



May 2014

Dear Friends,

As you all know so well, the Lingap Center exists to provide hope for those children who have none. It is my feeling that the only way to achieve this and provide a pathway out of poverty for the Lingap wards is through education. Therefore, we stress education at every opportunity and reinforce it whenever possible. One example is our Lingap Honor Society, in which we honor the top students in elementary, high school and college at the end of each school year. We have a grand party for all of the kids and award a beautiful plaque to each winner. The three winners have their photos framed and placed on the wall for all to see during the next school year as examples of achievement and excellence.

This past school year, 15 of our wards attended seven different colleges or universities, studying a variety of courses such as agriculture, accounting, mechanical engineering, social work to name just a few. Jeffrey Amar was awarded an associate's degree in electrical engineering from the Cebu Technological University - Barili. He will continue next year to pursue his bachelor's degree. You will recall that last October, we celebrated our third college graduate, Aileen, who is now working at the Baltimore Country Club here in the U.S. on a year-long internship!! She will return to the Philippines in April of 2015 after she gains some international experience in the hospitality industry.



Five of our students were enrolled in the very prestigious and highly competitive Science High School and all did extremely well. John Ryan was the president of his class! Enrollment is very limited and graduates earn a fully paid college scholarship. While hundreds apply, only 40 new students are enrolled each year, based on competitive testing, so when you consider that five of them are Lingap wards – well, that says a lot. Additionally, we just learned that a sixth has passed the exam and so next year, we will have six!

Five of our students graduated from high school this year. Of these, four will be going on to college and one, Jenny Marie, has decided to follow a cosmetology vocational program in hopes of opening her own salon one day. She began her training immediately upon graduation and she absolutely loves it.



Another achievement that I am very happy to announce is that the twins, Genalyn and Genelyn graduated from preschool!!! Keep in mind that when we found them several years ago, they were very close to death. Now, however, they are doing exceptionally well and they are preschool graduates!! They are clearly on their way to a brighter future.

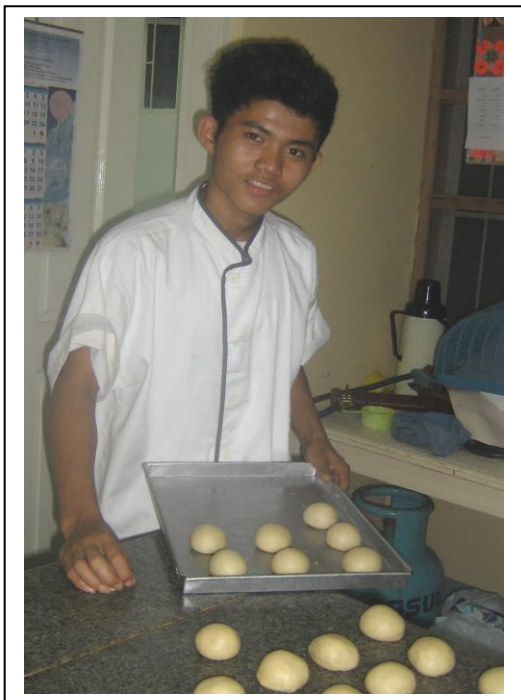
The Street Education program continues to prosper and our Street Educator, Janice, goes to three locations around the city each day to teach basic subjects to those who will never have a chance to attend school. Her core consists of basic arithmetic, reading, values and hygiene. We are doing all we can to give these less fortunate children the basics that they will need to survive in a very hostile environment....the dangerous city streets.

The newest initiative at the Lingap Center is a 'commercial cooking class' conducted by our cook, Edgar. (He was formerly a chef at a resort hotel). We purchased a new commercial grade oven thanks to a generous Lingap donor and the kids are taking orders throughout the community for wedding cakes, pastries, and bread etc. Even stores are placing orders! Their product is unbelievably good, too, and the wedding cakes are phenomenal - stair steps and flowers and everything else you can imagine. You will just have to take my word for it that their doughnuts (especially when they are still warm) are unbelievably good!! I always eat far too many!



Wedding Cakes, doughnuts, rolls...
all made by our "bakers."





Our bakers are learning all about being entrepreneurs as well. The money they earn is split three ways as follows: one third goes to cover the cost of the new oven; one third goes to the Lingap Center as a way for them to 'give back' and help sustain the Center; and one third goes to the participating children who deposit it into the Lingap Center co-op as a nest egg for when they ultimately go out on their own. We even got them chef outfits! They love it and are learning team-building, planning, marketing, accounting and so many other life skills about running their own businesses. They elected a president and everyone was assigned their own responsibility. At the end of the day, however, they know they must work as a team. They are also the group that baked the bread we used during our two Typhoon Yolanda relief missions.

I really do believe that the Lingap Center project is a miracle. Previously, none of the children had any hope of a future. But now, lives are being saved and futures are being built – one child at a time. However, the greatest miracles of all are the Lingap Center staff and our donors. Without all of you, none of this would have been possible. Thank you all so much! Please also keep in mind that as always, 100% of all donations go directly to the benefit of the children.

As I think about all of our educational initiatives, I am reminded of a quote from Franklin Roosevelt in which he said:

*“We may not be able to prepare the future for our children,
but we can at least prepare our children for the future!”*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Drake', written in a cursive style.

John Drake

P.S. I am very excited to announce that on May 18, CNN ran a major feature story about the Lingap Center on their international online news service. It was not television or video, rather it was an article done as a part of their “CNN Freedom Project.” It can be found on the internet by going to:

<http://cnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/2014/05/18/the-american-capitalist-saving-children-in-philippines-one-at-a-time/>

This is great news for us. I hope you will take a look!