

BECAUSE YOU GIVE TO CHILDREN'S SHELTER OF CEBU....



Young people like Jenalyn can know the thrill of joining an adoptive family. Jenalyn waited for several years, but our staff was there for her, helping her learn to trust God and develop her talents.



Boys like Francis and Jeremie can participate in the Summer Miracles Program in Montana, enjoying the beauty of the United States and meeting people. CSC has participated in this program on three occasions.



Young people with special needs, like Ginda, can be loved, accepted and challenged to reach their potential. About 15-20% of our children have special needs, ranging from cerebral palsy to brain damage.



Sibling groups can stay together. About 60% of our children are siblings, and CSC works to keep these families intact, both in coming to live with us, and in their eventual adoptions.



Children can learn about Jesus Christ and what it means to have a personal relationship with Him. Prayer, devotions, Christian education and church attendance are all important parts of CSC's program.

Youth Movement continued from page 3.

Joel Reasoner has known about CSC for most of his life. His parents have been supporters since the beginning of the ministry, and he accompanied them on a trip to CSC when he was in Junior High. The seed that was planted then grew through his college days and after graduation and some time working with Habitat for Humanity, Joel decided that it was the right time for him to apply at CSC. Joel joined the Cebu staff in June. He is helping out in a variety of capacities, doing mentoring work with the older boys, tutoring students in the school, handling the Foster Friends program, and helping with administrative tasks.

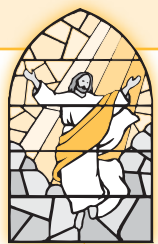
Joel is aware that he has lots to learn as he begins his ministry in Cebu and he feels "honored to have the opportunity to work in a ministry that has been faithful to God's calling for so many years."

Please continue to pray for these three young staff members as they continue to adjust, learn and grow, and accept responsibility for the leadership of CSC.

You can follow the lives of Amy, Tammy and Joel through their blogs on the CSC website.
Amy: <http://luckcebu.spaces.msn.com>
Tammy: <http://spaces.msn.com/tammyvosika>
Joel: <http://joelreasoner.spaces.live.com>.



Praises



1. Thanks to God for the many children who have been adopted recently, including sibling groups and those who have been waiting for a long time.
2. Praise God for the kids from First Baptist of Sturgeon Bay who raised more than \$2,800 for CSC in their Vacation Bible School this summer.
3. Thanks to God for our Canadian organization, CCSSC, for their hard-working board that raises funds for special projects in Cebu, and to all who give so generously.
4. Praise God for Alan Wright, the Englishman who designed the buildings that we will eventually build in Banawa. All of his work was donated.

Requests

1. Pray for our Building a Legacy of Hope capital campaign. Pray for wisdom for our board and stateside staff as they promote the campaign with our supporters in the months to come. Pray that God would direct us to those whom He has prepared to get involved in this campaign.
2. Pray for the teachers in our Children of Hope School as they work with the many new children who have been admitted to CSC recently.
3. Pray for the Healys as they return to Cebu this month, and for Sandy Swanson, who will be heading to Minnesota for a year of furlough.
4. Pray for the finances of CSC, and that our friends would give generously in the coming weeks.

**CORE VALUE
NUMBER FIVE**

We will continue to invest in children who can't be adopted and assist parents who have surrendered their children.



Change Service Requested

Cebu Staff

Field Director: *Paul Healy*
Executive Director: *Mitch Ohlendorf*
Medical Director: *Marlys Healy*
Outreach Director: *Ruth Ohlendorf*
Child Development Director: *Sandy Swanson*
School Consultant: *Shari Reasoner*
Teacher: *Amy Luck*
Teacher: *Tammy Vosika*
Intern: *Joel Reasoner*

Stateside

U.S. Director: *Matthew Buley*
Office Manager: *Roger Anderson*
Administrative Assistant: *Brenda Leaf*

Editor: *Paul Healy*

Cebu Address: Box 178, Cebu City
6000 Philippines

Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada
P.O. Box 141, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4N8

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

Photos: *Sandy Swanson, Paul Healy*

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E-mail: cscusa@cscshelter.org

CSC on-line at: www.cscshelter.org



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

Canadian donors mail to: Foster Friends, c/o CCSSC, P.O. Box 141
Abbotsford, BC V2S 4N8

All contributions are tax deductible



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Is That My Mother? by Mitch Ohlendorf, Executive Director

The smiles one sees when around our children tell a lot about their attitudes towards life. They are resilient and they grasp what has been offered to them. With some encouragement they make the most of life. I suppose that is why the most common remark heard from visitors to our shelter and school is that our children seem so happy. It's a comment we love to hear, and there is a great amount of truth to it. But it comes with a caveat. There are often complex layers beneath the surface of that happiness.

It hit me like a ton of bricks. Having come from a very neglectful situation, she hasn't seen her mother in some time. It had never occurred to me that she or any of our other kids may be "keeping their eyes open" as they go around town. Perhaps she hopes to bridge the gap of those missing years if she chances upon her mother. Many months ago she shared some very hurtful feelings she sometimes has for this woman who brought her into this world, but then left her behind. Perhaps she would just like to ask, "Why?"



It was a stark reminder for me of the pain so many of our children have experienced....

A few days ago I was having a conversation with one of our teenagers. In addition to my other responsibilities at CSC, I have the opportunity to spend a fair amount of time with this older set, doing recreational activities and helping with homework. Occasionally we get to chat, and the topics range from the silly to the sublime. Serious subjects can come up and it's not out of the question to be caught off guard at times. This recent conversation was one of those times and gave me perspective into the heart of one of our children, and perhaps many more.

This young lady shared that when she is away from the shelter and out in the city on an outing she often looks around at the different women she sees, wondering if any one of them could

It was a stark reminder for me of the pain so many of our children have experienced and the struggles they have in sorting out a myriad of feelings and emotions. I realized that being around these kids all the time, I also fall into the trap of just seeing their happiness. It takes time and trust to understand the layers below. But they are happy. Through God's grace they have come to a place where they have so much to be grateful for. They have a room with a warm bed and a home where they get three good meals a day and treats to enjoy. They have a place of rest where their wounds can be healed and their bodies made strong. They have a school where they can get a good education and a chance to reach their potential in life. At CSC they enjoy a community where they can come to have a

Is That My Mother? continued on page 4.



**CORE VALUE
NUMBER ONE**

We are Christ-centered and prayer focused

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On The Flip Side

by Matthew Buley
U.S. Director



This newsletter deadline has ended up coming at a most interesting time for me. In between the time I sit here writing and you sit there reading, my life will have changed about as much as a life can.

Theresa and I will be leaving to pick up our kids from CSC the day this is proofed and finalized, will be at the shelter while this is at press, and in Manila filling out paperwork when it's mailed. When you get this from your mailbox a few days later, we'll be at home with our kids. The job of parenting will finally have come.

However remarkable that might seem, it doesn't compare to what will have changed in our kids' lives. Their world will be permanently altered. They will be saying goodbye to great friends, staff that have loved them dearly and the only culture and climate they've ever known. They will be in a place where the world will appear to be flying by. It will be a transition involving thousands of big and small adjustments.

I wish we could put on some virtual reality glasses that would show us the perspective of what this new world looks like to our kids. Of course, we can't. We can only imagine - and not too well in a place that is so familiar to us and so foreign to them. My simple prayer is that in the midst of all they're taking in and grasping they will recognize that these two parents are going to love them through every bit of it.

**CORE VALUE
NUMBER TWO**

We are committed to keeping families together.

Canadians Help Build CSC, One Project at a Time

CSC has a creative and hard working group of volunteers in Canada. The Cebu Children's Shelter Society of Canada, incorporated in 1994, has been raising money for special projects in Cebu that have helped improve the services we are able to offer our children.

This year's annual Canadian banquet raised over \$40,000 for the construction of road access to the new property where we will be constructing two new buildings. The road is a crucial part of the project and will allow building materials to be delivered to the construction site without having to damage the playground. The road is currently under construction and is estimated to be completed by the end of September.

The 2007 banquet in Abbotsford, British Columbia, as in past years, featured a delicious dinner prepared entirely by volunteers. The program featured ministry updates by missionaries Paul and Marlys Healy, a video presentation and silent and live auctions. All auction items were donated by friends of the ministry.

Thanks to the loving efforts of the Canadian board and the many volunteers who give of their time and talents, CCSSC has made a tremendous impact on the ministry in Cebu, one meaningful project at a time!



CCSSC's Projects

- 2003** A new Mitsubishi multi-purpose vehicle to help transport kids to activities
- 2004** Therapy equipment for special needs children
- 2005** A new Open Court language arts curriculum for the Children of Hope School
- 2006** Two new jeepneys for the transportation of CSC's children
- 2007** Funds for the construction of a road access to our new property in Banawa
- OTHER PROJECTS** Equipment for Ginda, musical instruments, medical laboratory



A Youth Movement on the Cebu Staff



One of the priorities for the ministry of CSC is finding staff members who have the skills and commitment to lead the ministry in the future. Our veteran missionaries, Sandy Swanson, Paul and Marlys Healy and Mitch and Ruth Ohlendorf, have more than 125 years of combined experience and have served the ministry effectively and faithfully. But the long term viability of CSC will depend on our ability to identify and nurture leaders for tomorrow. Succession planning is more than a buzzword for CSC. It is a crucial task.

God has provided three young people who are currently working in Cebu, offering talents, energy and fresh perspectives to the work of CSC. Amy Luck, Tammy Vosika and Joel Reasbner constitute the "youth movement" on the Cebu staff. Each came to CSC by a different path, but all three have found a niche in the ministry where they can be a blessing to the children and make a significant difference in their lives. Amy Luck was one of the pioneer teachers in our Children of Hope School in 1998. She taught for two years, then spent three years in the states before returning to Cebu in 2003 and officially joining our staff. Amy is our pre-school teacher and helps with various administrative tasks, helping

out in the child development and medical areas when staff members are on furlough. Amy is energetic and dedicated, and has an intense love for the children she teaches and for all the CSC kids. According to Amy, "I have the best job in the world! What a blessing it is to wake up every morning to a job I love." Although she finds it difficult at times being far away from family and friends, she is "reminded daily that Cebu is where I am supposed to be."

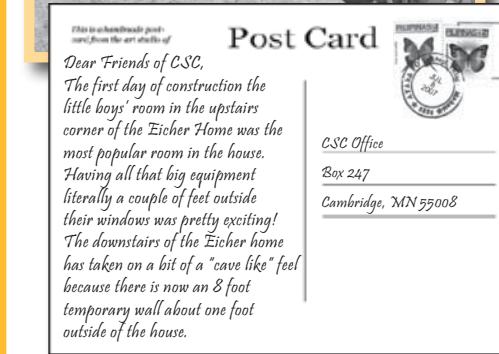
Tammy Vosika learned about CSC when she joined a work team from her home church that went to Cebu in 1996. Later, her family adopted four boys from CSC and Tammy's love for the Philippines and our ministry continued to grow.

Tammy teaches the highest level students in our school. She is a talented teacher, a good faculty member, and takes every opportunity possible to spend time with the children.

For Tammy, working at CSC is a learning and growing experience. "Every day the kids inspire, challenge, encourage, humble, and teach us. It is such a privilege to be part of their lives and to help them prepare for an adoptive family."

Youth Movement continued on page 5.

Phase One of Building Project Begins with Road Construction in Banawa



The expansion of CSC's shelter facilities began during the third week of June when the heavy equipment arrived to begin excavation work for an access road from our existing property to the site for our new buildings. A fairly extensive engineering project got underway when we moved the small bodega in our parking lot, demolished our existing medical laboratory, and began to dig out hundreds of cubic meters of earth to provide the way for a four-meterwide road and retaining wall. This road will provide access to the adjacent, landlocked property CSC purchased two years ago. After the building project is finished it will serve as the driveway to CSC's new medical facility and residential home, which includes accommodation for children with special needs.

The buildings were designed by Alan Wright, the England-based architect who designed CSC's Children of Hope School in 1997. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Mr. Wright, who has donated all of his services to this project and created a beautiful, thoughtful, and practical design.

In addition to the construction of the access road, the contractors are also working on the perimeter security wall. We hope to begin construction of the buildings in September with a targeted completion date of October 2008. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to ideas for the design and the many donors who have given very generously for this project!

**CORE VALUE
NUMBER THREE**

We value the lives of all children, regardless of their limitations or challenges.

Updates on Children We Serve

by Sandy Swanson

Kid's Korner

There have been lots of changes in our population at CSC! We have recently said goodbye to seven of our kids who have left for adoption. Siblings Remir, Mary Joy, Rey Mark and Raymund, and singles Jenalyn and Alvin are in the U.S. Kyle is in Australia. Siblings Erlyn and Erwin and Juan and Daniel will be leaving for the USA very soon! All together these eleven kids have spent over 31 years at CSC! All these empty spots were filled before they were even "empty."



Siblings Chelsie (11) and John Henry (10) arrived in time to start the new school year at the end of June. Chelsie loves school and is a good student. She is confident and has lots of friends at CSC already. She is learning about trust and is losing many of the fears that she arrived with. John Henry is very active and opinionated. He loves being at CSC but is having some difficulty adjusting to rules and schedules. John Henry has not had success in school before coming to CSC. He is a bit in awe of our school, but he is cooperating.

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Siblings Angelica (8) and Sheena (6) also arrived in time to start school. Angelica, who prefers to be called Angel, is a quiet and shy little girl who is still learning that she will be cared for and loved at CSC. She becomes fearful if she thinks that she may have done anything wrong.

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She is quickly learning that she will not be hurt here. Sheena is much more confident and willing to risk "getting in trouble" if it means that she can play a little longer, or do what she wants to do! Sheena is in pre-school.



Justin (18 months) came to us in May as a very sick little boy. He spent almost two weeks in the hospital. When he arrived he was full of boils and could not even sit up alone. He is now able to sit up well, crawl, climb and gets all over the house very fast in his walker! He is just now starting to take a few tentative steps on his own! He has a very sweet personality, he loves to tease and make people laugh. What a joy to see the changes he has made!

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Angie (11 months) arrived in late June as a rather sickly baby. She has spent the majority of her time at CSC in isolation while her health slowly improves. Angie is alert but wary of anyone new in her life.



Twins Crystal and Lavinia (9 months) arrived in early July. Both are quite sickly but seem to be alert and are able to be comforted in someone's arms. Both girls are delayed developmentally. Some of this is because of their premature birth and some because of illness and lack of proper nurture. We expect both of these darlings to progress

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quickly once they get healthy.



Siblings Janice (14), Junalyn (12) and Rene (12) have lived with us for over three years. Janice is in her second year of high school, She is a good student and enjoys the challenge that school brings. Junalyn and Rene are twins, but are very different! Junalyn is a friend to everyone and is cooperative and obedient. Rene is friendly to adults but prefers to play alone. He does not like rules and works very hard to get by with whatever he can, without really getting in trouble! He is quite the "charmer," though. These kids would love to have a family!

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Melvin (14) and Milbert (12) are brothers who have lived at CSC for almost a year and a half. Melvin is attending his first year at a private high school. He is an excellent student and loves the freedom that going to and from school provides. He is quite shy by nature so making friends has been a challenge for him. He loves to play basketball with his free time. Milbert is a rather quiet young man as well. He loves drawing, building things, and discussing movies and cartoon characters. He does not spend much time in sports. Milbert works hard to appear serious, but he really has a wonderful sense of humor.



**CORE VALUE
NUMBER FOUR**

We value adoption and make it our primary placement option for most of our children.

Is That My Mother?, continued from page 1.

renewed spirit and a personal relationship with God. They have people who love them, hug them, and accept them for who they are.

But we do more than just love them and accept them. Our staff, along with our counselors, gives these kids a chance to work through their feelings and deal with the pain and confusion that may be layered below the surface of their happiness. We could never be satisfied with children who just look happy. We want them to be happy too, as we prepare them to move on to the next stage of their lives with an adoptive family and even more opportunities for happiness and a grateful heart.