



February 15, 2006

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, many of you have asked if it is possible to "sponsor" one of the Lingap Center children. Sadly, I have always had to answer no, since in addition to being a traditional orphanage, the Lingap Center is also a crisis center for abused, exploited, neglected and abandoned children (in fact, "Lingap" in the Visayan dialect means "crisis").

Due to the nature of their various situations, some children will stay at the Lingap Center for a few weeks or months and then if possible, be placed with relatives. This depends of course, on many factors. Almost immediately, when one child leaves, they are replaced by another. I would say that approximately one half of our children are permanent residents; therefore, we have been unable to provide a sponsorship program for a specific child as some of the other organizations can.

One of the many limitations of the current facility is a lack of space and funding. Consequently, the Lingap Center staff is forced to turn away needy children each and every day. It is almost inconceivable to imagine, but it is true! We also lack the staff to implement a communications program whereby children can correspond with their sponsors since many don't speak English or have the necessary materials including postage, to do so. When the new Center is completed in March, we will immediately go from our current level of 36 children, to 100 (or more).

However, I am very excited to announce that we have developed a new program that is very similar to a specific child sponsorship that we are calling "A PLACE AT THE TABLE." This program will allow individuals to sponsor "a place at the table" for one of the needy children that we are currently turning away. For a minimum donation of \$25 a month, one child will be able to eat three meals a day, attend school and church and live in a place of safety and security at the new Lingap Center.

I have enclosed a brochure explaining the program. It includes a form that can be used to enroll. This can be done by utilizing a credit card, check or by going to our website at www.lingapcenter.org and clicking on "A PLACE AT THE TABLE" Sponsorship Program and completing the form online. You can also select the level of support that you would like to give, starting with a minimum monthly donation of \$25. As always, these donations are fully tax deductible and they will truly make a difference in the lives of some very extraordinary and needy children.

<http://www.lingapcenter.org>
A 501 (c)(3) Organization

As you may recall, all administrative expenses for The Lingap Children's Foundation are paid either by me personally or by donors who cover specific administrative matters. There are no overhead charges of any kind. Therefore, 100% of every dollar you donate goes directly to the benefit of the children.

I do hope that you will seriously consider participating in this program. Your support will make a huge difference in the lives of the children we are currently sending away to face the uncertainty of life on the street. If you are unable to commit to a long-term sponsorship, I hope you will consider making a one-time donation. Please contact me if you have any questions by calling me at 517-529-9702, by E-mail at jfdrake48@comcast.net or by mail at John F. Drake, P.O. Box 1553, Jackson, MI 49204.

Please think about the following quote from Mother Teresa, who said,

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that we have completely redesigned the Lingap Center website. Please take a look and let me know what you think. It can be found at www.lingapcenter.org. If you have accessed the site in the past, you may need to "refresh your browser," This can be done by clicking on "view" and then "refresh." If you still get the old site, let me know. The new site has the latest construction photos and some really great pictures of the children that I took just a couple of weeks ago. You will want to check back often, as we will be updating it regularly to include the details of the Dedication Ceremony which will take place on April 21, 2006.

As I think about the overall Lingap Center Project and what I have been trying to achieve, I am further reminded of another quote from Mother Teresa which is:

"I know God will not give me anything that I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much!"

Thank you so much for your help and support. This project could not be done without you. You really are making a difference in the lives of the children.

John Drake