



## Frontline Prayer Team: A Covenant to Pray for the Ministry of CSC

We are Christ-centered and prayer-focused. This simple statement is the first of six core values defined by the leadership of Children's Shelter of Cebu. The very definition of who CSC is and what we do starts with this declaration.

This core value is so much more than something we say. It must be something that is lived out every day in every decision. In that spirit, CSC has recently launched a formal prayer team: Frontline Prayer Partnership.

Frontline is not for everybody. It is a way for supporters to make a commitment to pray daily for CSC. We have just one requisite for a Frontline prayer partner—that they sign up only if they are willing to pray at least one minute a day for CSC. This is a sizeable requirement but we know that

it can help make a sizeable impact on our ministry. Is this a pledge you would be willing to make for CSC?

If so, please sign up for Frontline through our U.S. office. You can choose to receive monthly prayer updates via e-mail or postal mail and you can also sign up for urgent prayer requests by e-mail. (Due to their urgency, postal mail is not an option for this component.) You can sign up individually or as a family.

Do you know of someone who loves this ministry but is unable to give financially? We would be blessed to have you share the ministry of Frontline with them. And we would be honored to have them join us in prayer. The type of work we do every day to provide a home for our children requires funding. But it requires even more prayer.

To sign up you may request the U.S. office to mail you a Frontline brochure that includes a sign-up form. You may do so by e-mail ([cscusa@cscshelter.org](mailto:cscusa@cscshelter.org)), phone (763-689-6558) or postal mail (PO Box 247, Cambridge, MN, 55008). If you would like to sign up immediately, please include your name, mailing address, e-mail (if applicable) and phone number. The office will mail or e-mail you the most recent update so you can begin praying for specific needs right away. Thanks for your prayerful commitment!



## A Very Tough Year for Santa in Cebu

Santa might wish he had just stayed home this past Christmas. He arrived at CSC in an ambulance and had to be helped into the school by two burly volunteers. He tried his best for a few minutes but was only able to give out a few gifts before collapsing into a stupor. The children lined up and were heading back to the homes when, at the very last minute, several “back-up” Santas arrived. Two were exposed as obvious frauds before an acceptable replacement was installed. The rest of the gifts were distributed to the gleeful throng and everyone went home happy except the “real” Santa who was reportedly undergoing acupuncture treatments at a local hospital.

Thanks to the gifts of our loving supporters, we are able to give lovely presents to all the CSC children at Christmas. Special thanks to Howard Plucar for his best performance ever in the Santa suit. He and his wife, Marilyn, spent the entire holiday season helping bring smiles to our children's faces. Thanks to all our supporters who are the ultimate Santas.



*Despite the efforts of the nursing staff, Santa was unable to continue and had to return to the hospital in an ambulance.*

1. Pray for our staff in Cebu as they do their jobs and handle the many visitors who will be coming to CSC in the coming weeks.

2. Pray for the planning for the CSC annual banquet on April 22 at Bethel University. Our desire is that people's hearts will be touched by the updates from Cebu.

3. Pray for Jomar, one of our Teen Home young people, who is struggling with peer pressure and restlessness. He recently started a job as a chef.

4. Pray for Inday and Victor, our counselors, as they deal with very difficult issues with the children. Pray for wisdom and insight and that the children would be open with them about their problems and the difficult things they experienced before coming to live at CSC.



5. Pray for good health for our children and the workers who care for them.

6. Praise the Lord for the great financial finish to 2005 and for all who gave so generously.

7. Pray for Matt Buley, CSC's stateside director, as he presents the ministry to prospective donors and manages the operations of our Cambridge office.

8. Praise the Lord for Dawn Youngren who volunteered in Cebu for five months. Pray for her as she returns to the U.S. later this month to resume her teaching career.

9. Praise the Lord for all our Filipino workers who do such a good job with the children and represent the ministry to the community at large.



### 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*

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## CSC's MINISTRY COMES TO LIFE AT APRIL 22 BANQUET



*Plan to Attend, Invite a Friend*



It's almost time for our annual banquet again! This year's affair will be on Saturday, April 22. Once again, we will be in the Robertson Center at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota. As always, seating will begin at 6:00 and the festivities will begin at 6:30.

Our theme this year is “A Day to Remember.” We will be looking at a day in the life of the ministry of CSC through video, music, testimonies and a few surprises. We will share a meal together and hear about the exciting ways that God is working through the ministry of CSC. It will be a time of learning, rejoicing and meeting new people who share your burden for helping homeless children in the Philippines.

Every day, from sunrise to sunset, our staff and workers in Cebu are going about the business of providing child care, medical, educational and social work services to our children. Their efforts are the heart and soul of this ministry and many of our supporters might be surprised at the breadth of



responsibilities CSC assumes when we take in a homeless child. Our teachers, social workers, house parents, therapists, nurses and child care workers go all over Cebu City in their service to the children. On April 22 we will have the opportunity to go along with them and see the ministry of CSC from a new perspective.

Reservations are needed for this evening and should be made by April 15. Thanks to generous sponsors, there is no charge for the evening but a love offering will be taken for the ministry.

Table sponsors for the annual banquet are still needed. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, please contact the CSC office at 763-689-6558.

Please plan to attend on April 22. Why not consider inviting a friend who doesn't know about CSC and who might enjoy hearing about the ministry in Cebu and meeting the fine people who support it?

## CSC's Children Find Hope at CHS

*by Mitch Ohlendorf*

Hope is a belief that things are obtainable regardless of the remoteness of the possibilities. Hope may also imply a certain amount of perseverance - that something is possible even when there is some evidence to the contrary. It may be directed toward something minor or something very significant.

When our school was given its name back in 1998, I wasn't crazy about it. It didn't come off the tongue well and seemed awkward. It wasn't a “school name” as school names go. And it seemed a bit stigmatizing, as if someone needed to be told they need hope. I was wrong. We all need hope. The children of CSC thrive on hope as a way back towards a life of normalcy, love and potential.

“blank slates,” even though some are already approaching adolescence. Children, perhaps years past the age when they would have already started first grade, may not be able to

at our shelter six years ago he couldn't talk to people, express his feelings or do any academic work. Now, almost 16 years old, Julieto can read competently, joke and trusts himself enough to



recognize any colors, numbers or letters, much less words. Simply being able to sit at a table with pencil in hand trying to copy a

share his imagination in writing. Teacher Vangie has hopes for secondary education and maybe independent living for Julieto.

### The children of CSC thrive on hope as a way back towards a life of normalcy, love and potential

A person doesn't need to spend a long time in the Philippines to see where hope is lost. When hope is lost there is despair, and despair abounds in the city of Cebu. It dominates the headlines and is etched on the faces of the people on the street and in the endless squatter villages where our children come from - places where sickness, malnutrition, abuse, neglect and addictions dominate.

But hope is obtainable at Children of Hope School despite long odds. Spending time with our teachers and hearing about transformation in the lives of our children brings a desire to persevere. The changes are not only academic but behavioral as well, and may take years. Many of CSC's children come as virtual

name they've only heard before is demanding.

When Bernardo came at eight years old, he had no letter recognition. But he was excited about everything, especially how the crayons and markers would produce different colors on paper. With an exceptional amount of patience by Teacher Cris, Bernardo is now a beginning reader. Mia doesn't prefer to hide under the table or throw tantrums anymore. Although she still struggles, she will sit at the table and try her best. And now she loves to look at books! Hours of individual instruction with Teacher Dawn have helped her to focus. Julieto has had the world opened up to him in our school. When he arrived

Janice didn't do well in school when she first arrived. She was shy and inexpressive. Now she is a hard working student, a good communicator and diligent in bringing vocabulary words to her teacher from her daily Bible devotions!

In things seemingly small or exceedingly significant, CSC's children have hope at Children of Hope School. There is hope because there are staff and teachers that give hope and there is both the expectation and realization that hopes and dreams are there for the taking. The children only need to reach out and take hold.

Our school could not have a better name.



*27 years of Ministry in Cebu*

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