



Dear Friends,

September 2013

As always, the Lingap Center is a beehive of activity. All of the kids are very busy in school and are doing exceptionally well. I am frequently asked about the twins, Jennalyn and Jennelyn, and I am pleased to report that they are now 4 years old, extremely healthy and about as cute as it is possible to be! Like the 'big kids,' they too are attending school (Day Care) near the Lingap Center and their backpacks are bigger than they are!

Since the Lingap Center opened in March of 2006, 294 children have been the direct beneficiaries of our residential child-care services; two have graduated from college, a third will graduate in October; 16 are enrolled in eight different colleges in Cebu; 102 have been sponsored for baptism into the church; literally thousands have attended our monthly Third Saturday Outreach and Soup Kitchen program (our record high was over 5000 in January of 2011) and hundreds attend our daily Street Education classes and lunch. The place really is a miracle that you have made possible.



Arriving at the Center

Today, however, I would like to tell you about four of our recent arrivals. In May, the three Segovia sisters: 7 year old Adeline; 8 year old Jenalyn; and 9 year old Anjely were referred to us by their maternal aunt. They also have a 4 year old brother, Junrey, who remained with their aunt and uncle. The story of their family is truly heartbreaking. In 2009 their father, described as a cruel, drunken and impoverished farmer, was imprisoned for life for the murder of his sister. Having no means of support and no education whatsoever, their mother left the children with her sister and moved to Manila to look for work. She has not been seen or heard from since and the children were considered to be abandoned.

Their aunt and uncle have four children of their own and support themselves as tenant farmers and by making charcoal. Their income was extremely meager. Clearly, it was not enough to support their own family not to mention the Segovia siblings. Consequently, the children were often hungry and school was not even a consideration. The future for them was very dark indeed. The girls arrived at the Center hungry, dirty, confused and very frightened. I can only thank God and all of our supporters that the Lingap Center and the Lingap staff were there for them. They were taken in, cleaned up, fed and welcomed by all of the children as a part of the Lingap family. Now, in spite of a very difficult beginning, the girls have a chance at a brighter future. All three were enrolled in school and church and they have adjusted exceptionally well.



**Junrey joins his sisters
at the Center.**

Since their brother, 4 year old Junrey, had remained with their aunt and uncle where he could help with the farming, the little family was still missing a very important member. The girls were very worried about him. Consequently, I asked the staff to work to also bring him to the Center if possible. I am delighted to report that in June, his aunt brought Junrey in to join his sisters. The siblings are now reunited and all have been incorporated into the larger Lingap family.

I thank God every single day that we were there for the Segovia siblings, the twins and all of the other Lingap wards and street children. This is possible only because of the Lingap staff, our supporters and our Place at the Table sponsors - who ensure that we never need to turn away a child

in need. I hope that if you are not already a sponsor, that you may consider joining us. You can enroll by visiting our website at: <http://lingapcenter.org>. This is the program that makes the Lingap project possible. Just remember that 100% of all donations go directly to the benefit of the children since all administrative expenses are covered by the Board of Directors and me.



A month later.....

When I look at the photo of the Segovia sisters after they had been at the Center for several months and how they were welcomed by the staff and children, I am reminded of a quote from former first lady Barbara Bush, when she said:

"To us, family means putting your arms around each other and just being there."

Thank you all so much for being part of the Lingap family.

Sincerely,

John Drake

P.S. If your e-mail address has been changed or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please notify me at: helpingkids@lingapcenter.org.