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CRIBS Talk



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The Official Newsletter of CRIBS Foundation, Inc.

"Finding Hope in Despair"



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How fitting and apt to place as our theme, “*Finding Hope in Despair*”, in this next newsletter of CRIBS. You will find stories of our staff and our girls who survived the wrath of Ondoy, and stories of our babies who were “thrown” but were found. All stories tell us there is reason to hope because in the midst of despair and misery, people have come out to help and extend a hand. When homes and hopes were devastated by the horrific floods, friends, donors, even strangers to CRIBS family called to help. When one child is “given away”, “thrown for dead”, concerned citizens—even children themselves—came to rescue. Life’s mystery, destiny’s irony—we find hope in despair, we find strength in our weakest moments, we find treasure in nothingness. And when victims of the disaster, of the abandonment and neglect just thought everything was lost, true riches—love and generosity in material goods—were found.

THE STORY OF ONDOY AND CRIBS

Marie Victa Labajo



Saturday, 26 September. It rained hard the whole night of Friday and what seemed an ordinary rainy night turned out to be a nightmare the whole day of Saturday. Before lunch, CRIBS staff living in the Marikina area (Provident Village, Olandes, Tumana, Concepcion, Parang) were already on top of their roofs due to flood waters with mud covering their homes. The whole night was spent on rooftops calling and waiting for rescue, but nothing came.

CRIBS' Homes were not flooded, but waters in contiguous areas about 50 meters away (like the Church of the Nativity of Our Lady) were already eight feet submerged in flood waters. Staff have already started working on an evacuation plan to bring up all the babies and the girls and all necessities on the third floor of the New Beginnings Home. Text messages warning other staff outside of the office were frantically sent. By the afternoon, all forms of communication were cut and CRIBS could not be reached.

Sunday, 27 September. By lunch, our staff had gone down from the rooftops to seek refuge in another place—CRIBS home. Waters have gone down but mud was still waist or knee-deep which made it impossible for them to stay at home. Staff and their children affected by Ondoy came to CRIBS to wash themselves up and find something to eat. Since Saturday,

current was down so were the telephone and mobile lines. Tap water was overflowing. **Monday, 28 September.** Damage wreaked by Ondoy on families of our staff and our girls in residence and in the



AfterCare was glaringly manifest by then. By the afternoon, a preliminary assessment has been made who among the CRIBS family were affected by Ondoy. Before the end of the day, it was found out that 24 staff, 2 former staff, 12 families of girls in residence and in AfterCare and a participating barangay in the community advocacy living in the worst affected areas of Eastern Metro Manila (Marikina, Pasig) and the municipalities of the contiguous Rizal province (Rodriguez, San Mateo, Antipolo, Taytay) were severely affected. Worst stories I heard were those of two girls' homes totally washed out by the flood waters in San Mateo, Rizal and Navotas City.

For almost two weeks, CRIBS was home to at least 11 families, almost 48 persons sleeping in CRIBS at night and going back to their homes every day to see and salvage what was left of their possessions and start the tedious task of cleaning up. There were little possessions, if none at all, saved. Liza Frias' father (one of our caregivers) died after the rescue. God bless, all family members were saved. Some neighbors and friends were not that lucky though.



By this time, frantic calls and messages have been made and sent for donations—rice, canned goods, noodles, candles, linens, sleeping mats, drinking water. Former and incumbent Board members were the first to respond who quickly brought in everything that we asked for, and more (cooked food everyday). Cash came in too (the first P30,000 from Ms. Marivic del Rosario and Ollie Campos) and we immediately dispensed some amounts for calamity assistance to those affected.

Volunteers, donors have been trying to reach us to no avail. I opened my emails at night and only got to respond to their concerns and still, asked for HELP.

Tuesday, 29 September. Help came quick and plenty—more from the Board (Misses Cristina, Amalie and Pat generously gave their time and money to shop for our needs); this time, volunteers and friends, including those from abroad. Desiree and Emily of Blessings in a Bag, Singapore, Keith Bradley of Ingram Micro, USA, Tineke of Netherlands, Jocelyn Kidd of Australia, Louis Heussaff and many more, including showbiz stars Anne Curtis and Sam Milby came. Student volunteers and friends from Ateneo, UP, LaSalle came as well with packs and packs of donations.

Continued on page 4...



For two whole days, staff were just packing and repacking relief goods immediately given out to the staff and the families of the girls who came to CRIBS as well to ask for help, and refuge.

A debriefing session was conducted for the NB staff and the girls by Ms. Aileen Sison, our resident psychologist. It was during this session when we heard about the heroic act of Mommy Fely, who dodged the chest-high flood waters of Katipunan, Aurora and Marcos Highway just to replace a HP-on duty whose home was devastated. Or of Aling Baby, our housekeeper, whose daughter saved the GGK Training Manual because she was sure it will make her mother happy. While most were not directly affected, the mere sight, sound of the horrific scenes of disaster around them were enough to traumatize them as well.

Friday, 2 October. By this time, we had received extra relief goods that we thought we would share with the nearby communities of Olandes and Tumana. After preparing claim stubs that our own staff distributed to their neighbors, the whole day was spent by some of our staff and the NB girls sharing the goods to those who came. It was a peaceful and joy-filled day for them. Cash donations deposited to our peso, dollar and euro accounts came, much to our happy surprise. Two people came to visit CRIBS to assess and when feasible, make quotations on what renovations can be made to make it less hazard-prone (from fire, earthquake, storm and floods). By this

time we were warned about the coming of Pepeng and before dusk, people have left the office to watch over their families and homes again. While Metro Manila was spared by Pepeng, Central and Northern Luzon provinces were not, where three of our staff's families are currently living.

The Aftermath. Visits, text messages expressing grave concern continued to pour, including donations. By Wednesday, 7 October, current was back though communication lines continued to be erratic. We have been able as well to share about 260 packs of relief goods to residents of Barangay Silangan, District II Quezon City accessed from the UP community. Blessings in a Bag and the Corazon Roxas Foundation of San Francisco, USA sent balikbayan boxes of relief goods for the victims. Cash donations deposited to our peso, dollar and euro accounts came, much to our happy surprise. An anonymous donor through Ms. Pat, La Infancia de Hoy of Madrid, Spain and Andrea Thygesen of Australia gave money without being asked. Gus Menzins of IngramMicro Phils. collected money from friends and colleagues. Trisha Reyes, a balikbayan volunteer, organized fund raising as well for our babies.

These time, donations we asked were proposed for the rehabilitation of the victims' homes and their livelihoods. Emergency gears such as life vests, rubber boat, emergency lights were canvassed. We were back to work officially, though debriefing sessions with the Receiving Home staff were done to ease the pain borne out of the trauma of the disaster.

Daisy and I attended as well a seminar-workshop sponsored by CO-SCA on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management to equip us more with knowledge on how best we can prepare ourselves. More help came. Consuelo Foundation, a long time strategic partner, raised an amount to repair the homes of five families of our girls in residence and the AfterCare. Association of Foundation extended an effort too to assess and respond to needs of member-NGO staff for rehabilitation. And again, desire of the staff for a permanent home came up and was discussed again, which made Marites Ingles explore possibilities with a friend contractor. Not to miss out anyone who have quietly helped us through this disaster in the life of staff and families of our girls in CRIBS, we are reporting in detail donations received.



**TO ALL OF YOU OUR LOVING AND GENEROUS BOARD, VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, FRIENDS
AND VOLUNTEERS, MARAMING MARAMING SALAMAT PO!**

Summary of Cash Donations

1. Ms. Ollie Campos
2. Ms. Marivic Del Rosario
3. The Patatas with Potato Production
4. Ingram Micro Inc.
5. Ms. Patricia Ottiger
6. Ms. Fe Co. Pe
7. Ms. Naty Bagaybagayan
8. Ms. Sophia Apostol
9. Mr. & Mrs. Jax and Melodie Cuesta
10. Mr. Wilson Tecson
11. Fundacion Infancia Dettoy
12. Ms. Nena Tantoco
13. Ms. Patricia Bugayong Reyes
14. Andrea Thygesen
15. Diaconie Bathmen

Summary of Non Cash Donations

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Patricia Ottiger 2. Ms. Asuncion Family 3. Ms. Rosie Tanco 4. DPSKHV Lugo 5. Ateneo de Manila 6. Ms. Cristina Estrada 7. Ms. Nena Tantoco 8. Thru Mariles Tolosa (From Ms. Amalie, Ms. Pat & Ms. Cristina) 9. Ms. Amalie Azanza 10. Ms. CB Garrucho 11. Ms. Ollie Campos 12. Mr. Javy and Adi Vitug 13. Julie and Cello Santos | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Tanco and Family 15. Kyung Ah Lee 16. Gwendolyn J. Carino 17. New Life Church Pyung Gang 18. Ms. Patricia Ottiger and Friends 19. Ms. Norma Ignacia Cristobal 20. Ms. Anne Manapat 21. 1st Life Finanacial 22. P. Gel Daza 23. Ms. Jacky Couled 24. UP Sagip Isko 25. Leo Katigbak |
|---|---|

MGA KWENTO NG KARANASAN NUONG ONDOY

BAGONG PAG-ASA

**Mhell Capiro
R.H Caregiver**

Nuong ika-26 ng Setyembre ang isang araw na di ko malilimutan. Duty ko nuon sa CRIBS mula 6:00 ng umaga ako hanggang alas 2:00 ng hapon kaya't iniwan naming ang aming mga anak na pito at anim na taon gulang sa hipag ko. Eksaktong 12:00 ng tanghali tumawag ang aking hipag at humihingi ng tulong sa akin dahil ang tubig daw ng baha ay umabot na sa ikalawang palapag ng inuupahan naming bahay at wala na silang magawa. Tinext ko ang asawa ko para ipaalam ang kalagayan ng mga anak namin sa bahay. Dali-daling umuwi ang asawa ko at dinaanan ako sa CRIBS. Alas 2:00 ng hapon pinilit naming mag-asawa makarating sa bahay namin kahit ang tubig ay nasa bubong na ng mga bahay. Sa gitna ng baha at malakas na agos tinawid naming yung baha sa pamamagitan ng pag lipat lipat sa mga bubong ng mga bahay, kapit sa kahoy at iba pa. Pagdating namin sa bahay di na namin nadatnan ang mga anak namin at walang makapagsabi kung saan sila. Sa sobrang pagod at lamig na aming naranasan, halos sumuko kaming mag-asawa at tanggapin na lang kung ano man ang mangyari. Pagdating ng alas 7:00 ng gabi may nakapag sabi sa amin na ang aming mga anak ay nasa rescue center ng ABS-CBN. Pasalamat kaming mag-asawa sa Diyos at ligtas ang aming anak. Para sa amin kayamanan naming sila at walang kapalit kahit para sa amin malaking bagay sa amin ang mawalan lahat ng gamit.

NUONG DUMATING SI ONDOY

**Emelia Ordaniel
Housekeeper**

Ang nangyari sa amin sa bagyong Ondoy ay masakit; umiyak ako dahil sa hindi ako makapaniwala na ganun kalaki ang tubig. Sobrang sakit na nakita ko ang bahay na umapaw ang tubig at puno ng putik and lahat. Ang kaldero, naanod, plato, damit, wash out lahat gamit, hindi ko alam kung ano ang unahin, wala na sila uniform pat kong anak, sobra sakit nga naramdaman ko. Nagdasal na lang ako, nga Diyosko huwag mo kami pabayaang, nakalipas and dalawang lingo umuwi kami sa bahay, nakahiga na umuulan pa rin na parang may kaba pa rin baka maulit uli ang baha. Sa kabila ng lahat na ito, ay nagpapasalamat pa rin ako na walang nabawas sa family ko. Thankful rin ako sa ginawa sa akin ng anak ko, wala siyang nailigtas kundi and libro ko s GGK (Growing Great Kids), nasa kabilang building na siya pero binalikan niya ito. Nasa CRIBS ako nang oras na yon, gusto ko umuwi pero pinili ko na manatili sa CRIBS at nagpapasalamat ako sa nagsuporta sa amin, nagtulong sa lahat ng pangangailangan long lalo na kay Mrs. Garrucho na nagsuporta sa amin sa buong lingo sa pamamagitan ng pagbigay ng lutong pagkain sa amin. Sa mga Board Members, na nagsuporta, nagbigay pag-asa para makabangon uli kami.

MGA KWENTO NG KARANASAN NUONG ONDOY

ISANG KARANASANG

DI MALILIMUTAN

**Gina Tibang
RH Caregiver-In-Charge**

Sabado ng umaga noon at dapat gagawin ko na ang weekend task ko like maglaba ng uniform ng mga anak ko ngunit nabigla ako ng makita ko and tubig sa labas na iba na ang kulay at wala akong idea na galing n pala yon sa ilog at mabilis and pagtaas ng tubig sa una pinag papatong namin ang mga gamit sa mataas na shelves pero di talaga nakayanan. Ang nakakatakot pa hindi agad kami lumabas ng bahay hanggang umabot na sa baywang namin ang tubig that time kasama ko sa bahay and dalawa kong anak sina Gella, 14 years old at John-john 12 years old na ang tubig sa labas ng bahay ay sa leeg na siguro namin. Mabuti na lang at nabasa ng asawa ko yong text ko sa kanya agad siyang umuwi pero mataas na ang tubig at lumangoy na lang siya at sabi pa niya ang lakas-lakas ng agos at saka pa kami mag-ina nakalabas ng bahay na wala man lang na save sa mga gamit. Nag stay kami sa rooftop ng magdamag na walang kain at basa kaya lalo akong naawa sa ma anak ko na nakaramdam na ng gutom at lamig na sabi ko sa bunso ko itulog mo na lang yan habang nakahiga sya sa lap ko.

Kinabukasan ng humupa na ang tubig ng makita ko ang mga gamit namin lalo akong nanghina na nasa isang iglap lang nawala na lahat yong pinaghirapan naming ipunin lalo na ang mga alaala ng mga bata mula ng baby pa sila gaya ng pictures, toys at mga certificates a medals nakuha nila sa school. Tinanong ko sa aking sarili, paano kaya kami makabangon? paano mag-umpisa uli? Mabuti na lang may mga tao na may pusong tumulong sa amin katulad ng mga Board Members ng CRIBS, na sila ang unang nakaunawa sa amin at lalo na sa aming Executive Director na si Ms. Marie, maraming salamat po sa lahat na ginawa mo sa amin. Higit sa lahat nagpapasalamat ako sa Puong Maykapal na hinde kami pinabayaan sa orsa na iyon at binigyan Niya kami ng bagong pag-asa.

ANG BAHA DAHIL

SA BAGYONG ONDOY

**Jazel Santos
R.H Caregiver**

Nagising ang mga tao sa magandang sikat ng araw nuong ika-26 ng Setyembre 2009. Normal na pumasok ang mga tao sa kanilang hanapbuhay subalit nuong ika 10:00 ng umaga, biglang dumating ang baha na ikinagulat ng maraming tao na nagtagal hanggang alastres ng madaling araw ng sumunod na araw. Nuong pagkabukas, napabalita sa radyo at mga pahayagan na marami ang nawalan ng mga tirahan, nasira ang mga kagamitan at di kokonti ang mga namatay. Ayon din sa balita ay nagbukas daw ng mga dam kaya naganap ang malagim na pagbaha, samantalang hindi naman malakas ang buhos ng ulan na dala ng bagyong Ondoy. Umasa pa kaming hindi na mauulit ang ganitong kalamidad sanhi ng kapabayaang ng mga nanunungkulan. Ang ilan ay dumating sa pagkakataon na walang tubig na mainum at kahit na pang linis o pang paligo man lamang sa dahilang isinara ng MWSS sa takot na baka makainom ng maruming tubig ang mga tao at kasabay nito 2 linggong walang kuryente. Halos naiwan sa bawat barangay ang tambak at gabundok na basura na maaring magdulot ng sakit, salamat sa ilang mga mamamayan na nag volunteer para malinis at maisaayos ang aming Baranggay. Ganun pa man ay kumalat pa rin ang sakit na Leptos Pirosis na sanhi ng ihi ng daga na sumama sa baha. Isang pangyayari na hindi malilimutan ng mga mamamayan ang sinapit dahil sa bagyong Ondoy. Salamat rin sa pamunuan ng CRIBS Foundation, Inc. na isa sa mga tumulong sa amin para makaahon sa pagkakasalanta ng baha. Sa lahat ng tumulong sa aming Barangay, ang DDT Construction Company at sa ACF na nag padala ng mga truck at loader upang mahakot ang mga basura maging sa mga volunteer na tumulong sa paglilinis. Sa ngayon nakaka move on na kami at ang mga pamilyang nasalanta ng bagyong Ondoy. Isang paalala lamang, ano mang pang yayari sa ating buhay, maniwala ka at magtiwala sa Dios na nangako na hindi ka niya iiwan ni pababayaang ano mang pagsubok ikaw ay ligtas.

ISA KANG BANGUNGOT ONDOY

**April Joy Juguilon
RH Caregiver-Reliever**

Ako'y naninirahan sa Malanday, Marikina City na kung saan isa sa mga lugar na lubos na sinalanta ng Bagyong Ondoy. Isa ako sa mga taong hindi makalimot sa trahedyang nangyari noong September 26, 2009 na kung saan ang buong Mrakina at karatig lugar nito ay nalubog sa malawakang pagbaha. Hindi ko man naranasan ang umakyat sa bubong o makita kung paano tumaas ng ganoon kabilis ang tubig, sapagkat ng mga panahong iyon ay kasalukuyan akong nakaduty ng dalawamput apat na oras. Ng mga sandaling iyon ay kasalukuyan akong nakaduty ng dalawamput apat na oras. Ng mga sandaling iyon nagpapasalamat ako na hindi ko naranasan ang takot at pangamba habang nasa ganoong sitwasyon na katulad ng iba. Ngunit hindi ko akalaing mas grabe pa pala ang mararamdaman ko sa aking pag-uwi dahil sa nangyari halos walang madaanan at walang masakyan kinabukasan kaya napilitan akong maglakad paakyat ng C5 papuntang Katipunan at pabalik Marikina. Habang naglalakad ako nakita ko and naging resulta ng Bagyong Ondoy. Ang mga eksena na akala ko sa telebisyon ko lang makikita ay puwede pa lang masakihan ko sa umagang iyon. Mga nagkalat ng mga sasakyan, sirang mga bahay at kagamitan, at mga taong parang mga basing sisiw na hindi malaman kung saan sila dapat tutungo. Ang pinaka hindi ko maillimot na nakita ko ay ang mga bangkay na nakahilera sa tabing kalsada sa may Provident Village, na kung saan ang isa ay muntik ko pang matapakan dahil ito ay natatakpan lamang ng mga tela. Pakiramdam ko ng mga oras na iyon ay nasa ibang mundo ako. Hindi ko man lang maramdaman ang pagod at puyat sa aking paglalakad ng umagang iyon. Parang isang masamang panaginip lamang ang mga nangyari.

Isang malaking leksyon sa akin ang trahedyang ito. Nagdulot man ito ng hindi magandang epekto sa lahat, naisip ko na may dahilan lahat ang mga nangyayari sa atin. Maari itong isang babala na kailangan na nating magbago at itama lahat para sa hinaharap.

KARANASANG DI MALILIMUTAN

**Gerva Casido
RH Caregiver-Reliever**

Ondoy ang pangalan ng bagyong di naming malimut-limutan! Nung nasa kasagsagan ng bagyong Ondoy, I was so thankful dahil magkasama kaming ligtas ng mga pinsan at tita ko. Si Ace, and ex-boyfriend ko ang tumulong sa amin para sa matinding baha na dumating. Naisip ko oh, pano pala kung wala dun si Ace, buhay pa kaya ako o ang mga kamag-anak ko? Thanks God at di Nya kami pinabayaan Siya yong nagsilbing lakas at gabay namin upang maging mahinahon lamang. September 27, 2009, 5 am nilakad namin ni Ace mula Antipolo hanggang Marikina para makauwi na kami. Nilusong namin kahit hanggang baywang and tubig. Si Ace and nagdala lahat ng gamit namin. Bitbit nya and dalawang helmet, bag at pati ako binuhat din niya. Natawa na lang ako nung sinabi nya sa akin na "thart" lintik na pag-ibig ito umulan man o bumagyo magkasama tayo. Di namin namalayan ang oras, nakarating kami ng matiwasay sa Marikina Labis ako naawa kay Ace at sa sarili ko dahil gutom na kami ng mga oras na iyon, gasgas ang paa ni Ace dahil naka paa lang siya mula Antipolo hanggang Marikina.

Hinatid lang ako ni Ace sa bahay at umuwi na siya. Naligo at kumin lang ako, agad pumunta ng CRIBS. Nalaman ko ang mga naging karanasan ng mga kasama ko sa trabaho nung gabing umatake si Ondoy.

Ako ang ka endorse ni Ate Mhel, 9 to 2, umuwi ako sa bahay at sumama sa tito ko para pumunta sa Olandes upang tumulong sa pagbigay ng mga pagkain sa mga taong nasalanta. 10 to 6 pumasok ulit ako sa CRIBS. Pagkauwi ko marami ng mga tao sa bahay. Dun muna sila pansamantala pinatira ng tito ko hanggat di pa ayos ang mga bahay nila.

Isa lang ang tumatak sa isip ko. At ito and nagsilbing aral sa akin ang maging matapang sa pagharap upang malabanan natin and mga darating pang pagsubok sa ating buhay. Dahil di tayo bibigyan ng problema ng nasa itaas kung alam niyang di natin ito kakayanin.

ONDOY IN MY MIND: THE STORIES OF TRAGEDY

**Aileen L. Sison
NB Psychologist**

The disaster happened almost two months ago and still the stories on Ondoy remain to be fresh on my mind. As if they happened yesterday. As part of the team of the well-renowned clinical psychologist Dr. Honey Carandang (MLAC Institute for Children and Families), we provide psychological intervention to survivors during disasters. Or in a more commonly known term we give debriefing workshops. And Ondoy was no exception. In this tragedy I realized that we, the residents of Metro Manila were worse off than those that we met in other disaster stricken areas. In the sense there is someone you know that was affected by it - either you, your family, a relative, a friend, a colleague, or a neighbor. Cribs was no exception. The disaster affected the families 24 of the staff members. And in those early days when the disaster struck, CRIBS became an

evacuation center to these staff members and their families. The process of debriefing or in the Filipino context "pakikipagkapwa-damdamin", a term created by Dr Lourdes A. Carandang in the early 90s when they did a multi-psychosocial intervention to survivors in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija brought about by the killer quake in 1990 and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo thereafter.

The debriefing in CRIBS were done in batches. I based my intervention on the framework of trauma and recovery, that we are all traumatized (vicariously or otherwise) in different degrees. And since "we are our own instrument" we cannot be able to take care of others at home and in our work if we do not go through the process of debriefing.

Initial efforts were done during a case conference with the staff of the New Beginnings program.

After several weeks, two groups of debriefing sessions occurred with the staff who were directly affected with the disaster. Finally, their children also underwent a debriefing workshop with me and a volunteer team of psychologists. Each story was unique as it showed a glimpse of how one dealt with this unimaginable experience.

Stories poured out, tears were shed. Varying degrees of emotion were expressed as each shared their experience during that fateful day of September 26. What came out in each of these debriefing sessions was the sense of family or community. That even if they have not totally recovered from the disaster, Cribs can be a place where they can feel safe, affirmed and supported no matter what.

**A story of Hope
Genelyn Pacala**

I deeply thank you for being God's instrument in lending your helping hands to those who are in need of your services. While writing this letter, I remember all the ways you made in order to lighten our feelings, how your help lessen the sadness we felt due to devastated incident that happened to my family. When we heard the news that CRIBS will give us assistance, we finally found hope to start our life again. I really thank you for extending your help to us; we will never forget this because through your support we are able to rise again from the terrible experience brought by Typhoon Ondoy. I want to share with you what we've been through during Typhoon Ondoy.

It was September 26, 2009 Saturday morning, nonstop rains heavily poured in Montalban, and every pour of rain brought me fear and made my heart beat fast. I had to go to school that day but I don't know why I felt so unusual. As I arrived to school it was announced that classes were suspended. Together with my two classmates, we hurriedly took a ride to go home, still rain poured heavily. Going to Barangay Manggahan, I was shocked by the waist-deep floods that came across my way. Any means of transportation were suddenly cut then I finally decided to immerse in the floods in order to reach our house. The floods immediately turned from waist-deep to chest-deep.

. My two classmates and I fastened ourselves together in order to Afterwards, we reached the foot of the mountain. I was frightened when I saw some of our neighbors evacuating our area. For the first time in my life experienced this kind of tragedy in my life; unexpected and unusual.

I was looking for my mother but I did not find her, I can't see any house from there; massive muddy waters covered our entire neighborhood. I continuously searched for my mother; finally one of our neighbors told me that they were on the other side of the mountain.

I quickly ran to my mother, when I saw her, I embraced her tightly, I was very thankful that she is alive. She was crying while narrating what had happened.

Lots of people together with our neighbors were stranded at the foot of the mountain. We did not receive any assistance for more than 24 hours after the flash floods. We had no food, no water to quench our thirst.

We waited until the muddy waters dried up.

Sunday morning, we went down the mountain to look for whatever materials we can recover. But we were disheartened to see nothing but mud. The aftermath of the typhoon left us homeless, all the houses from our Barangay were washed out together with the flood.

Our livelihood such as our retail business and piggery were also swept away. Nothing from our household was saved, only the clothes that we were wearing that day.

September 28, when I went to CRIBS to seek for assistance, I can't help but to cried out about our situation especially whenever I recall how my mother wept for what we had lost. I felt so down and don't know how to start our life again. All our belongings were vanished in a blink of an eye.

CRIBS really played an immense role in our survival from the damaged caused by the typhoon. Our immediate needs were provided by CRIBS such as rice, canned goods, clothes, blankets, towel and toiletries. We also received financial assistance that helped us rebuild our house that was washed out by the typhoon. We opted not to leave the place despite the trauma for the reason that we have no where to go . We also used portion of the financial assistance from CRIBS to re-establish our retail business and piggery.

Despite of that incident, I'm still thankful that my whole family is still together. Through the help of CRIBS, I'm able to get my hope back. My mother and I are gradually tracing the road to recovery now. God is really good!

To all the people who extended their help, both in kind, financial, psychological & emotional support , our sincerest word of thanks for regaining our strengths back, a new hope for a new future ahead of us especially for my family. God shall return all the generosity you gave to others.

STORIES OF THREE ANGELS BROUGHT TO LIFE: Hope in Despair

Marie Victa Labajo

Baby Trina

I would like to share with you the stories of three of our babies referred to us. These stories have warmed our hearts, and at certain times, brought tears to our eyes. But they are stories that bring hope in times of despair, and I believe they came to us for a purpose.

In May of this year, a woman was referred to the Women's Desk of the Quezon City Police District by a concerned citizen. She was holding a days-old baby purportedly left to her

by the mother to relieve herself in a restroom in one of the malls of Cubao, then later, to load her cellphone to contact her husband.

The mother never came back. Inside the bag left with the baby, a letter was found written by the mother herself to the child, asking for forgiveness for abandoning her. A day after, the baby was admitted to CRIBS.

Baby Cedrick

In July of this year, an infant was found in a vacant lot in Caloocan City with his umbilical cord still attached. He was crying out loud thus somebody from the nearest house asked the help of a neighbor who brought the infant in turn to a midwife who cut its umbilical cord properly. He was then brought to the hospital for more medical attention then a blotterfiled in both the barangay and the police station in Caloocan City. Twelve days after, the baby came to CRIBS.

Baby Melissa

In September, five boys found a baby girl wrapped in a blue towel and pink blanket with a yellow stuffed toy inside a travelling bag in Mandaluyong City. The five boys were on their way home when they heard a baby crying inside a travelling bag along a frenzied street. The child was then brought to the hospital for medical care and the hospital in turn referred the child to CRIBS. Four days after, Baby Melissa came to CRIBS. When foundlings are found, our placement social workers exert their best and utmost effort to search for their parents—through tri-media appeals, and when available, visit the home address registered in the last address where the child is found. But children who are abandoned by their birth mothers/parents are really abandoned;

always, their parents cannot be found. Names and addresses registered are almost always fictitious. It is usually the finder (often the social worker) that gives the name to the child.

In the case of referrals to CRIBS, one out of ten of our cases are foundlings. Birth mothers must have lost all hope to bring up their own child upon birth. Or, they may have pinned their hopes on institutions like ours to give a life, a future to that child. But whatever it is, HOPE IS THE CORE BUSINESS OF CRIBS. We believe that out there, there is a loving family waiting for Melissa, Cedric, Trina and all other children abandoned or surrendered. So, we do our best in our jobs, and we do it quick.

NEWS UPDATE :

HOW A LITTLE ANGEL SURVIVED

Nora T. Geraldino

Senior Clinical Caregiver In-charge

It's one of the saddest stories I've ever heard. A mother who gave birth to her child but her mind was preoccupied with many many problems resulting to abandoning her baby in the hospital. As I saw Christian James lying in bed in the Pediatric Ward of the Philippine General Hospital, my heart ached. He is so tiny, fragile and very thin. He only weighed 1.6 kilograms. The doctor said he is premature; to me, he is a handsome baby boy, have a good suck and cry.

CRIBS admitted Christian James on June 9, 2009, underwent several laboratory procedures such as newborn screening, Otoacoustic Emission test for his hearing and went twice to an ophthalmologist for his vision. All of these procedures revealed normal results. We also brought him to Dr. Marison Montes for a weekly Cranio Sacral Therapy, to Dr. Cristan Cabanilla for a regular check-up of his lungs and a monthly check-up with Dr. Cristina Tuazon and Dr. Xeres Luz of The Medical City.

Christian James was given Pre Nan milk and Heraclene vitamins by our generous donors. For the period of six months, they faithfully supply his milk and vitamins. Of course his diligent caregivers played a great role in his development.

Christian James now weighs 5.9 kilograms as well has a smiling face. He can sit down with support and can get into a crawling position by getting up on his own hands and knees. Now every time, I look at Christian James my heart smiles. I've seen the importance of these people (the volunteer doctors, the faithful donors and loving caregivers) in CJ's life. They nurtured him, protected, sustained and loved him. They all believed in him.

To all of you many thanks and God bless you!

RECEIVING HOME**EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT****Emily Tugade-Mendoza - ECDP In-Charge**

One of the tasks and responsibilities of the Early Child Development Program In-Charge is to organize, schedule and implement monthly outdoor activities for the kids to enhance the children's emotional, motor, language and spiritual development through age appropriate activities. This month of November, we brought our toddlers to Storyland SM Las Pinas for them to explore a wider place, experience in riding carousel and mingle with other kids. Our kids enjoyed the rides very much, they didn't like to go out of the rides anymore. They wanted to stay and take the rides all over again especially the bee, horse, jeep, car, anchor, and balloons. They clapped their hands with joy while riding. They loved to explore the area. We had our lunch in Chowking SM Las Pinas, the kids loved the congee lugaw while the staff ate chorizo and halo-halo. Then we went home with the toddlers sleeping in our arms.

Thank you very much to Ms. Juvy Bay who sponsored the November outdoor activity for the toddlers. Having Ms. Bay is an evidence of God's faithfulness to the children of CRIBS. 2 Corinthians 9:7 God loves a cheerful giver.

NEW BEGINNINGS PROGRAM**NB Update:****Glenda Obligacion, RSW****OIC Supervisor, New Beginnings Program**

The New Beginnings Program, in its continuing efforts to provide appropriate interventions for fast healing and recovery of sexually abused girls in the residential home, undertook a diversified schedule of outdoor and indoor activities that were facilitated by the staff as well as the volunteers who continued to extend their help to CRIBS. The Ingram Micro Company who continue to provide for partial educational subsidy of the residential girls, visited the Philippines last October 7 and brought the girls to the Science Discovery Centrum in Mall of Asia where the girls witnessed account of the historical evolution of science. Still in October, celebrated the Bonding Day previously called as "Family Day". It was simultaneously done with the Celebration of the United Nations Month which were participated by almost 80 guests and staff held at the People's Missionary Church, Marikina City.

The 4th quarter of 2009, contributed a great impact in the learning process of the girls because of the various opportunities from the outside environment:

THE KIDS AHOY CREATIVE PLAY SHOP - a kids-centered, collaborative and socially-committed approach to Creative Play -- dedicated to helping transform society through art and culture conducted an outreach program to the NB girls by helping the girls children discover and hone their creative potentials through art workshops every Friday afternoon.

Yoga sessions was also introduced to the girls by Ms. Madel Pajarillo-a volunteer who taught the style and steps in doing yoga. The girls were able to relax through the activity which finally became a practice every morning before the start of the claseses with the supervision of Ms. Janet Danao-SPED teacher. **The Council for the Welfare of Children** invited 3 of our residential girls (Judy Ann, Lysa and Allysa) to the Convention on the Rights of the Child held last November 18-20 at National Museum. The activity aimed to promote children's awareness of their rights and helped them to share their knowledge to other participating children in the said activity. Here are some of the girl's feedback:

" Maganda siya, marami akong natutunan at marami rin akong nakilala , naggig kaibigan kahit sa 2 araw na nagkasama-sama kami"

- Juday

" I showed my talents at natuto akong magsalita at magshare ng aking kaalaman"

- Izza-

" Maganda yung mga ginawa namin kasi by groupings yung mga workshop at yung kooperasyon ng bawat isa ay nakikita"

-Lysa-

Continuing Professional Education to CRIBS staff was continuously given as well. Nine (9) CRIBS staff (1 from VRP, 1 from Administrative staff, 3 from NB, 3 from Placement and 1 from RD staff)are currently in the process of finishing the 3 modules of the Beginning Family Therapy under Society of Filipino Family Therapists (SOFFT) led by Ms. Alice Molina

-President. This effort was done through the benevolent support of Consuelo Foundation. The expected outcome was to train CRIBS in the conduct of family therapy for the girls' families as part of holistic approach to family & child case management. This will help the process of preparing the family for the eventual reintegration of the girls to the community. As part also of the staff development, Parenting Seminars were facilitated by Ms. Priscilla Fernando to enhance

the house parents' skills in handling the residential girls' dynamics and behaviors. Six (6) NB house parents attended the sessions as part of their continuing learning process.

Also, last November 27, the girls along with the toddlers visited the Santa Village through the help of Ms. Mila Santillan a Board Member and viewed the scene of Jesus and Mama Mary. They also experience

the "carolling activity" with the support of Inner Wheel Club of Bulacan held in Greenhills San Juan Metro Manila last December 5. In the succeeding days the girls had their Christmas party provided by Childrens Hour held in Jolibee, Sta. Elena, Marikina City which they really enjoyed too. And lastly, last December 7, Mam Patricia Ottiger, another Board Member brought the girls to Eco Park in Novaliches, QC and let the girls enjoy their biking and boating activities.

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE PROGRAM

LUCKY, INDEED!

Melodie Cuesta—2000 CRIBS Volunteer



I first visited CRIBS when I was still studying at the Ateneo. I went with a friend one afternoon and we spent our time there playing with the older kids and hugging the babies. While the staff took good care of them, their need for affection seems insatiable. It was quite understandable. After all, they were abandoned by their parents. Maybe they could even feel that they were already unwanted while still in their mothers' wombs. Surely, it would be difficult to find some sort of consistency and permanence which the children need in order to fully trust and feel fully loved. Volunteers come and go, even the other children they have come to know as playmates move on. That was what got me going back to CRIBS for over 10 years. Even when I got caught up in my own life, I believed that if I could provide some affection, even for just an hour or two, it would help. I now live in Canada with two children of my own. My children have both their mommy and daddy and loving grandparents who shower them with love. And yet we sometimes still get requests for more hugs and cuddles. Imagine how much more hugs and cuddles. Imagine how much more affection the babies in CRIBS need. My kids are lucky indeed and when we do have the chance to visit CRIBS, I would love for them to spend some time and give what little affection they can. Experiences like these make us truly thankful for our blessings. These make us thankful that we are somehow able to make others happy, even for a short while. We recognize that the children of CRIBS do need more love and affection. However, we also hope that when they are all grown up and look back, they would realize how lucky they were—lucky that they did not grow up in an abusive home, lucky that their mothers chose to give them life.

PLACEMENT

PLACEMENT PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009

Jalil M. Usman, RSW Placement Program Supervisor

The Placement Program served a total of fifty (50) children this year. 38 of the 50 children were cared under Receiving Home while the remaining twelve (12) were under Foster Home.

There are 16 permanent placements 12 facilitated by the placement team through adoption or reunification. Two were locally adopted (both adoptive parents are from Quezon City) while 8 were placed through inter-country adoption (adoptive parents from the countries of Australia, Spain, Andorra, France and USA). While there were children who were successfully reintegrated with their biological parents or relatives. More so, two (2) children were transferred to other agency.

Presently, there are twenty three (23) foster families under the supervision of the foster care program which includes six (6) newly licensed foster families. 11 of the 23 foster families are active with foster child.

In addition, three (3) children with special needs from the Social Service Development Department of Quezon City, The Philippine General Hospital and the DSWD-Marikina City were provided temporary shelter by CRIBS until they moved to the proper agency who can address their needs.

HELP US SECURE THE FUTURE

Peso Account

Bank : **Bank of Philippine Island (BPI) -
Loyola-Katipunan Branch**

Savings Account Name: **CRIBS Foundation Inc.**
Account Number: 3081-0806-06

Dollar Account

Bank: **Bank of Philippine Island (BPI) -
Katipunan Branch**

Savings Account Name: **CRIBS Foundation Inc.**
US\$ Account Number: **3084-0263-86**
Swift Address: BOPIPHMM

Peso Account

Bank: **Land Bank** Katipunan Branch

Savings Account Name: **CRIBS Foundation Inc.**
Account Number: 1461-0880-70

Euro Account

Bank : **Bank of Philippine Island**

Savings Account Name: **CRIBS Foundation Inc.**
EURO Account Number: 3084-0465-22
Swift Address: BOPIPHMM

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