



October 30, 2007

Dear Friends,

I just returned from the Lingap Center and wanted to take this opportunity to give you an update on the kids and also ask for your continued support. This year, through the Lingap Center and our various outreach programs, we have helped countless children who had no other place to turn. Without your support, many of these kids would have been forced to continue living in unsafe conditions and have no opportunity to go to school. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of some pretty great kids!

The Lingap children have just completed the first semester of the school year and all did well. However, as you might expect, with 100 children who range in age from preschool through fourth-year high school, evening study time is a challenge. Complicating matters is the fact that this is the first experience many of our children have had in school.

To help the kids succeed, we have hired a tutor to assist with their homework. The new tutor is an experienced teacher who is already making a significant impact. In addition, one of our house parents unexpectedly left the Center and we were able to fill the vacancy with someone who has a teaching degree in math! As a result of these additions and changes, I am very optimistic about the future prospects of the children. As you will recall, we have college scholarships and other career opportunities lined up for those who graduate from high school. For that reason, it is imperative that we focus on education.

You may also recall that we are developing a community library in conjunction with a number of Michigan and Philippine Rotary clubs. This project, which is being funded through Rotary, will help us expand our reach to help children and adults in the surrounding area who aren't associated with the Lingap Center. We anticipate that approximately 2,500 children in the area (including the Lingap kids) will have access to several thousand books and computer tutorials, not to mention the adult literacy training that will be provided through the library. I am really excited about this project!

As we approach year-end, you may be thinking about your year-end charitable giving. If you're looking for a program that is making a difference in the lives of children, please keep The Lingap Children's Foundation in mind. In addition to making a one-time gift, there are a number of ways that you can help:

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

- **Become a *Place at the Table* sponsor.** Your sponsorship of \$25 per month ensures that we don't have to turn away children who desperately need a safe haven. During the holiday season, our goal is to add 50 new sponsors to the program. To become a sponsor, visit our website at www.lingapcenter.org.
- **Host a fundraiser at your home, church or school.** What better way to give thanks for our blessings than to share time with friends and family while also giving to a good cause.
- **Invite us to speak to your club or organization.** I am always happy to talk with groups about a variety of topics – from starting an international not-for-profit organization to the daily struggles and joys of the children we serve.
- **If you're at least age 70 ½, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 gives you tax incentives for charitable giving through your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) through December 31, 2007** (there's only two months left!). If you're interested in learning more, contact J.T. McFarland, a member of The Lingap Children's Foundation Board of Directors at 517-437-2480.

Please save the date for our fifth annual **Hearts for Orphans** dinner, dance and silent auction. Join us on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the Gene Davis Banquet Center in Jackson MI for an evening of fun with other supporters of the Lingap Children's Foundation. Watch for your invitation in early January.

Finally, we invite you to visit our new, improved website at www.lingapcenter.org. The website will be updated on a regular basis and in addition to these letters, will be the place to go for the latest information about our projects. We hope you will visit soon and often!

In summary, I want to again thank you for the support that you have provided. Collectively, we have truly made a significant and positive difference in many young lives. With your continued support, we will be able to continue helping some of the most vulnerable members our society.

I am reminded of a quote from Margaret Mead in which she said, "*Never believe that a few people can not change the world. In fact, it is the only way it's ever happened.*" You are helping to change the world and your impact will be felt forever.

Sincerely,



John Drake