

January 4, 2004

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I will soon be leaving for the Philippines, to work on the Lingap Center Project. Before I leave, I thought I should update you on the progress we are making on behalf of World Vision and the Lingap Center in Toledo City on the island of Cebu.

#### PURPOSE OF THE TRIP

The primary reason for my visit is to meet with the various stakeholders, including World Vision, Arlene Zambo (Toledo City Mayor), the City Council, Fr. Galego (Parish Priest) Jose Cabantan (Supt. of Schools), the Director of the DSWD (Dept. of Social Welfare and Development - Milagros Espera) the City Engineer and others, who will be the ones who will actually make this project work. We will be discussing the progress of each of their assignments, to ensure that everyone is ready as soon as I have the funding available to begin construction. We will be discussing the working relationships that will exist between all parties, the role of World Vision as well as my own role as the project moves forward.

#### WHILE I'M THERE

As you might expect, the children currently at the Lingap Center (approximately 25, which is more than it can hold) do not have some of the most basic pleasures that we take for granted, such as birthdays or Christmas parties. Consequently, while there, as my gift to the them, I plan to host a belated Christmas Fiesta. This will include lechon (roast pig), lumpia (spring rolls), siopao (steamed dumplings) and halo halo (sort of like ice cream). This will be quite a feast for them. I will also be giving them new shirts, which they all need. I am told by Rogelio Ypon (my close friend in Toledo City) that the kids are very excited about the day and are eagerly looking forward to it. As I have told some of you, the one who is really excited about it would be me. I will send an update when I return and tell you all about it.

#### FUND RAISING STATUS

Many of you have asked where we stand in relation to our goal of raising \$300,000, which as you will recall, is enough to renovate the existing building into kitchen, dining room and office facilities; build a new dormitory capable of handling 80 - 100 children; staff it and operate it for 1 full year. I am very pleased to say that through incredible community support, we are at approximately 25% of our goal. This was made possible through the efforts of individuals, families who made contributions to the Lingap Center as their Christmas gifts to each other, Monetta Harr at the Jackson Citizen Patriot, who wrote a truly wonderful article about the project, Bart and Karen Hawley of JTV

who hosted me on their television program, Lear Corporation, Dave Fleming for working on the blueprints, Kevin Thomson for reviewing legal documents, the Lions Club, Rotary, Kiwanis, several local churches and even the Hanover-Horton Brownie Troop #122 to name a few. I can honestly say that the outpouring of

support from our community, from people whom I have never met has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had.

While I am pleased with our progress to date, I am also very concerned about the balance that we need to raise. With this in mind, two of our very close friends, Kim Kluft and Janine McGill have been working on a myriad of fund raising ideas and activities in conjunction with World Vision. If only 1/2 of these ideas can be implemented, we will easily exceed our goals. Therefore, I am looking to the future with confidence. You will be hearing more about the fund raising activities in the near future. If you are interested in helping in any way (join a specific fundraising committee, donate catering/prizes for a possible dinner event/auction, etc.) aside from contributing funds, please contact Kim Kluft at 313-383-9595 (or at [kimkluft@wowway.com](mailto:kimkluft@wowway.com)). We can use all the help we can get! Please remember, the sooner we can get this facility built, the sooner 100 kids can be off the streets, into a safe environment free of abuse, hunger and worse and into school!!

#### TAX RECEIPTS

On a different matter, I received a note from World Vision in today's mail. They have been going through a major computer system changeout. Consequently, they are running behind in mailing their tax receipts. So, for those of you who have made contributions and have not yet received one, the receipts will be mailed soon. Let me know if you do not get one and need it right away.

This about summarizes things as of today (1/4/04). As I said, I will update you again when I return. In the meantime, if you know of someone who might be interested in the project, please tell them about it or let me know. I have a presentation that I would love to give to anyone who might have an interest.

Thanks again for all of your support and encouragement!!!!

John Drake