

November, 15 2003

Dear Friends,

I thought it was time to give you a status report on matters at the Lingap Center, in Cebu, Philippines. It has been a while since you have heard from me, but I am delighted to tell you that things have been moving along very quickly indeed.

As I mentioned in my last update, I have received the final approved engineering drawings from the Toledo City Engineering Office. They have been approved by the Chief Engineer, the assistant engineer, the 1st Engineer, the 2nd Engineer, the third Engineer and the mayor herself. Most importantly however, is that they have been approved by my friend and “architect extraordinaire” Dave Fleming. This is for the renovation of the existing facility into a kitchen and dining room as well as the construction of a new dormitory to house 80 to 100 abused, abandoned and neglected of the smartest and most hopeful children you will ever meet.

I have formalized the relationship with the Department of Education and the Superintendent of Schools as well as the Regional Director of Schools for the islands of Cebu, Negros, Bohol and Siquijor, to guarantee that all of the Lingap children will have a chance to receive an education whether or not they have the appropriate “documentation.” Mr Cabantan, the superintendent has already begun sending me reports on their progress.

I have an agreement with the parish priest to ensure that their spiritual needs are addressed and the mayor, City Council and the Dept. of Social Welfare and Development have agreed to all of our requirements specifically and most importantly as it relates to their contribution of the necessary land for the project.

However, the most important partnership has been with World Vision. I have mentioned them in previous updates, but I must again add that they are a truly remarkable organization. Their part of the partnership will be on site project construction management and financial administration. They are a 501©(3) organization and are one of the top rated children’s charitable organizations in the world. They currently have projects in over 100 countries. I am dealing directly with their representative for the Midwestern US (Mr. Bill Knott) and their representatives in both Manila and Cebu City. Judy and I had the opportunity to attend the World Vision Forum in California a few weeks ago, where we met the President and CEO Rich Stearns and others from their worldwide organization. We were also able to meet and have dinner with the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Kul Gautam, who was one of the speakers. I am most fortunate to have been able to partner with an organization as great as World Vision.

So, in summary, everything is in readiness. My role has gone from project dreamer, to laying out the vision, to planning it, creating and developing relationships and now turning it over to the professionals. I am now the primary fund raiser, in conjunction with World Vision. In this regard, I have an 8 minute and 45 second video tape prepared by World Vision, and a power point presentation that I have prepared with the help of Aaron Warriner, which focuses on the Lingap Center. I have officially entered the fund raising mode. Now that it is a World Vision Project, we have guaranteed that it will continue on, even long after I am gone!!

As you will recall, the total project cost for renovation, new construction and for one full year of operations is \$300,000. I am at the very beginning and thus far, I have raised about 8% of my goal, so I have a very long and daunting task ahead of me - but I am determined to succeed. I have been in contact with individuals and groups who might be interested assisting this project and several

friends are currently working on fund raising activity ideas. It will take some time. So, at this point, I am asking for your help. If you or someone you might know are interested in seeing my presentation, please contact me. I would be happy to travel anywhere in the evening or weekends to do so. Or, if you are a member of a group that might be interested, please tell your leadership team about the project. I assure you that there are 100 little kids out there who are counting on all of us.

Many of you have expressed interest in making a financial contribution. If you are so inclined, you may do so by writing a check to World Vision, and in the memo portion of the check, write "Lingap Center Project #3105." The check can then be mailed to either me at:

John F. Drake
P.O. Box 1553
Jackson, MI 49204

and I will ensure that it gets sent immediately to World Vision. They will send a tax receipt soon thereafter. Or, you may send it directly to:

Ms. Bonnie Mason
World Vision
P.O. Box 9716 M/S 340
Federal Way, WA
98063

My preference would be to send it to me, so that I could ensure that it is received by World Vision. Either way, please be sure to write "Lingap Center Project #3105" on the check. I also have some preprinted forms that you can use if you would prefer to use a credit card.

I think I have done a fairly good job at putting this project together. However, fund raising is not my strength. Therefore, I really need your help. My presentation is pretty good and I am really looking forward to sharing it with you or others.

There is a story about a little boy who is picking up starfish that have washed up on the shore. He picked them up one at a time and carried them to the water. A man walked along and asked what he was doing, to which the boy replied, I am saving these starfish. The man laughed and said the boy was wasting his time - after all, there were thousands washed up on the beach. The boy looked him in the eye and said, "Perhaps you're right, but maybe I can save this one!!" Perhaps we can save these Lingap Kids.

Please remember the Lingap Kids during the upcoming holiday season. Without us, they won't have a holiday - or a future for that matter. Thank you all for your continued encouragement and ongoing support. It really means a lot to me.

John Drake