



August 2009

Dear Friends,

School began for the Lingap Center children on June 8. This year, we have seven students in college (the most ever), 23 in private schools (West Bay Learning Center and St. Bernard's) and 59 in public schools. Thanks to your donations, the children were sent to school with the backpacks and supplies they need to help them succeed in the classroom. After school and on weekends, we have two tutors working with them. In October, the Department of Education will test our students to determine the appropriate grade level in which to place them. We are excited that the agency recognizes our students' needs and is willing to help us help them.



**The Lingap Center Choir**

#### **Lingap Center Choir Welcomes Governor**

Recently, the priest at St. John of Sahagun Parish invited the Lingap Center choir to be the "official" church choir. The angelic voices of our children have been heard at fiestas, weddings, schools and other community events. In June, the choir performed before 7,000 people at the welcoming ceremony for the governor of Cebu, Gwen Garcia, on her official state visit to promote tourism. The choir was invited by Arlene Zambo, mayor of Toledo City.

Once denied the opportunity to attend school or church as they were orphans and street beggars, the Lingap children are now ambassadors of goodwill for the community, the church and the catalyst for a growing community transformation.

#### **Anthony, 13, Attends School for First Time**

Anthony Nipaya was a street beggar and scavenger who came to the park every day for our street education program. At 13, he had never attended school, but wanted to learn. His home was near a highway in an area that flooded with seawater and sewage during high tide. Anthony lived with his mother, stepfather and many siblings in a one-room house with a kitchen and no running water. The family's only appliance was a radio.



**Anthony**

Earlier this year, Anthony came to the Lingap Center, where he attends every tutoring session for

every age group. I've never seen a child who wants to learn as much as Anthony does. With the love and encouragement he receives at the Lingap Center, we believe Anthony will continue to learn at a fast pace and will become one of our future college students.

### **New Date Set for "Hearts for Orphans"**

Our seventh annual "Hearts for Orphan" dinner, dance and auction will be held on April 17, 2010, in Jackson, Mich. The date was moved from Valentine's Day weekend in February to April to make it more convenient for people to attend. Also, the weather will be milder, without the threat of an ice or snowstorm.

### **The Lingap Center Needs Your Help**

Without the Lingap Center, programs such as the youth choir, street children's education program, community library and Third Saturday Outreach would not be possible. We leverage funds to sustain these programs. Because we have no administrative fees, 100 percent of your tax-deductible gift benefits the children. Please consider giving in one of these ways:

- **General Donation** Donations large or small are welcome, and can easily be made online.
- **"A Place at the Table"** Recurring sponsorships help support one child for a year and are only \$25 a month. Enroll at <http://lingapcenter.org> or call us at (517) 529-9702.
- **Endowment Fund** These gifts will sustain the center indefinitely.

To make a gift by mail, please send your check to the Lingap Children's Foundation. P.O. Box 1553, Jackson, MI 49204. My letter of acknowledgement can serve as your tax receipt. As you consider your gift, please remember:

*"A hero is a person who does what he or she can." -- Romain Rolland, Nobel Prize recipient*

Sincerely,



John Drake