



Update, October 16, 2005

Dear Friends,

I have much to share with you today about the progress of the Lingap Center Project in Toledo City, Cebu, Philippines. First, as you will recall, I have set up The Lingap Children's Foundation. We had applied for our 501(C)(3) status and as a result, we have been able to accept tax-deductible donations. I am very happy to announce that on September 24, we received our official tax-exempt status from the IRS! This was a very big step for us - all donations made to The Lingap Children's Foundation continue to be fully deductible.

Next, Judy and I went to the Philippines on September 26 through October 5, to check on the progress of the construction. I am delighted to report that it is coming along very well indeed. They are only a few days behind schedule, due to the rainy season, but the construction engineer assured me that they expected to catch up with the end of the rainy season around the first of November. They have completely built the security wall, have poured the foundation footings and columns and are in the process of backfilling around the columns. The current construction plan calls for the children to move into the new building on or about February 7, 2006. At that time, there will be room for 80 - 100 children. The building itself will be approximately 9050 square feet, with 16 rooms. The area of the grounds is about 53,500 square feet (probably somewhat over an acre). It was pretty exciting to see the building actually going up!!

We then visited the children and Judy had the opportunity to meet them for the first time. (There is a photo on the website [www.lingapcenter.org](http://www.lingapcenter.org) if you would like to see their reaction to each other! Needless to say, I think they connected!) There are a few new children since my last visit in May and all seem to be adjusting to their new surroundings. All are in school and church. It is now possible for me to see the improvement in their lives over the past year or so. Thanks to some generous donors, they are now eating three meals each day and they have for the first time, enough school equipment to be able to keep up with their peers. Another very exciting development is that the Ann Arbor Michigan, Jackson Michigan, Jackson Michigan Breakfast Club and Toledo City West (Cebu) Rotary Clubs have joined forces to provide all of the furnishings for the new facility. The matching grant application to Rotary International was approved in record time, without reservation or qualification. This is tremendous news. As a result, I can now say that the new building and all furnishings are paid for! Now, my concern is for ongoing operations costs.

We are now giving some thought to the dedication. As I said above, the move in date is around February 7, 2006. I expect that the dedication will be sometime soon thereafter, between late February and April. Since a number of you have expressed interest in attending, we are planning an itinerary for anyone who would like to go. It will include meeting all of the children (of course), seeing the new facility, meeting Mayor Zambo and visiting Manila, Cebu and perhaps

even the island of Bohol. If you would be interested in joining us, please let me know and we will give you the details as the plans develop. This will give us an idea of how many to plan for.

Also, I would like to remind you to put Saturday, February 11, 2006 on your calendar. This is the night of our 3rd annual "Heart's for Orphans" Valentines fund-raiser. The past two years have proven to be great events. This year, we have some new ideas in mind! The Planning Committee is hard at work - more information will be forthcoming.

In summary, much progress is being made. The idea, which became a dream, then a vision is now becoming a reality. Very soon we will have 100 children (and how many in the years to come) off the streets, in a safe place, in school and in church, all thanks to you and your support. As mentioned, while we have made incredible progress, there is much yet to do. Therefore, if you would like to make a tax deductible donation, you can make checks payable to The Lingap Children's Foundation and send them to John Drake, P.O. Box 1553, Jackson, MI 49204. Since I personally pay for all administrative expenses unless they are otherwise donated, 100% of all donations go directly to the children.

Please check out our website at [www.lingapcenter.org](http://www.lingapcenter.org). It has been updated to include photos from last week's visit and has photos of the construction progress including the construction schedule so you can follow along.

I believe it was Mother Teresa who said, "God speaks in the silence of the heart and we listen." I think you have all heard God speak in the silence of your heart.... and you did something about it. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

John Drake