



## Therapists Bring Hope to CSC Kids

Speech Therapy   Mobility   Life Skills   Adaptive Technology   Socialization   Positioning

The Children of Hope School is an inclusive school, designed for all of our children regardless of abilities and limitations.

CSC children have a variety of special needs that affect their ability to learn and achieve in school. The therapy department at Children of Hope School works with these students, helping develop and improve skills, modify instruction and technology and provide opportunities for socialization. The purpose of the department is twofold: to offer various types of therapy to help our children overcome disabilities and to help provide access to educational opportunities in the school.

Our school has two full-time therapists: Bong Ganar, who is a physical therapist, and Karissa Fernandez, an occupational therapist. They are assisted by Lloyd Mosquera, an occupational therapist who is in his second year of volunteering at Children of Hope. On a given day they will do speech therapy with Juan, Armand and April Boy, perform range of motion exercise's with VeeJay, program Jacob's speech computer, encourage Ginda in her gait trainer, make adjustments to wheelchairs and other equipment and do reinforcement in academic work. Children in our homes and school include those with cerebral palsy, speech and other developmental delays, brain damage and brittle bone disease.



"The therapy department lets the child with special needs experience life through rehabilitation. We look for ways to make exercises and activities more exciting and meaningful - in short., FUN! We are doing all that we can because.... we care."

Bong Ganar, CSC's Physical Therapist

One of the gifts that successful therapists must have is patience. Some of our children have major delays and significant disabilities. Often their progress is measured in very small increments which are undetectable by people who are not therapists.

Central to all the work that our therapists do for the children is assessment. This helps them craft programs for therapy, determine the amount of time each student should spend in the classroom and how much in therapy, and determine what type of equipment is needed. In addition, these assessments play a part in the adoptive placement of children as they give prospective adoptive parents an idea of needs and abilities.

CSC is blessed with talented therapists. But aside from the knowledge and creativity, their greatest asset is their love for the children they work with. They glory in the accomplishments of the kids, no matter how small. And they do a good job of training and encouraging the caregivers in the home to reinforce the things that they are working on at school.

Our therapy department is one of the reasons that we are able to call our school Children of Hope.



### Change Service Requested

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CSC NEWS is published four times annually by Children's Shelter of Cebu, a non-profit, Christian organization dedicated to providing for the needs of homeless children in Cebu, Philippines

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Foster Friends is a long-distance friendship that develops between a sponsor and a CSC child. The sponsors may be individuals, families or church groups—people who desire an intimate relationship with the ministry of CSC through an involvement in the life of a particular child.

Foster Friends is a “win, win, win” situation. The children receive quality care and the security that comes from knowing that 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 who has been deprived of the love and care of a family. And CSC receives financial help for the purchase of food, medicine, school materials and other needed items. Everybody wins through Foster Friendship!

For the modest sum of \$25 a month, you can be a Foster Friend. You will be assigned a child and will be given a picture and important background information on how your child came to live at CSC. You will receive regular updates with pictures so you

can chart your child's development. If your child is old enough, he or she will send you an occasional letter. Since it costs us much more than \$25 a month to provide for the many needs of a child, your gift will be combined with those of others to form an extended family of support for your child.

You can join our winning team at Children's Shelter of Cebu. Fill out the application below or call our office at 763-689-6558 and we will enroll you immediately in this program, will match you with a child and send you information. For only \$25 a month you can help CSC make a difference in a child's life.

- ☐ **Yes, I would like to sponsor a child through the Foster Friends Program. I will support this child at an amount of \_\_\_\_\_\$25 U.S. a month \_\_\_\_\_\$25 Canadian a month**
- ☐ **Enclosed find my first payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ months.**
- ☐ **I cannot become a Foster Friend at this time, but I would like to make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

Please send me more information about CSC.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Children's Shelter of Cebu.  
U.S. donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CSC, Box 247, 237 SW 2nd Ave.  
Cambridge, MN 55008

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Abbotsford, BC V2S 4N8

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## Rays of Hope for a Sibling Group of Four

by Paul Healy



Hope is not easy to come by when you're hungry, sick and afraid. In fact, thinking of the future at all is a luxury that some children never enjoy. It's all about today—the food and shelter that can be found before the sun goes down.

Such was life for Kim, Ardian, Adelyn and Janice. Things began to fall apart when their mother died. Their father drives a motorcycle cab and doesn't bring home enough money for even the basic needs of the family. There was nobody to watch over them during the day, to see that they bathed properly or to take care of them when they were sick. They lived in a shack that was ready to fall over, with dirt floors and

lice and parasites and they all had bad coughs. Sandy Swanson, our Child Development Director, called the CSC office to report on the kids. Taking them in would involve a lot of medical and emotional care. After some discussion and soul searching, the staff decided to at least bring them to the doctor and get a better idea of their medical condition. So the three children climbed in our vehicle with the father and headed for Cebu City.

As was expected, the children had a number of maladies from tuberculosis to pneumonia, head lice, parasites and severe malnutrition. We knew that sending those kids back home would mean continued

**The whole squatter village was their home. They would go from place to place looking for food or someone to show them some kindness.**

a leaking roof. The whole squatter village was their home. They would go from place to place looking for food or someone to show them some kindness. They became malnourished and sickly. Going to school was a dream they had long since relinquished.

suffering and possibly death. The decision was made to take them in. Two days later our social worker went back to the home and convinced Ardian to join his siblings at CSC. Soon they were reunited and the move from despair to hope began.

CSC got the referral of these kids at a time that was appointed by God. Several of our older kids had recently left for adoption and we had space available. Because of their age and condition, we could not decide immediately if we could take them in so some of our staff went to the neighboring town where they lived to check them out. When they arrived at the children's home, the second oldest, Ardian, ran away, not understanding why these people wanted to talk to him and his siblings or why his father had come home instead of driving his motorcycle. The children were in bad shape. Kim, the oldest, was so weak he could hardly walk. They were dirty, full of

The first couple of weeks were a combination of happiness and anxiety for the family. They were amazed at the facilities of CSC, the good food and the fact that people talked kindly to them and showed them love. But they were restless to join the other children, not really understanding why they needed to be isolated.

Eventually the day came for them to “go down” from isolation and move into the Eicher Home. To say they were thrilled would be an understatement. They were literally jumping with joy and excitement. Although

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*27 years of Ministry in Cebu*

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## On The Flip Side

by Matt Buley  
U.S. Director



Just one year ago I was dealing with the biggest challenge I'd yet faced at CSC. We were hoping and praying that a skin graft on a CSC child named Jackson would be a success. One had failed just weeks before, and it seemed about everything that could go wrong had gone wrong surrounding it.

The truth is, all that was happening then was really just the beginning of a hard year. With the recent death of our Luke, we've lost three beloved members of the CSC family in the last year, having had to say goodbye to Darvie and Uncle Ron as well. While we rejoice that they are all home, we're left in a place that just isn't the same without them. It's hard to imagine Luke's room in the Cherne Home empty.

In the midst of this time when our staff is mourning again too soon, I'm reminded of that familiar passage found in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." To this day it blows my mind that the God of the universe would make such a personal statement of how much He loves each and every one of us.

Even in the midst of a hard year, there was a blessed truth being revealed in these last 12 months, one which shouts of hope and a future. Jackson's skin graft did not fail. When his original host family was unable to keep their commitment to care for him through surgery, my human eyes saw misfortune. Little did I know that God had something much bigger for Jackson.

A year ago, Jackson ended up with a "backup" host family. They came to Cebu just last month. They were there to finalize the adoption of Jackson and his sister Joji and bring them home. Apparently everything wasn't going wrong after all; it was all a part of a bigger and better plan.

Even as we mourn, there is reason to celebrate home, and the God who has had it prepared for us all along.

## Online Giving Provides Convenience for Growing Number of CSC Donors



Throughout our 27 year history, CSC has tried to make giving to the ministry as convenient as possible for our faithful supporters. For some it is something as simple as providing a return envelope for easy use in sending in donations. For others it is the reminder coupons that we provide for Foster Friends sponsors or direct deposit, bank to bank arrangements for their gifts. And, for an increasing number of supporters, it is providing the option of giving online. U.S donors are increasingly going online to get information, do banking, pay bills and give to charities and ministries that share their priorities in meeting needs.



Being a small ministry, CSC does not have the quantity of gifts to warrant processing online donations ourselves. As members of

Independent Charities of America, CSC avails itself of the privilege of using Give Direct's online donation form for receiving gifts of this nature.

Give Direct uses sophisticated encryption technology to ensure the safe transmission of our donors' information.

Giving online requires a \$10 minimum gift and the donor can specify whether it is a one-time gift or if they would like it to recur monthly or quarterly. Online givers have the option of designating their gift in honor or in memory of someone special to them or stipulating other uses. The donor gets a credit card receipt from Give Direct and CSC sends out a receipt letter.

Online giving is not for everyone. Some like to give the traditional way. We appreciate all methods and preferences. But for those who use their computers for doing personal business, online giving is a great option. Go to our website and click the "Give Online" icon.



*Rays of Hope, Continued from page 1*

still thin and weak, the transformation was already amazing. The smiles on their faces didn't look like they would ever go away. They were amazed at their rooms and they would be sleeping in beds for the first time in their lives. They couldn't get enough of the hugs that were available to them. They couldn't decide between staying in their rooms with toys and educational materials at their disposal or go outside on the playground. For the first time in their lives they had choices! And they were even more excited when told that they would be able to start school the following day.

In 27 years of ministry our staff has taken in many children from similar situations of poverty and despair. We have seen many amazing transformations in the bodies, minds and hearts of children. We have seen children



with literally one foot in the grave from sickness and malnutrition. But never have we seen children so happy to be at CSC!

Thanks to all our supporters who help us to be able to say "yes" to children like Kim, Ardian, Adelyn and Janice!

## Farewell Dear Luke

by Mitch Ohlendorf

Twenty-three years after coming into our lives as an infant, Luke left us on July 17 with many of us around his hospital bed. Perhaps it is fitting that Luke died while he was in the hospital since he spent many weeks of his life there. He was no stranger to the steady flow of nurses and doctors attending to him. And he was certainly most comfortable there. Luke loved the coolness of the air-conditioned room which beat his personal electric fan at home. He didn't demand much in his life but he would always let you know if he was feeling a little warm.

So much about Luke will remain a mystery. In nearly a quarter century, not a single word passed his lips. His very severe handicaps didn't allow it. He never got to run around and play with the other children or even feed himself, but Luke soaked in all of the love and care that was given to him by so many. He was a mystery but to us he was just another one of our kids who was as important as any with a normally functioning body. His physical limitations never meant that he didn't deserve the very best of what life had to offer him. Luke's life was just as precious as anyone else's.

Luke has left a meaningful legacy to CSC and the 676 other children who lived at the shelter through the years with him. He enjoyed the simple things offered to him and responded with a smile or a hearty laugh: chocolate ice cream, going to school with

all of the other kids, having a big party for his birthday, being teased by someone in his room or having someone give him a rub on the head. Luke was a survivor. No child arrived at CSC with more challenges before him and perhaps less to live for. Luke's perseverance meant not only experiencing the things he enjoyed but living with much discomfort as well. As much as we provided tender care at home, he could never be entirely comfortable in his ailing body. What joyous relief he must be experiencing now!

I believe that no matter how limited Luke was in his physical nature, he retained his God-given ability to make choices. He chose to enjoy the love, comfort and opportunities given to him throughout his life. He chose to smile and to laugh in response to all of us around him. But most of all, Luke chose many, many times to live despite the tremendous difficulties he faced. Dozens of times he was "near the end" and dozens of times he fought with incredible spirit to continue a life of challenges, limitations and discomfort. I don't think anything speaks more to the preciousness of God-given life than that. God didn't promise Luke a life of comfort and ease. He allowed him to have a life with so many struggles and Luke chose to make the very best of it. Our Luke may have arrived as a little child but he left as a man.



## Luke Through the Years

## Updates on the Children We Serve

by Sandy Swanson

## Kid's Korner

**EDMON (8)** joined his sisters Mary Beth and Marie Mea at the Cherne Home in April. He is a rather quiet young man. He loves to know exactly what is happening around the compound. It seems that wherever the most action is Edmon is there, quietly watching what is going on! He enjoys all the activity in our homes but has to be very confident of the situation before he will join in. He is well liked by all the other kids.



**KAILE (2)** arrived in mid-June and is in great shape physically. Kaile makes very little attempt at speech. He has no words at all and only rarely makes sounds other

than occasional crying. He seems to be observant and he has good eye contact when we talk to him. Kaile allows us to comfort him but he does not interact to the extent that he should. We are observing him and will have some hearing and developmental testing done. He does smile but smiles are fairly rare for this darling little boy.

**ARNEL (6)** was the next to arrive. Arnel seems to love everything about life at CSC. He has not stopped smiling since

arrival. He is very affectionate and is still giving everyone flying hugs when they walk into a room he is in. He is full of joy. Arnel had been on his own for quite some time before coming to live at CSC. He is handling the rules and expectations here much better than most kids in his situation have done.



**JUAN (3)** is such a wonderful little boy! He has lived at CSC for almost three years. He has some fairly minor medical concerns. He was joined at CSC by

his little brother, Daniel, about a year and a half ago. It has been just in the last few months that Juan has figured out that he and Daniel have a special relationship. What a joy it is to see Juan holding Daniel's hand and walking around the playground together!

**ALVIN (10)** has lived at CSC for two years. He is just now coming into his own. He arrived with a chip on his shoulder that caused him to get into fights almost daily. Following rules was something that



he simply had a very hard time doing. In the past few months we have seen a new Alvin appear. He is much happier and he acknowledges his mistakes and tries to better himself. He works at being a friend to the other kids and is pleased that he now has genuine friends.

**LYNETTE (3)** and her little brother TYLER (2) have lived at CSC since 2004. They will soon be leaving us for adoption in the USA. Lynette has grown up so much in the last few months! She now attends pre-school and is very verbal. She is a very bright little girl.



She is losing a bit of her stubbornness but still gets the award for CSC's "Most Stubborn Three Year-old!" Tyler is doing very well. He loves running around outside and he has been much happier lately. He still is delayed in his speech.

**MICHAEL** just had his first birthday. He is a fairly healthy, sweet and easy going little boy. He will be leaving us to join his adoptive family in the USA within a few months, also!



## ADMITTING NEW CHILDREN TO CSC

Admissions at CSC involve several stages and the participation of many people.

Everything starts with a referral usually made through our social workers, Carmelita and Chris. They will review the referral information and conduct an investigation before making a recommendation to the management. If they recommend admittance, we will usually send some of our staff to see the child. If the child is a baby, it might just be one of our nurses. For an older child this visit would likely include Sandy Swanson, our Child Development Director, and one of our counselors. With older children we are trying to determine if there are behavioral or exposure issues that might make it difficult for them to live at CSC. Often there will be a full staff



Clockwise from upper left: Social Worker Chris Secuya and Carmelita Baya; Dr. Oñate and CSC Nurse Warlita Manlun



meeting to get everyone's input concerning the referral.

The next step is the intake medical examination by our pediatrician, Dr. Oñate. This includes a battery of tests for HIV, tuberculosis, skin diseases and other medical problems. If we decide to take the child, we need to know the issues we will be facing both emotionally and medically. Just about all the children that enter CSC spend the first week or more in isolation until we can assess their needs, treat their skin diseases, lice and intestinal parasites and get them started on needed medications. Soon they will be allowed to join the other children in the home, completing the admission process.