MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
As Covid Vaccines become available to more people, we pray that life will resume to at least a new normal. We have missed being together with family, friends, church, travel, and are all ready to feel spring and real living again. This is true here in the U.S. and the Philippines, as well as around the world. LCP still has many restrictions in place. Those under 18 and over 60 are still not allowed out of their communities. Mask with face shields are still required for entering any transportation or buildings. Group sizes are very limited; therefore, church at LCP is limited to 3 or 4 communities at one time. Costs have risen significantly, putting more stress on the poverty-stricken families. LCW/LCP continues to seek God’s wisdom as to how to strengthen our programs and help members, without putting more strain on slim resources. The families continue to barely survive day by day financially, with feelings of isolation, despair with the challenges of no face-to-face school, lack of understanding of the modules, and abilities of the parents to assist them, loneliness without interactions with friends and extended families, and fear of tomorrow and when will this nightmare ever end.

With your help, LCW/LCP continues striving to share our love and God’s love, give help in every possible way, to bring them hope in Jesus, and change their lives now and for the future. We cannot do this without your support, encouragement, and prayers. This is a new year, but the struggles remain and LCW is still in need of funds to carry on the mission God has given us. Please reach out to help us help the hurting, the hopeless, and those who so desperately need to feel love. You are the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for all you do to make a difference. May God Bless Each of You and Keep You Safe and Healthy as we move forward together to make a better world.

With my love and prayers, Glenna Waller

HOW TO HELP:

Give online:
www.littlechildren.org/donate/

Give by mail:
P.O. Box 37, Barnesville GA 30204

Give by phone:
770-358-2771

Sponsor a child
($35/month)

GREATEST NEEDS:
⇒ Consuelo Home for Boys
⇒ Wee Women Home for Girls
⇒ Peace and Faith Program
⇒ New sponsorships and fundraising opportunities

In This Issue:
1. How to write your child emails of encouragement
2. What you need to know about the 2021 new school year
3. A story of art, expression and success during a trying time
4. A message from LCW President, Glenna Waller

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VACCINE HOPEFUL
As 2021 is well underway, hope for getting back to normal is starting to become more of a possibility. Our staff in the Philippines have worked tirelessly and, at times, at great risk, to be sure the assistive services were provided to your children all throughout this pandemic. We are so incredibly grateful for the wonderful staff we have been given and for their unending commitment to seeing our children and their families succeed.

The Philippines is now beginning to roll out vaccines for frontline workers, such as healthcare workers and those providing community assistance. The LCP staff is now on the list to receive vaccinations as soon as possible! Praise the Lord! We know that the vaccine will bring much needed peace of mind to our staff as they continue to serve in the communities. According to community officials, they should be receiving vaccines by the end of May.

After all frontline workers are vaccinated, then other members of the community will be able to get the shots as well to increase heard immunity. It is unclear when our community members will be able to be vaccinated, but we have hope that by the end of the year, most everyone will have had the option to be vaccinated. LCP has been so blessed to only have a few cases of COVID-19, and thankfully, those cases were very mild with a quick recovery! The Dumaguete officials have done an outstanding job putting precautions in place to help curtail the spread of the virus and with everyone working together, they were able to largely control any outbreaks on the island.

LCW staff have all started the vaccine process, and will all be fully vaccinated by the end of April. This is great news! We look forward to the day when we can all return to a normal way of life and be able to gather together again. By 2022, we hope to be able to travel to the Philippines again to be able to spend time with the people of LCP in Dumaguete City. Thank you all for continuing to support LCP members during this difficult time. You have truly made a difference during the financial uncertainty of this pandemic.

HAPPY EASTER!
ART, EXPRESSION, AND SUCCESS

We believe art can be such a healing and restorative process. Often, children are able to express themselves through art in ways that are difficult to articulate with words. The children in our shelters often come from extremely difficult situations, often with many personal traumas. As part of our therapeutic interventions for these children, expression of emotions through art, whether painting, drawing, music, or any other medium, is encouraged and has proven to be very helpful.

The children in our shelter are incredibly talented in many ways! Junel and Noemy (pictured below) are two youth in the Consuelo Home for Boys and Wee Women Home for Girls. They are both gifted artistically, and were selected to commission an art piece for the Department of Social Welfare of the Philippines region 7 of the Philippines which was over 100 other competitors from all across Negros Oriental, Cebu, and Bohol. They chose the theme adoption and sponsorship, “Dili man tika ignsa, sa imong gugma ako abunda,” which translates to, “Even if we are not related, your love for me is abundant.”

The picture depicts the support that can come from people like educational, financial, and spiritual assistance found in adoption and sponsorship, even though they are not blood related. Noemy and Junel worked very hard on their piece, and were able to win 3rd place out of all of region 7 of the Philippines which was over 100 other competitors from residential shelters all across Negros Oriental, Cebu, and Bohol. We are so proud of them for their hard work and achievement. We will continue to encourage all our children to express themselves through the arts as part of their therapeutic intervention. Congratulations to the LCP shelters, specifically the artists Noemy and Junel, for winning 3rd place in this prestigious competition!

EMAILS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Email your child at littlechildrenofthephilippines@gmail.com

Personal notes to and from your sponsored child can be the best way to foster a personal relationship with them. They love to hear from you and enjoy writing to you. Sponsored children and their families like to write letters to express their appreciation for the generosity you are extending through their sponsorship and gifts. Of course, you will always receive at least 4 letters per year from your child as part of sponsorship, but you are welcome to write them anytime via written, mailed letter or email!

Email is an easy and convenient way to connect with your child. Emails are often a method of communication we are all using on a day to day basis, so this can be a better way to communicate more often than if you had to write and mail a physical letter. Either way works great, and your communications mean so much to your sponsored children.

For email, contact littlechildrenofthephilippines@gmail.com, write a note in the body of the email, attach any pictures or documents you would like to send, put the name of your child/children you are writing in the subject line, and be sure to sign your name/s at the bottom of the message. It’s that easy, and our sponsorship office will print your message and attachments for the family to keep, and you will hear back from your child within about a month. Please be patient, due to COVID restrictions, things can take longer.

Of course handwritten letters can be sent anytime! Either way, you will receive a response from your child, but it will take several months due to mail times. Now may be a good time to try emailing your child! It will mean so much to hear from you!

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2021

As of now, we expect to continue modular learning and online learning through the end of 2021. The new school year will begin in June for elementary through high school students after only a 2 week break at the end of May to make up for cancellations and delays in disseminating modules that took place earlier in the year. College will start the school year in August.

At LCP, we are doing our best to be able to support students through this time. LCP has a sizable library that is available to all members to be able to check out books, as well as a computer lab for the use of students to be able to complete assignments or attend online classes. The library coordinator, organizes a regular book exchange for early readers where she brings books to the communities and allows children to check out books for the month. In the communities, the sponsorship staff have done their best to identify those who are struggling with modular learning the most, and provide them with some tutoring services. The shelter children have two teachers who coordinate their lessons and facilitate learning of the modules.

It can be very difficult to identify who is struggling with the modules in the communities because in the end we cannot be 100% sure who is actually filling out the assignments. The years to come will be very telling of the impact that COVID-19 has had on the education of children all over the world. We remain hopeful for the day when we can safely return all children to in-person classes to resume schooling in the way we are all most familiar. However, in the meantime, please encourage your sponsored children to do their best in school and always do their modular work; even if it is hard, it will be important for their educational future. Your encouragement, means the world to them, especially during this difficult time.