



THE LINGAP CENTER



The Lingap Children's Foundation
P.O. Box 1553
Jackson, MI 49204

November 2008

Dear Friends,

I traveled to the Philippines in late summer and was buoyed by the smiles on the Lingap children's faces and the hope I see in their eyes. Without your support, that wouldn't have been possible. Together, we can continue to give them a home where they are loved, an education and a future.

The Street Children Education Program

I'm very excited about a new pilot project we recently launched for kids who don't attend school because their families can't afford to send them or because they spend their days begging for money for their families or just to survive themselves.

As part of the Street Children Education Program, members of our staff go into downtown Toledo City on weekdays and invite the street children to basic reading and math classes at a local park. Some of the children are talented and intelligent and are eager for the opportunity to learn.



Janice gives lessons to street children in downtown Toledo City.

Still, there are many challenges. When it rains, classes can't be held as they are outdoors in the city park. Most of the kids come barefoot or in dirty clothes, so our Lingap staff members ask their friends for used clothing. Sometimes the staff digs into their pockets and pays for medicine when the kids are sick. While they get snacks, the kids are still hungry. I wish we could do more. As the program is funded entirely through donations, this is an area where your gift can help.

A Former Lingap Ward Gets Married

Lonessa ("Nessa"), who grew up in the old pig slaughterhouse and later at the new Lingap Center, became a successful high-speed seamstress. In September, Nessa returned to the Lingap Center where she married her American fiancé. The Lingap kids were the couple's bridesmaids and groomsmen. The impact of this event on the children was enormous. They now understand that the Cinderella story can happen in real life. And it can happen to them.

The Lingap Center Gets a Peace Corps Volunteer

I was elated that the Lingap Center will be getting a Peace Corps volunteer for two years beginning Nov. 8. Roberto “Ambet” Yangco, Sector Manager for Children and Youth, wrote: “The transformation you and your staff have done in the Lingap Center in just a short period of time is unbelievable.” He praised the passion and motivation of the Lingap staff to help our kids.

Mark Your Calendar

Our Hearts for Orphans dinner dance and live auction will be held at the Gene Davis Banquet Center on Feb. 14. Come and meet Joma, a delightful 12-year-old Lingap ward who will tell you how her life has changed thanks to your support and the Lingap Center staff. Coming with her will be Gina Gadiano, Center Manager. Hear first-hand how the staff’s commitment has altered lives and the community. The talented Hillsdale Chamber Choir will perform. Watch for your invitation in early January.

Your Gift Changes Lives

As you consider your year-end donations or make out your Christmas gift list, please remember the 100 kids at the Lingap Center. Here’s what your gift can do:

- \$50 will clothe one child for a year
- \$30 will feed one child for a month
- \$30 will buy shoes for one child for a year
- \$25 per month for one child will enroll you in a *Place At The Table* sponsorship (our most critical program). Enroll at <http://lingapcenter.org> or call us at (517) 529-9702.

To make a gift, please send your check to the Lingap Children’s Foundation at the above address. I’ll send you a letter of acknowledgment that can serve as your tax receipt. There are no administrative costs deducted from your gift; 100 percent benefits the children.

I can’t thank you enough for your continued support. In the words of one of the world’s most famous children, Anne Frank, who wrote in her diary:

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before beginning to improve the world.”

Sincerely,



John Drake