



NEWS FROM CEBU

BUILDING THEIR FUTURE:

Meeting the Needs of Our Older Residents

Our newsletters typically cover a variety of topics and happenings at our shelter and school in Cebu, Philippines. This newsletter, however, has one focus – our older residents. We have the highest number of older residents at the shelter that we have ever had in our 45-year history! In response to this, we are expanding our programs and facilities to meet

work team, counselors, and house parents work to better prepare and equip these older residents on-site, we are also breaking ground on a new facility to help meet their housing needs and bolster their independence. Inside this newsletter, you'll find more information on the life skills program, more about the new



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the needs of these older teens and young adults.

Our leadership team and board of directors have put these older residents at the focal point of our strategic initiative. While our social

home we are building, the reasons for and value of this exciting new venture, and how you can help. These are exciting times at CSC, and we are thrilled to share with you all that God is doing. ■

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— Improving Our LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM —



EUNICE GUINANOY
Program Director

The improved and expanded program will help accommodate youth in the shelter for further case management and provision of services focused on independence, self-worth, dignity, and a sustainable and healthy future. The program will better meet the needs of the residents, as it is designed to simulate the conditions of living independently in the community in preparation for their eventual emancipation. The program will provide opportunity and new hope for the older residents to continue achieving their goals and dreams in life by letting them maneuver their plans and decisions. It will guide them with their transitions and allow them to learn firsthand the basics, as simple as the daily living activities and decisions they have to make every day as young adults. It includes education, medical care, mentoring, life skills training, financial and career planning, and job readiness and preparation that provide more focus on independence and autonomy. I'm so excited to see these older youth grow and mature with these extended programs and life skills!

CSC has a history of placing many children for adoption, and we have tried to prepare them for that as a strong possibility for their lives. But as the population of children who are too old to be adopted has grown, we have changed our programming to focus more on life skills for these residents. These life skills include vocational training, household tasks (cooking, fixing automobiles, learning to build or weld items, etc.), financial management (creating a personal budget, how to save money, etc.) and social skills (how to make and be a good friend, dating, and more). These important topics are typically taught by parents in a nuclear family, but for these residents, CSC is their family. So we continue to work toward improving services for the residents we serve.



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY OLDER RESIDENTS?

There are a variety of reasons we have so many older residents at the shelter. The landscape of adoption has changed, and fewer older kids are being adopted internationally. The pandemic also put a hold on adoption through the Filipino government, and a number of children grew too old to be adopted. At the same time, fewer shelters in the Philippines are taking in older kids (some have an age maximum of six years old for admission). CSC receives more referrals for sibling groups and older children. Our mission and amazing support have allowed us to offer a home to these children. ■





In an effort to promote autonomy, we are building a new home with more independent living.

— Their NEW HOME —

We are committed to these residents and their needs. Along with life skills, we saw a need for a different type of housing for these residents. In an effort to promote autonomy, we are building a new home with more independent living. The new facility, located on a separate property closer to the downtown area of Cebu, will be the largest building CSC has ever built. It will offer both dorm-style and apartment-style housing for these young adults. The location also allows for easy access to work, education, and public services. We hope this space fosters a nurturing and supportive environment that allows them to thrive as they transition into adulthood.

Residents will be provided with the tools and equipment needed for them to excel, removing boundaries to academic success. Strong and stable internet will be available in all spaces, along with adequate study furniture and rooms. This is more than the average Filipino often has access to but is in line with CSC's desire for our kids to dream big in terms of their future careers, with CSC aiming to provide educational tuition assistance and on-the-job training opportunities through local business partners.

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE?

Summer 2024



WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THIS BUILDING?

For the first time ever, CSC will offer residential housing with a combination of dorm- and apartment-style living arrangements. The apartment-style units will have separate living spaces, kitchens, bathrooms, and bedrooms. Initially we'll have six older residents residing in these two units, but there is room for one to two more in each unit. The dorm-style units will have shared bathrooms and common areas with private bedrooms. We could house up to 20 residents in this section, but initially we'll have 14 young adults moving in here when it opens. **Besides this innovative approach to housing, the new facility will offer:**

- Generous open spaces for individual and group gatherings
- Permanent housing for on site house parents and rotating staff
- All floors accessible with ramps
- Large multi-purpose meeting room to accommodate 80-90 people
- Onsite infirmary
- Onsite therapy and counseling services
- Library and technology resource center



ROBERTO ATIENZA *Field Director*

Many of us have heard the old adage about fishing – how handing out fish is less desirable and less effective

than giving fishing lessons. Hope and empowerment are difficult things to catch in the vast ocean of a child's life. It can be handed out to a degree, but teaching a child to find this on their own and be able to produce it in both calm and stormy seas is the nobler task, albeit a far more difficult one.

Standing on the shores of their future, we prayerfully instill hope in the hearts of these young men and women for the future and empowerment for them to

live healthy, sustainable, and God-honoring lives. This program for our older residents does much more than just teach our children how to survive on their own. It encourages and empowers them to know that they can hope for a bright future and that they can achieve their goals and weather the ups and downs of life.

This new space will be home to our Independent Living Program, preparing our young people to launch into a beautiful adulthood, and our Semi-Independent Living Program, which will allow our long-term adult residents with special needs to live with dignity and self-worth. It's more than just a new fishing rod; it's a bright hope for a better tomorrow. Thank you for joining us in this massive undertaking. May God be honored and glorified in all that we do. ■

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We started increasing our life skills programming during the pandemic, but we continue to improve it, based on the ever-changing needs of the young adults in our shelter. As you read on the earlier pages, we broke ground on the new building and will have 20 young adults ready to move into the new building at the time of opening next summer. The hope is that our programming and housing will be a training ground to encourage independence so these residents can eventually lead healthy and thriving lives in the Philippines, apart from CSC. In order to make this new building a reality, we need to raise funds to finish the project.



WHAT IS THE AMOUNT LEFT TO FUND THIS PROJECT?

CSC owns the land already, and we have some savings set aside for this, but we still need approximately \$600,000 to fully fund the construction efforts on the property.

↪ Construction has started, but we have a long way to go!

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

As we work to provide the best services possible for our growing group of young adults, we strive to create programs and facilities that will allow them to be prepared to live healthy adult lives in the Philippines. Twenty residents will immediately be impacted by the building when it first opens.





KIRBY STOLL
President

It was a steamy 88°F under the tent where we gathered on the site of CSC’s newest home and office complex for a groundbreaking service this past May. The most special guests of the day were the 20 young adults who will call this their home.

The experience left me thinking, “How can you quantify the future impact of human potential cultivated, nurtured and launched?” Only God knows the answer.

How can you quantify the future impact of human potential cultivated, nurtured and launched?

I’m just happy to know that all of us at CSC are committed to being a part of their journey.

CSC is “all in” when it comes to providing our young adults a firm foundation on which to build a life rooted in Jesus and nurtured in a supportive environment, helping them become the people God created them to be.

Will you join us in this journey by giving a donation specifically for this new building? Every bit helps as we work toward that goal! ■

Our team and the older residents during the Groundbreaking Ceremony! ↗



HOW TO DO I GIVE? To donate or learn more about this project, please visit our website: cebushelter.org/newbuilding

You may also use the enclosed envelope to send in your gift. Your contribution will make a lasting impact. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support, and we look forward to building this home with your help.

Will you please join us in prayer and also consider if you might feel called to participate with a financial gift? An envelope is enclosed with special instructions. Thank you for helping us build a better future for these children and young adults.



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PRAYER REQUESTS *and* PRAISES



PRAISE REPORTS

- We have had three children leave for adoption recently. These children have longed for the chance at a family, and we praise God for this opportunity.
- The students from our Children of Hope School are wrapping up their summer activities. What a blessed summer it has been! Praise the Lord for continued safety through all of this and for laughter and fun.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- As we embark on this huge journey to construct this new building for our older residents, we ask for God's direction in all of the decisions and for the finances. Please pray that we follow His lead through it all.
- Please pray for discernment for our social work and leadership team as they navigate possible admissions to the shelter.