



August 4, 2007

Dear Friends,

The Lingap Center continues to be a haven of hope for children in need in the Philippines. As of today, we have 97 wards residing at the Center, but as a result of some of our outreach programs, we are actually touching countless others. In conjunction with the Ann Arbor Rotary Club, we are developing a library that will be available to the Lingap Center children, students at the West Bay Learning Center (a nearby private school that some of our children attend), and the entire community as well. Our studies have shown that in the immediate area, 2,000+ children will potentially benefit from this project, along with numerous adults who will receive literacy training. Therefore, I am delighted to tell you that our reach is now extending far beyond the Lingap Center itself. We strongly believe that education is the only way out of the poverty in which many of the children in this area live.

Since I have mentioned the importance of education, I would like to share a few of our recent success stories with you. The Philippine school year runs from early June through March, with two months off during the hot season. Consequently, the kids just began the 2007-2008 school year. One of our students, Marme, graduated from the Toledo National Vocational School (the public school) in March. She applied for entrance into the University of San Carlos in Cebu City and was accepted! She is now majoring in advertising and is doing very well. You should know that Marme has been at the Lingap Center since about age 5. She had been abandoned by her parents and fell victim to terrible abuse. Without the support of the Lingap Center staff and donors like you, her future prospects would have been severely limited. Instead, she is studying at the University and has a brilliant future ahead of her. I am very proud of her.

We recently placed Kimberly, another talented student, into the West Bay Learning Center. Prior to coming to the Lingap Center, Kimberly was also a victim of abuse and was not regularly attending school. I'm pleased to report that she scored the highest in the school in math on her initial exams, scoring in the 99th percentile! Now, thanks to generous Lingap Center supporters, Kimberly will receive an excellent education and when the time comes, the opportunity to attend college.

We are currently in the process of hiring a tutor at the Center, to assist with evening homework. The house parents have been providing this assistance, but as you might imagine, with almost 100 children at all grade levels and in different schools, it was a challenge for them to assist each of them while keeping the Center running smoothly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We should have the tutor hired within the next week or so. Hopefully, all of our students will share the same bright future as Marme and Kimberly.

<http://www.lingapcenter.org>
a 501(c)(3) organization

There is one more story that I will share with you. Recently, three young children became permanent residents of the Lingap Center after their father brutally murdered their mother. James (age 12), Felizabeth (age 8) and Janet (age 4) were witnesses to this violence and barely escaped with their lives. Without the Lingap Center, these children would face life alone on the streets. Instead, they will receive counseling from our staff along with food, clothing, shelter, an education and most importantly, love and support. I thank God each and every day that the Center was there for them. Thank you for helping to make the Center a reality.

While we have many other stories to tell, this will hopefully give you an idea of what has been happening of late. I must tell you however, that we desperately need your continued support and assistance. In my April 23 update letter, I mentioned our effort to raise an endowment to ensure that our work is sustained for years to come. Our goal is \$3 million. We have made some progress, but we still have a very long way to go.

We also continue to fall far short of our “*A Place at the Table*” sponsorship goal. As you will recall, our monthly operating costs are covered primarily through this program, which costs \$25 each month per child. This is the program that ensures that no child who needs our services will be turned away to the street (such as James, Felizabeth and Janet). If you do not currently participate, would you please consider doing so? You may enroll online by visiting our website at www.lingapcenter.org or give me a call at 517-529-9702. Please talk to your friends, family members or others in your community who may be interested in participating. If you are already a sponsor, thank you so very much.

In closing, we continue to make progress in all aspects of the project and we have many other successes to share. While there is still much work to do, we should all be very proud of what we have accomplished together. We would not have come as far as we have thus far without your help.

As I reflect on the project, the following quote comes to mind:

“What a privilege we have been given by God to be able to spend our lives giving His love away.”

Don Lessin

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Drake', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Drake