us are in currently—are much more difficult to navigate than others. For example, a Minnesota winter is a tough one to navigate — cold weather, snow, ice and fewer hours of daylight. Yet it does have its moments of beauty, like taking a walk at night in gently falling snow. Such peace can be felt in such harsh conditions. So how can we train ourselves to pause long enough in the current season to experience the beauty that exists there, too?

I believe firmly that the answer is in where we put our hope. Our God is in control of all the seasons of life and we would do well to listen to Him and to draw close to Him in the changing seasons, whatever they may be for me or for you.

"He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." Daniel 2:21

I have long prayed that I would be faithful to God's calling on my life to stay where He puts me for as long as He wants me to stay, and when He calls me to go, move or change, that I would be obedient and go wherever He would lead. For 19 years I stayed and faithfully served at University of Northwestern – St. Paul, and what wonderful years those were. Then, I felt God's overwhelming call on my life to be open to a coming change that would lead me to CSC. And now I look forward to how God will work in my life and through all of us in the coming years. I believe God has a great future planned for CSC!

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9



I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead CSC into its next season and for the privilege it is to walk alongside all of you as you join us on the journey. I have had the opportunity already to meet with and pray with many of our supporters. My prayer for you today is that as you navigate the "seasons" of life—whatever they may be—that you never grow weary of doing the good that God has called all of us to do.

For all these years God has had His hand on CSC and I believe He will continue to provide for all our needs through friends like you. Trust in His wisdom—Great Is His Faithfulness!

Serving Him,
Kirby Stoll

PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES

CAROLYN ANDERSON CSC BOARD CHAIR:



I have had the privilege of serving as a fellow Board member with Kirby for more than 3 years. On every issue, I came to trust and look for his perspective, insights, and wisdom. As we looked for a new President, we as a Board, along with our staff, supporters, and departing leaders, put much prayer into who would lead and guide the ministry in its next steps. I am grateful and excited that Kirby emerged as and was selected to lead CSC. *We are in good hands with Kirby in leadership and with God's guidance and grace as we move forward to touch the lives and embrace as family the children we have been called to serve.*



PAUL HEALY CO-FOUNDER

I speak for not only Marlys and me, but all the leaders and workers in Cebu when I say that we are excited to have Kirby

leading CSC. *He is a man of deep faith, he loves CSC and has been a board member and faithful supporter of the ministry for many years. He has been to Cebu and brings a passion and excitement for what we do.* And he has a wealth of fundraising experience, having worked for many years on the development team at Northwestern in St. Paul, MN.

These are challenging days for all ministries, and CSC is no exception. But we are in good hands with our new President, Kirby Stoll, and I join our Filipino leaders and our Field Director, Roberto Atienza, in thanking God for leading Kirby to us and in looking forward to how God will bless CSC in the years to come.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray with us 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 this year, especially with COVID impacting so much, but we serve a God who is faithful and believe He will continue to meet our needs!
- We'd love your prayers for a few children who are struggling behaviorally. Some of these children are working through trauma in their past, and it sometimes comes out in behavior. Please pray they will trust our caregivers and for patience for our employees working with these children.

PRAISES

- We've had no cases of COVID on campus so far! What a blessing this has been. We have some children who are immunocompromised and at higher risk. We are so thankful to the Lord for good health so far!
- We are so thankful for the community that is CSC! This includes our employees, the children, former residents, adoptive families and our donors! We thank God for all of you!



Although this process took so much longer than anyone anticipated, they are thrilled to finally be together.

government for help. They wanted the world to remember the plight of orphans and adoptive families during the pandemic. Last month, they received word that they could travel to meet their son, Hugh. After some delays arriving in the country and a very tense moment at immigration, they finally got to meet their son!

Hugh, like all children his age, was curious and shy when he first met his family. Could this really be the same people in all of the photographs and Skype meetings? After more than a year of virtual contact, Hugh warmed up quickly. The shyness melted away into hugs and high fives in no time. The family played games together

in our Gleddie building while Hugh happily held a plush green dinosaur, a gift from his new parents and his new older sister. Normally families can play in CSC's playground or bond while running around the large grassy area between our homes. But during this time of lockdowns and quarantines, this meet-up took place in CSC's conference room. Even still, the smaller space couldn't diminish the love, joy, and happiness felt by everyone present.

After a heart-felt farewell ceremony, they drove out of our green gates and down the windy road that leads away from the shelter. Hugh was wide-eyed as he looked at his surroundings—another new

experience! Through the entire car ride, he held his new sister's hand and wore a smile on his face. The excitement of the day eventually wore him out, and halfway to the hotel he fell asleep, surrounded by his new family.

Although this process took so much longer than anyone anticipated, they are thrilled to finally be together. They also hope their story will be an inspiration to other adoptive families who are unable to travel during this pandemic. With much prayer, patience, and diligence, they were able to hopefully pave the way for other families. ■

MEET THE MARTINEZ FAMILY

CSC has had a big impact on the lives of many children in Cebu over the past 41 years. And we have given opportunity and hope for individuals and families by offering meaningful employment to hundreds of people. We have hired social workers, nurses, therapists, teachers, accountants, house parents, child care employees, maintenance, office staff and drivers. CSC has touched the lives of hundreds of people in Cebu over the years.

his life. His mom was beside herself with worry, as she was unable to buy the medicine he needed. We bought the needed antibiotic, and Jessie eventually recovered. And CSC began a relationship with the Martinez family.

When we began taking children in, we needed an employee to help. We had gotten to know LitLit Martinez and she became CSC's very first official Filipino employee. Soon, as we began taking in more children

had 11 employees from the Martinez clan over the years. CSC appreciates the hard work and dedication of these employees. And it's been an incredible blessing for all of these employees, who have earned a good living for their families, being able to climb out of poverty and provide their children the opportunity to go to school and live in decent housing. (Five Martinez family members received homes through the Habitat project.)

The CSC – Martinez relationship has been a part of the success of CSC over the years.

In 1979, when the ministry started in Bulacao, and before we began taking in children, we helped struggling families in our neighboring communities, helping malnourished and sick children get the food and medicine they needed. One of the families we helped was the Martinez family. The youngest, Jessie, was in the government hospital with pneumonia, fighting for

we needed additional help, so we added LitLit's sister Perry. In the years to come we hired many of the Martinez family members to help with the growing ministry. There was Noy Teo, who was a guard. Later we hired Edwin as a driver, then Dodong and Eboy as maintenance men and drivers. In time, as the Martinez boys and Perry got married, we hired their spouses, too. In total we have

The CSC – Martinez relationship has been a part of the success of CSC over the years. They have provided loving care for our children, driven them where they needed to go, kept the homes clean and safe and provided security for the CSC compound. God bless the Martinez clan! ■



OUR SCHOOL DURING LOCKDOWN

One of the big topics around the world during the pandemic has been education. How can children continue to receive a good education and stay safe at the same time? Thankfully, at CSC we can answer this question quite easily. God has blessed us with amazing facilities, and we have dedicated teachers willing to volunteer to stay inside the shelter during the lockdown.

In March when our lockdown began, we were starting our fourth and final quarter of school. Cris Tabra, our principal, and two other teachers taught our nearly 60 school-age children. It was all hands on deck as social workers, aunties, nurses, and houseparents all helped out to finish the school year with success! More teachers were added during the summer break to help organize structured projects and activities for the children and to prepare for the coming school year.

Then, at the beginning of August, we started our 2020-2021 school year. More living rooms, offices, and a gazebo were converted into classrooms, and the teachers creatively figured out how they could use their curriculum and teaching resources.

Our amazing teachers educate our children daily as CSC goes into the eighth month of lockdown. We have had to combine a few of our grades into one bigger class due to having fewer teachers, but despite that, we are continuing to see great progress and growth from our students!

Our preschool class, consisting of eight children ages four and five, are working with Teacher Cris in the Therapy Room, which

is located under the Duterte home. Michael and Shine, two of our older residents at the shelter, assist Teacher Cris in the morning with the preschool class and then work on their high school studies in the afternoon and evening. They are a great help in the classroom as they know the preschoolers well, and the students like the extra attention!

The other classes are spread out around the CSC campus, with most classes



meeting in the living rooms and dining rooms of the three houses. The students have been very helpful in moving furniture around daily to “create” their classroom and then putting things back so the spaces can be used for lunchtime.

The main stars of this school year have been our students. Although most of them don’t understand the full weight of a worldwide pandemic, they have stayed positive and look forward to class each day. This year we have 37 students who attend Cebu Children of Hope School (CCHS) for preschool through sixth grade. We also homeschool our high school students, who have not been able to attend their regular classes at a local high school. We have 20 high schoolers, this year which is more than CSC has ever had in its 41 years of service.

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If you were at the shelter peeking into the different classes, you would see amazing lessons happening just like any other school year. Last week Teacher Bryan’s second graders saw butterflies break out of their cocoons (the houseparents and aunties in the Duterte home also loved seeing this amazing process). The third graders in Teacher Michelle’s class were venturing around the shelter, trying to classify living and nonliving things. During math class, Teacher Lyrah’s first graders were using beans to figure out what numbers can be combined to make “6.” Our fifth and sixth graders were working together during science to answer the question, “How can you use engineering to solve a problem?” God’s grace is seen daily at the shelter in all of the classrooms with students reaching new heights and understanding new things about themselves and the complex world that God made. ■



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Cebu Address:
Box 178, Cebu City
6000 Philippines

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

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED *Sponsoring a Child* AT CSC?



Our child sponsorship program provides five updates each year on the child you are matched with. The children receive the security that comes from knowing people across the world care about them. The sponsors receive the joy of knowing that they are making a difference in the life of a child. And CSC receives financial help for the purchase of food, medicine, and other needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact us at **651.493.1551**
or visit cebushelter.org/donate/sponsor-a-child
to get started today!