



# THE LINGAP CENTER

## The Lingap Children's Foundation

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Dear Friends,

I believe most of you know that the Lingap Center is a residential child-care facility which caters to children who have been neglected, exploited, abandoned or abused in ways that are often too difficult to even imagine. We give them a safe place to live, food to eat, a staff to love them and hope for a brighter future. I like to say that we take care of their minds, their bodies and their souls. In fact, since we opened the new Lingap Center in 2006, 766 children have passed through our doors.

One of our cornerstone values is education. In a developing country like the Philippines, education is truly the only hope that children from impoverished communities may have for a brighter future. It is also the only means they have available to them to break the vicious cycle of poverty, for themselves and their families. School attendance is not mandatory in the country, but it is an absolute requirement for all Lingap wards. While we are not a school, K – 12 students attend one of six different schools in the community. We also ensure that those students who excel are given the opportunity to attend college or vocational school. We currently have students attending seven different colleges. I am very proud to inform you that as of today, we have celebrated with 41 college or vocational graduates, and we have many more to come.



I recently received the following letter from one of our most recent graduates – Shiela. While the letter is addressed to me, she is really speaking to you. So, here it is, just as she wrote it:

*“Dear Tito John, I am happy to let you know that I finally received my diploma with a degree in Accounting Management from the university (Cebu Institute of Technology) on July 24, 2023. I am so very grateful for your unending support because it has altered my life forever, for the better, not just mine but that of so many other children like me whose families had little to nothing to offer.*

*I came to the Lingap Center in 2006, just before I turned eight (8) years old. Yes, I was quite young at the time, but thanks to you and the Lingap benefactors, I have been able to mature into a lovely person. My memory before I came to Lingap is vague to me, but what I’m sure of is that at that time, my family was struggling to pay for my public school education and food was not sufficient to all of us, and we were very hungry. This was because my father was unable to work due to his unexpected condition. So my mother and my older sisters and brothers began working at a young age to help put food on the table and pay for some necessities. But still it was arduous for us to survive.*

*Life wasn't always easy before Lingap came into my life. As a blessing in disguise from above, when I was separated from my family, Lingap came to help me see the great future I could have. At the Lingap Center, everything I need is provided: clothes to warm me, a big house that I can also call home to shelter me, a yummy food to fill me, a high-quality education to feed my mind, and a guardian to guide me to live spiritually and morally upright. With all the blessings I received, I have an enthusiastic and positive outlook on life. In addition, because of what all you told us, I became a great DREAMER. I am a dreamer who wants to change the status quo of my family, which I am still hoping for, praying for, and working slowly to make it possible. You made it real.*

*Once again, thank you for helping me see great things ahead. Moreover, I just want you to know that I am one of the happiest and most grateful dreamers that Lingap has ever molded. Even though I don't know all of our benefactors personally, I know for sure that they must be the happiest people to know what you, the Lingap staff and all of the benefactors have made of me. From the bottom of my heart once again thank you so much*  
♥♥♥♥♥

*Thanking you endlessly,*

*Shiela*



When I think about Shiela's story, I can't help but think of the following quote from Albert Schweitzer who said,

**“At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.”**

Thank you all for being that “spark” not only for Shiela whose light had almost gone out, but for all of the Lingap kids. You truly have helped to change their lives.

Sincerely,

John Drake