



MAY 2020 ISSUE

SMALL MIRACLES

The Monthly Newsletter of Chosen Children Village Foundation, Inc.



FROM THE DESK OF

editor

On May 16th, the province of Cavite was placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ). This was an announcement every Caviteño was waiting for as it meant that our lives can start returning to normal. For our staff, it meant the possibility of going home and reuniting with their families.



Ms Rosemarie Villa-Real & Mrs Margie Stevens dropping by for a visit after the GCQ was announced

Unfortunately, the easing of lockdown rules led to an increase in the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the province. Forty new cases were announced three days after the return to GCQ. As a result, the governor retracted certain rules about malls, supermarkets, and other public spaces.

Meanwhile, the CCV Board of Trustees initially considered allowing staff who have been quarantined at home to return to work and replace those who want to go home to their families. But after careful deliberation, it was clear that the threat of the virus remains large and we simply cannot risk the health and safety of the children and everyone else in the village. It was decided that employees can go home but they can only return to the village if they get clearance from the Red Cross.

A few of the employees did go home, causing a shortage of staff. Our therapy department is closed for the time being as the two physical therapists left after two months of staying in the village. It's a challenge but we are coping. We need to cope as this could be our "new normal" for a while and we can either sink or swim together.

Amidst all these challenges, we are deeply grateful that we have a dedicated Board of Trustees working tirelessly to make sure we have all the resources we need. They virtually meet every week via Zoom to address concerns and future-proof the organization. Their collective wisdom is priceless and bottomless we are all the better for it.



Miguelito setting the table for his brothers before lunch

Speaking of wisdom, we have learned a lot in the past couple of months. With the world the state it is in, we have learned that:

1. Respect, empathy, and compassion are more important than ever if we are to emerge from this pandemic as a family.
2. Looking at the glass half-full is better than looking at it half-empty. Positivity trumps negativity every single time.
3. Regardless of our differences, we are bonded by our love for our special children. We only need to remember that if ever we find ourselves at odds with each other.

There will be more lessons to be learned on the road ahead. For now, we're focusing on getting one small win everyday. You'll read more about these small wins in the succeeding pages. Please enjoy!

GARDENIA'S GENEROUS DONATION

Gardenia, the country's leading bread brand for the last 15 years, has generously granted the Chosen Children Village a weekly bread supply. This includes loaves of their delicious Enriched White Bread, which is a favorite of our older children. They like pairing it with fruit jams prepared by our beloved Mama Bing and egg salad spread prepared by Dave, one of the children who has grown up in the village.

Gardenia's donation is also a blessing to our kitchen staff because it saves them time when preparing breakfast in the morning. The bread stays fresh and soft for days so they can just put this on the counter with different spreads for the children to enjoy with their milk and/or coffee. The donation also allowed our children the opportunity to learn different ways of preparing sandwiches and making bread pudding for dessert.

Gardenia has a long history of donating bread to orphanages, impoverished communities, and victims of disasters. They also supplied frontliners of the COVID-19 pandemic with bread. Thank you, Gardenia!



CCV IN PARTNERSHIP TALKS WITH MSWD

As part of their mandate to give holistic support services to the children and youth of their city, the **Makati Social Welfare Department** has reached out to Chosen Children Village to explore possibilities of a partnership. Their main goal is to forge a relationship with an institution that can accept displaced children with special needs. In exchange, they would do their best to provide the resources needed to care for the children.

As this is in line with our mission and vision, we are pleased with this new alliance. It is in our best interest to cultivate relationships with local agencies. We're looking forward to further discussions with their representative about admissions, care, etc.

If you're interested in partnering with us, please email admin@chosenchildrenfoundation.com.



Click image to watch the video



Michael spreading peanut butter on his bread.



Village Wishlist

Want to share your blessings?
Chosen Children Village would greatly welcome donations of the following:

Food Items: Eggs, Sugar, Oatmeal (quick-cooking), Meat, Dried Fish, Fruits, Juices, Milk (fresh, condensed, powdered), Cooking Oil

Non-Food Items: Diapers, Medical gloves and Masks, Alcohols, Laundry and Washing Detergents

Medicines: Vitamin C, Multivitamins, Cough & Cold Medicines, Fever Suppressors, Pain Relievers and Anti Histamines for children, Melatonin Supplement (Sleepasil)



The boys having a blast in their mini pool.



Click the play button to watch the video



Like her sisters, MJ had her teeth cleaned by Mama Kathy



Click the play button to watch the video



Our maintenance & farm staff after a day's work

VILLAGE UPDATES

TODDLERS' SUMMER FUN

Traditionally the month before the start of the school year, May is a time for beach outings and group trips. But we'll be having none of that because of the pandemic. Instead, our residential supervisors, Mama Ecat and Mama Kathy concocted a few fun-filled activities for our toddlers to enjoy in the outdoors.

One such activity is the "mini swimming activity," which happens once a week under the watchful eye of the caregivers. The toddlers love this, especially the boys who try to cram themselves in the mini pool. The girls, Athena and Maria Theresa, are well behaved and patiently wait for their turn. Snacks are also provided.

On some days, the children also engage in **Sensory Sidewalk Activity** popularized by Stephanie Westbrook. The caregivers drew chalk paths for the toddlers to follow, stimulating their brain and honing their motor skills.

BEFORE IT RAINS... FARM UPDATES!

The rainy season is upon us. Whilst this may be a welcome change from the hot and humid Philippine summer, this may have a negative impact on our farm produce. Thus, our Hacienda team led by Papa Ronald, took advantage of the dry weather to plant more seedlings of crops hardy enough for the wet season and repair animal enclosures. They planted tomatoes, Chinese cabbage (*pechay*), parsley, cabbage, carrots, sweet beans, and radish. They also replanted banana trees between the cottages. Through all of these, the older boys were a big help to our farm staff, especially in the preparation of the vegetable beds.

Bounty from the farm in May included eggplants, lettuce, string beans, corn, pechay, papaya, and Indian mango.

Meanwhile, Papa Ronald's team also repaired gutters and pruned trees in preparation for the rain.

Donations

MAY 2020

Whilst donation levels are nowhere near the level it was during the same month last year, we are very pleased that it has improved dramatically since April. Thank you to the tireless BOT members who have been working hard to provide for our needs. And to our sponsors and donors... your benevolence is very much appreciated. May you never tire of helping our children. You are all angels!



HILDA CLEOFE

Because of the quarantine, our kitchen staff have not been able to go out and buy fresh produce. The village thanks Ms Hilda for sending us cartloads of fresh produce. Our cooks were very happy to work with fresh ingredients.



FELICE CHUA

To everyone's delight, Ms. Chua sent us a tub full of galunggong (round scad) from Vietnam and other grocery items. Everyone raved about the bottled fish that Mama Bing made from a few kilos of the fish!.



GETZ HEALTHCARE

Getz Healthcare, a distributor of pharma and healthcare products, donated much-needed medicines, and diapers along with food and other household items. We are glad they remembered us from their visit last December.



JEFFREY LAU

On behalf of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Industry, Mr. Lau sent us 15 boxes of Birch Tree Chocolate Powdered Milk. He previously donated a hundred comforters in February.



FR. ARNOLD ERAMIZ

From Sta Rosa De Lima Parish Church, Fr. Arnold sent us 8 boxes of mayonnaise, Canfroast Tomato Catsup and Sansur Black Olives. Dave used the mayonnaise for his egg salad sandwich and the olives for pizza.



MARIE CONCEPCION YOUNG

In care of our BOT member Rosemarie Villa-Real, Ms. Young sent us 30 kilos bread buns, 8 boxes of Selecta milk, and 1 1/2 sack of macaroni noodles. Dave made juicy burgers to go with the buns.



HYPERFLY AUSTRALIA

The Internet has made the world smaller! Mr. Jordan Wilson of Hyperfly Australia reached out to us via our website at the beginning of May and made us the beneficiary of a fundraiser for the Filipino community.



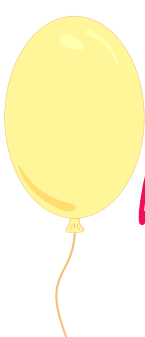
ALYZZA ASHLEY CAUBIC

The quarantine gave people a lot of time to declutter their closets. We would like to thank Ms. Ashley and the Skin Reborn team for dropping off five sacks of pre-loved clothes and shoes as well as 2 boxes of small diapers.



ATTY. HUBERT GERVACIO

Thank you Atty Hubert for personally dropping by pre-loved toys and baby items. He doesn't know it yet but these will come handy in the coming months as we will be having a new addition to the CCV family.



Birthday CORNER

Daisy Mae Serafin celebrated her 19th birthday last May 19th. Mama Bing prepared a simple feast to mark this special day, making sure that Daisy Mae has a candle to blow come dinner.

Other May celebrants are Jason Incong, Hannah Taguba, Darwin Natalio, Susana Corpuz and Phaulo Sagucio.

Would you like to know your sponsored child's birthday? Email us at sponsorship@chosenchildrenfoundation.com.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSES?



**FOR USA-BASED DONORS
& SPONSORS, PLEASE
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KEVIN OR SUZANNE BOVAIRD
Friends of Chosen Children Village, Inc.
c/o Bovaird Insurance Agency, LLC.
9299 W Olive Ave, Suite #304, Peoria, AZ 85345
Suzanne'S Cell: 602-757-8107
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For Phillippines-based donors and sponsors, we can issue a Certificate of Donation upon request. You may call **0919-999-8915** or email us at sponsorship@chosenchildrenfoundation.com.

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the village & our little angels,
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