

1 March 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the CRIBS Family!

One of the things that we really like our website to do is to update our readers, donors, volunteers, friends or just about anybody who is interested in CRIBS and the work that we do, about events and special occasions, or letting them know what is new about the old things that we have been doing.

The quarterly online newsletter is still being put together by Debbielyn Bustamante, our Resource Mobilization and Advocacy Assistant (actually a new position in our organization), with the help of a few volunteer writers and regular staff of CRIBS.

But while that is still in the process, I thought perhaps of writing a message that will provide you with the most recent news about us. Here are the highlights of the past two months of 2008:

### ***Welcoming a New Board of Directors!***

The CRIBS Board and General Assembly just finished its annual election of members and officers last 13 February. Ms. Marivic del Rosario, who according to many, was almost the eternal volunteer, Board Member of CRIBS, resigned as both member and Chairperson of the Board of Directors. She has promised though to stay very close to CRIBS and to do exactly this, the Friends of CRIBS Association will be created soon!

Ms. Cristina Estrada has taken the place of Ms. Marivic as the new Chair and Ms. Pat Ottiger, one of the two Conversational English teachers of our New Beginnings girls, is now on board as a member. Ms. Ollie Campos remains the President, Ms. Amalie as Vice-Chair and Mr. Rudy Jeturian as Treasurer. The rest have remained as members.

### ***Christening of 18 of our Children***



BAPTISM OF CRIBS CHILDREN

Eighteen of our children (15 from Receiving Home and 3 from New Beginnings) was christened last 9 February in the Nativity of Our Lord Church here at the Industrial Valley Complex with Fr. Manoling Francisco, S.J. as the officiating priest. Venchie Paminiano, our untiring volunteer and donor, and the TUGON members sponsored the activity bringing with them all that sumptuous meal to feast over and the sponsors. Ms. Mila Santillan, one of our Board members was there to share the joy of the family!

### ***Music now a regular part of Therapy for the NB girls***

This is really something new that has only been introduced last January! Thanks to Christopher Carandang and Maris Marin, who are regular music therapists in the clinic of the renowned Dr. Honey Carandang in Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital. Chris, Maris and Aileen Sison, our resident psychologist are all colleagues in that clinic.

The girls were introduced to the various musical instruments that the therapists themselves picked (piano, drums, caracas, flute) and for the first two sessions, created and made sounds from their hearts through their bodies which played collective music together as a group! From February onwards, these girls shall be guided through these sessions as part of their healing.



DURING THEIR MUSIC THERAPY

### ***Five MP4 Units Donated by Keith Bradley***

Nb girl using the mp4



One day in October 2007, a young Filipino executive, Ramon Chan, brought to CRIBS an American executive Keith Bradley, who according to the former has been looking for a charity organization in the Philippines since he has been coming here on a regular basis for business. Now Ramon's wife happens to pass by Major Dizon Street daily on her way to and from the office in Makati. So when Keith consulted Ramon, and Ramon in turn mentioned it to his wife, she was quick to recall CRIBS name!

Last February 1 as he promised, Keith came back and brought five new units of MP4 which he thought can help the girls in their forthcoming music therapy. According to Aileen, listening to music helps the girls relax and focus, and even more, motivates them to read and learn the English language.



Keith

Thanks to you Ramon and Keith!

### ***New Science Teacher and Laboratory Equipment and Materials***

We like to welcome the new member of our Academic Team in New Beginnings, Ms. Emilia Baula (Emy for short), a Science Teacher with training and background on special education. She joins Teachers Evans, Noemi and Janet in the daily academic classes of the girls.

With her coming, is a new set of science laboratory equipments and materials donated by our former Board Chair, Ms. Marivic. Soon, we should be acquiring a new set of used computers that will assist the girls in their research work.



SCIENCE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

### ***New Set of Sports Equipment for the NB Girls (and the Staff too!)***



Summer is coming soon and we thought that what summer without the outdoor, physical activities is for the girls and the staff as well. Ms. Dina Tanaio graciously donated a new set of sports equipment—a basketball and a ring, two sets of badminton rackets and balls, a set of pingpong rackets and balls, a volleyball and a ring through the prodding of Ms. Liway. All we need to find is big place where we can enjoy the games. And that should not be too difficult to do, what with TUGON volunteers around who have always been most helpful in finding a place to

play and have fun.

### ***Good Journey to Benedict and Tonton***

Two of our eldest boys in the toddlers group just left us to join their families—Benedict for his permanent placement with an adoptive family from Sydney, Australia and Tonton for a foster family in Project 6, Quezon City.

We will miss them both very much, though we are very happy to know that there is now a family who will care for each of them as if they were their own.

As a Chinese saying goes, we do not say goodbye, just good journey. Good journey Tonton and Benedict!

### ***New Friends from Bonn, Germany and Okinawa***

What a blessed year 2007 was, and a foreboding that 2008 will be one too, and perhaps more! Two groups of Filipino immigrants, one from Okinawa and the other from Bonn, Germany dropped by the office last January to surrender funds they raised in their home countries during the Christmas season for the CRIBS children.

The group from Okinawa is called F4 (which stands for Filipino Friends for Filipinos) and they are a group of Filipinos who are bosom friends and just thought of sponsoring a bingo session whose returns shall be donated to CRIBS. They knew CRIBS from a friend of a friend of an alumnus of the College of the Holy Spirit. That is why it was Ms. Mariles Tolosa, an alumnus herself of CHS, who brought them here in CRIBS.

The group from Bonn is called Tropa ng Kabataang Pinoy sa Deutsch Land and through street performances raised funds for CRIBS. This is a connection we have not discovered yet.

Thank you Ms. Timotea (for F4) and Ms Liberty (for Tropa)!

## *Training on Standard First Aid and Emergency for the entire staff*

RED CROSS FIRST AID STAFF TRAINING



For a whole week last February, the first batch composed of 14 CRIBS staff undertook and completed the training on Standard First Aid and Emergency given by the Philippine National Red Cross. A training for the second batch is forthcoming in summer.

By the looks and posture of the trainees at the end of each day, the training looked pretty rigorous and draining. But at the end of the entire training, all of them looked exuberant and proud that they can now be called paramedics, complete with an identification card and an insurance!