



# NEWS FROM CEBU

## MGA TUNAY NA BAYANI [THE TRUE HEROES]

If you're a fan of action films, then you're familiar with the classic "hard-work montage" and the concept of heroes. In the "hard-work montage," the main characters do everything they can to prepare for the inevitable arrival of the bad guys. They build up their defenses, take stock of their supplies, train up their people, and

prepare for the worst-case scenario (often a fateful last stand and/or a desperate escape). Larger-than-life heroes flex their muscles on screen, don their capes, and supervise the frantic preparations, all the while keeping a weathered eye on the horizon for signs of the enemy.

At CSC, we've had a prolonged "hard-work montage" play out over the past year and a half. As the Philippines continued its country-wide quarantine, and as the shelter continued its lockdown, everyone at CSC has been praying and preparing. We made plans and contingencies should the coronavirus find its way inside of our walls. Many long meetings, many nights of prayer,

and many long phone calls have allowed us to prepare our defenses, train up our people, and prepare for the worst-case scenario. Our school, the Cebu Children of Hope School, was transformed into a quarantine facility. Employees began taking turns living on site for five to six weeks at a time. Personal protective

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# FROM THE DESK OF KIRBY STOLL, President



Gratitude (noun)

grat·i·tude | \ 'gra-tə-, tūd

: a feeling of appreciation or thanks

Let me express my sincere gratitude for all your help.

I am so grateful for you and for all you do to support the mission and ministry work of CSC. How can I say it enough?! Thank you for standing with CSC with your prayer and financial support. Thank you for putting your trust in CSC with the resources you've been entrusted to steward.

Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

We are certainly thankful for God's provision each

*"Gratitude is the most fruitful way of deepening your consciousness that you are not an accident, but a divine choice. Every time we decide to be grateful it will be easier to see new things to be grateful for." Henri Nouwen*

and every day. This year has been no exception. Each day requires financial resources to be expended: food for our children, pay for our employees, medicine, schooling, outreach efforts within our Cebu community. The resources you provide are God's provision to CSC given through your hands. Thank you!

This time of year is exciting for all of us at CSC, and we hope you will share with us in this excitement. We remain committed to making the end of year a celebratory time that is filled with thankfulness and joy.

I am excited for the paths that God will have us all walk down in the coming year. Stay tuned as we roll out a new strategic initiative that will help CSC fulfill its mission in an even greater way! ■

Serving Him,  
**Kirby Stoll**





equipment was stockpiled, and staff were trained on what to do should anyone begin to show signs of COVID-19.

Last month, our enemy arrived. One of our staff left our shelter after completing her weeks-long rotation. Two days after leaving, she began to feel ill. We encouraged her to seek medical attention, and when she arrived at the local hospital she was tested for coronavirus. Her test results came back positive. With limited contact with others after

hospital. They had come to test everyone inside of the shelter. As is procedure in the Philippines, the LGU completely locked down the shelter, putting caution tape on our gates and barring anyone from entering or exiting. We had made plans to ensure that supplies and support would continue flowing to the shelter in the event of a government-imposed lockdown and that communication, care, and necessities would not be interrupted. Last month, those

Auntie Conie who volunteered to care for children who tested positive for coronavirus, even though she herself tested negative. Another is Auntie Jenelyn who cared for a cute two-year-old toddler 24/7 with no relief or replacement. They, and all the staff at CSC, are heroes. They stood their ground in the face of trial and difficulty.

All of you are also our heroes. Your prayers and support empower us to provide the care that our kids need. You are the

*As of this newsletter printing, we've had 32 positive cases of COVID inside the shelter (including staff and children). Thankfully, all of these individuals were either asymptomatic or had mild symptoms. We realize that we could have more positive cases of COVID in the future, but we will continue to work to reduce further spread.*

leaving CSC, we had to assume the worst.

We immediately put our plans into action. One of our homes—Cherne Home—was turned into an isolation area for any children or staff who tested positive. The local government (LGU) arrived at CSC's gates the day after the positive coronavirus test was reported by the

plans were put to the test.

By the grace of God, our plans worked. They worked because CSC has its own heroes. These heroes don't wear capes, and they don't have superpowers. At CSC, our real heroes are the caregivers—"Aunties" and "Uncles" who have made it their purpose and priority to provide loving, Christ-centered care to our children no matter the circumstance. One example is

muscle behind the heroic deeds of our caregivers. Thank you for helping us make it through one of the most difficult times we've faced during this pandemic. Para sa inyong sakripisyo sa panahon ng krisis dulot ng COVID-19, maraming salamat po (for your sacrifice during this time of crisis due to COVID-19, thank you)! ■



# SOCIAL WORKER: Ale Olimpo

*Social* Worker Alenaire “Ale” Olimpo joined CSC’s team in May 2021. She believes that children deserve a family. She wants to take part in helping build a child’s future and believes that helping our children at CSC is her act of

service to God. She received training on alternative family care and legal adoption as a college intern assigned to the Adoption Resource and Referral Section (ARRS) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in her region. She also brings experience as a medical social worker. Ale traveled by land and sea from Leyte to Cebu to take this post. Being locked in at CSC has given

her a unique opportunity to understand the mission of CSC. She has enjoyed getting to know each of the children. Like them, she is learning to eat more vegetables (and is excited to order fast food when she has a chance to rotate out to work from home). She enjoys playing with the children, claiming that after a stressful day, seeing the children melts away the concerns from the day.

*She is detail-oriented and laughs easily, making her an easy person to work with. Growing up in the Faith and with values instilled by her family, she believes that God has the future laid out for each and every person.*





Ale assists by facilitating or coordinating activities for other team members working from home. She was hesitant about taking over a full caseload, but she has been able to adjust and even successfully presented a case for local matching. In less than six months, Ale has significantly contributed to CSC, assisting in organizing data and documents required for submission to the government. She is detail-oriented and laughs easily, making her an easy person to work with.

Growing up in the Faith and with values instilled by her family, she believes that God has the future laid out for each and every person. She is working to just do her part and leave the rest to God. Whether in a time of joy or pain, she relies on God to assist her and work through her in making a difference in one child's life. ■

Ginda  
↳

Princess  
↳ Ann



Ryan  
↳



# PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISES

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- We ask God to continue to keep the children and employees safe and healthy within CSC. As mentioned in the cover article, we've had cases of COVID at the shelter. We are thankful that these cases were either asymptomatic or had mild symptoms.
- We are headed into the final two months of our giving year. November and December are "make it or break it" months. Expenses are higher, and our need to have a fully funded budget is pressing. As much as 40% of our annual budget comes in the last three months of the year. Please pray with us for the finances to meet our needs and for the people who will join in to make this happen.
- Ginda was recently hospitalized and is now back at CSC, but she still has not fully recovered. She is wheelchair bound and has cerebral palsy, so simple viral and bacterial infections impact her health more seriously. Please pray with us for healing and strength.

## PRAISES

- We are praising God for some growth within a few children at CSC. Ryan has been staying on task, helping in his home, and is even making strides in using a conversational voice. Princess Ann has made improvements in spelling. Khrislouie was new to preschool this year, and he has had a tremendous start by staying on task and actively listening. These developments might seem small, but we are thankful to God for these small steps of improvement.
- We are so thankful for our staff and their dedication to these children. We recently hired a few new Social Workers and a new Educational Specialist. These employees are a huge blessing, and we are so excited to have them on staff, with new energy to help us provide holistic care.



# CLASSROOM Highlights

We have 39 students from Preschool to Grade 6 at the Cebu Children of Hope School. Soon, our toddler program, which will include eight students, will start up again. We also have 20 junior high students attending school online through a local program and two students in an online high school program. The total number of students at CSC will be 69 as of the end of this calendar year. During lockdown, our teachers have had to get creative in finding appropriate classroom space and utilizing that space the best way they can for teaching!



## Teacher Lyrah's class

Currently meeting: Home Life office | 4 Students

The class is learning common and proper nouns through grammar, games and music, mathematical addition, and understanding that scientific inventions make our lives better.



## Teacher Bryan's class

Currently meeting: Duterte Home basement | 5 Students

The class is learning words with prefixes, problem-solving using the three-part model, and learning to describe the different landforms in the Philippines and share their favorite landforms.

## Teacher Kristine's class

Currently meeting: Gazebo near Cherne Home | 5 Students

The class is learning what makes a good citizen, how to add whole numbers, and rounding.



classwork with  
lots of smiles!



## Teacher Michelle's class

Currently meeting: Duterte Home living room | 9 Students  
The class is learning to use a TREE graphic organizer to plan a summary, multiplication, distributive property, and different types of models in science.



## Teacher Merce's class

Currently meeting: Jerry and Eldie's office (next to the washroom) | 3 Students  
The class is learning decimal grids, comparing and contrasting the physical properties of two objects, peer editing, and more about the distribution of the population in the Philippines.



## Teacher Mae's class

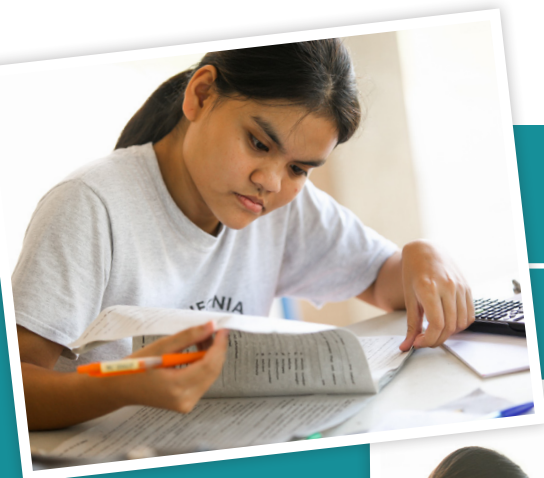
Currently meeting: Duterte Home basement | 3 Students  
The class is learning to read a pre-decodable book, identifying and describing the five senses, and knowing oneself.

## Teacher Alfie & Teacher Cris

Currently meeting: Cherne Home living room | 10 Students  
The class is learning sorting and classifying through play.



# HIGH SCHOOL





# NEWS FROM CEBU

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## THANKSGIVING SERVICE October 2021

We just held a Thanksgiving service at the shelter to thank God for his continued protection and blessings. We had worship time, a word from our Field Director Roberto, and some of the children shared the ways in which they have felt God's protection during this time.

