

# NEWS FROM CEBU

## FROM WAITING TO BELONGING:

### *A Heartwarming Tale of Adoption*

*A child* leaving the shelter for adoption is always a joyous occasion. Recently, a family traveled to Cebu to meet and adopt one of our sibling groups, Dioswa and Lester, and there was so much excitement! We've had a smaller number of adoptions in recent years, due to the pandemic, so the excitement level was elevated even more. And these

and Lester that they were going to be adopted, their faces lit up with sheer joy, and they eagerly shared the good news with everyone at the shelter. They were able to "meet" their new parents over video calls in the months of waiting for placement day. As the long-awaited day drew near, they couldn't contain their anticipation, repeatedly inquiring about the arrival of their new family.

see how their parents, especially their Dad, connected and related to the unique characteristics of the boys. For example, we shared that the boys are active and do not seem to sit still, always moving! Their Dad chimed in and said, "Just like me!" The boys love to read books and are always curious and eager to hear answers to their questions.

*continued on page 2*

*When we shared the news with Dioswa + Lester that they were going to be adopted, their faces lit up with joy!*

two boys in particular are full of energy. They were most frequently riding around on their scooters and bikes, climbing to the top of everything, and sometimes taking a few risky playground moves. When we shared the news with Dioswa

Finally, the day arrived, and they got to meet them. The newness of the situation only slightly dampened their boisterous energy levels. The staff at CSC shared fun stories about the boys and their time at the shelter and school. It was great to

## INSIDE *this issue...*

- |   |                       |     |                                   |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 2 | President's Column    | 5   | School 25 <sup>th</sup> Highlight |
| 3 | Sports at CSC         | 6-7 | About Our Kids                    |
| 4 | Specialized Education | 8   | 2024 Summer Event                 |

# FROM THE DESK OF KIRBY STOLL, *President*



My heart has felt a bit more “fatherly” over the past month. I have had more opportunities than before to be there for my children as they have faced challenges big and small. I have learned to pray for my children in some very tangible ways and offer advice as well. I think a lot about the children at CSC and the verses from Psalm 139 that say,

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”*

I know there are children at CSC who cannot seem to grasp what this means and the hope it brings. Some, because of prior trauma, have a difficult time trusting the parent figures in their lives. Please join me in praying for the children at CSC. Pray that they will seek God first and allow those around them to help them through their struggles.

Blessings,  
Kirby Stoll

*WAITING TO BELONGING continued from cover*

Their Dad said, “That is so me!” The new family spent valuable time together in the Philippines, getting to know each other better before embarking on their journey to their new home in Washington DC.

When it was time to say goodbye, Dioswa gave a heartfelt message to the Aunties and Uncles who cared for them. He cried when he gave his message of thanks for their patience in caring for them. He was grateful for the fact that even when he liked to do things his way, the Aunties and Uncles still loved him. We are immensely grateful for this loving adoptive family and the boundless opportunities that await these young boys as they embrace a hopeful and promising future. ■



# Sports AT CSC

Physical activities at the shelter are both popular and essential. This includes organized sports like soccer, basketball or volleyball. It also includes free play on the playground equipment, riding scooters, bikes, wave board and trikes. The playground at the shelter is an active place! ■





# — TWENTY FIVE years of specialized education —

*Twenty Five* years ago, we saw the need for a school at CSC, to meet the educational needs of our residents. The children living at the shelter were attending school in the local community. Some of them came to the shelter quite behind academically, and they were struggling to catch up. We were able to build the school just a short walk from the shelter,

allowing the students to walk back and forth to school, returning for lunch midday at the shelter. Our school has seen many improvements over the years. We have expanded the staff, improved curriculum, and worked to meet the needs of the students on an individualized basis. Our low student to teacher ratios of around 7:1 allow us to help children catch up academically and meet individualized goals. Each

child has regular conferences to monitor their progress, and those in their lives attend, including house parents, teachers, home life staff and others. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the school, we held a special celebration. In addition to a program with speeches and videos, we had many fun activities with the children, including arts and crafts, Filipino games and dances.



# Celebrating 25 YEARS

Snapshots of our  
25th Celebration!



## A SPEECH FROM GEORGIA

*One of our Graduating Students*

"Life is a bit like a journey where we experience both good times and tough times. We have moments of success and moments of struggle. But through it all, we never gave up. I used to be a student at CCHS, just like many of you. I faced challenges similar to what many of you are going through. I remember how challenging math was for me when I first attended this school, even though I had already learned math at a different school. Math felt like a big problem that was really hard to solve. Receiving low scores on my math assignments made me feel sad. But I didn't give up. With time, patience, help from my dedicated teacher, and God's guidance, I started to understand math better. As days turned into weeks and weeks into months, math began to make more sense to me. It was like transforming math from a tough opponent into something I could handle. As I progressed through high school, I became more proficient in math and gained a deeper understanding of it.

My experience proves that even in the face of challenges, we can remain resilient and persevere. Although I may not be fully aware of the specific challenges you're facing, I want to encourage every student at CCHS to keep going, no matter what. When things are tough, remember to find comfort and guidance from God. Just as Winston Churchill said, 'Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.' With this in mind, I want to leave you with comforting words from 1 Corinthians 15:7: 'But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.'

Let these words inspire you as you move forward, recalling the theme of our 25th-anniversary celebration. Thank you."



# UPDATE ON OUR KIDS

## SAYING HELLO

This summer, we welcomed a sibling group of three children to the shelter.

### AMARA QUIN (TWO YEARS) "AMARA"

Amara, one of the twins, loves playing peek-a-boo with our aunties. Amara also likes to join the aunties during their Zumba session. She loves to dance! She is a happy and healthy girl and has adjusted well at the shelter.

### AMARI DUKE (TWO YEARS) "DUKE"

Her twin brother, Duke, is a courageous little man. Duke has many serious health concerns that we are working to address. Within the first week of coming to the shelter, Duke underwent surgery on his brain. He healed well and was a trooper. His unyielding spirit in the face of adversity has captured the hearts of all who meet him. CSC will continue to meet his medical needs as they arise. When Duke hears his name called, a shy smile comes across his face, so the staff like to call out his name in an endearing drawn-out way: "Duuuuuke!" The twins turned two years old this fall.

### NOVELYN (ALMOST ONE YEAR OLD) "NOVIE"

This little cutie pie possesses a contagious smile. At just six months old, she exhibited remarkable determination, sitting upright without support and pulling herself up. Novie has a sweetness about her personality that can't be missed.

Please pray with us for their futures.

We are blessed to be a

Amara ↙



↙ Duke



Novelyn ↗

Jon, Rob & Ford were reunited  
↪ with their birth family!

## SAYING GOODBYE

### FORD AND ROB (ALMOST SEVEN-YEAR-OLD TWINS) & JON JOSEPH (13 YEARS)

We admitted a sibling group of three boys back in 2019. Their mother was young and needed help to get back in a situation where she could provide for her children. As we worked to meet the needs of the boys, their mother was offered resources and support. After a few years, with the government's approval, the boys were reunited with their biological family! We are so excited for the boys and their chance to be able to grow up with their biological family. Please continue to pray for the boys, this adjustment and their future. We are thankful to God for the chance to play a small part in their lives.



Khrislouie moved to France with  
his adoptive family!  
↪

### KHRISLOUIE (SIX YEARS OLD)

Khrislouie came to CSC as a newborn in 2017. We have had the opportunity to see him grow into a sweet and smart little boy. He loved preschool and school. He was a good listener and loved stories and matching games. We were excited to tell him that he had an adoptive family ready to meet him! Around his sixth birthday, this family finally received the approval to be able to travel to bring Khrislouie home to France.



Matthew moved to Spain with  
his adoptive family! ↪

### MATTHEW (FOUR YEARS OLD) "MATMAT"

In 2019, we were asked to take in a newborn named Matthew. He grew to be a playful boy who enjoyed the company of other children and liked running around the playground with them. While he was with us, Matthew spent a lot of time riding his bike and learning how to play basketball. He was very excited to meet his new family from Spain.



small part of their lives!

# NEWS FROM CEBU

Fall 2023 | Volume 46 | Issue 3

NEWS FROM CEBU is published three times annually by Children's Shelter of Cebu, a nonprofit, Christian organization dedicated to providing for the needs of homeless children in Cebu, Philippines.

**Cebu Address:**  
Box 178, Cebu City  
6000 Philippines

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

## Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now for our annual gathering on **Saturday, June 15, 2024** at Bethel University. We plan to have a full weekend with support for adoptive parents, gatherings for former residents, and our annual summer celebration for donors and anyone interested in learning more about the ministry.

