



A Ministry to **Street Children** and
Orphans of the Philippine Islands



CHRISTIANS' HAVEN



A Word from our President Lynn R. Ragsdale

Lynn Ragsdale

The estimates range widely but it is safe to say that **more than one million kids live on the streets** of the Philippines. These kids live without a steady or healthy food supply. They are prey to those who would use them and abuse them. They are often caught up in drug activity or hustled into the dark world of sex trade.

It is a fair question to ask how we, just one ministry, can hope to make a difference when the problem is so large. That question has kept me awake some nights. The answer is not as difficult as one might imagine. **Jesus has already given us the example to follow.**

Jesus often called people to Himself. When He called His very first disciples He said to them that if they would follow Him He would make them fishers of men. That pattern has never changed. He never intended anyone to follow and not become a fisher of men. That is the very definition of a disciple. Jesus experienced more people leaving Him during His earthly ministry than those who stood by Him. It was that small group who would become the critical mass of a new kingdom that would change the world—then—now—forever. That is the power of discipling.

So you see, Christians' Haven has been called to make disciples who will then make disciples. We hold ourselves accountable to three key words. These words define everything we do. We **RESCUE** abandoned and orphaned children from the streets; we then **RESTORE** them to health, emotional wholeness, and spiritual completeness. Finally, we aid them to **RETURN** to their culture as real change agents. They become like the early disciples, seeking to multiply themselves over and over again. We firmly believe that our mission is no different than any other Christian's mission. Christians' Haven will never forget that believers in Jesus are more than just receivers of His love. They become disciples ready to make other disciples.

Christians' Haven began this disciple-making ministry in September of 1996. God placed a burden on the hearts of Ken and Angelica Oosting during their honeymoon in Iligan City, Philippines. It became clear to the Oostings that God was presenting the needs of these children to them. Thus, Christians' Haven was born.

In October of 2008, I became the second president of Christians' Haven. It is my joy to continue the vision established by the Oostings.

We will *always* seek to *help the children understand the hope that comes from receiving the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.*

Lynn R. Ragsdale
President of
Christians' Haven

To read more about Christians' Haven President Lynn Ragsdale go to
www.christianshaven.com.



RESCUE



The Philippines is a nation strategically located "between two worlds." It is an island nation in Asia but has had years of American influence.

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The relationship goes back to pre WWII years. Filipinos remain loyal to the United States due largely to the American liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese in World War II. The list of nations that have controlled the Philippines over its history is long and, as a result, it is an economically depressed nation, lacking the financial ability to resolve many of the existing social ills.

The population of the Philippines is 91 million. The land mass, if all of the islands were put together, is barely the size of Arizona. **Of those 91 million residents of the Philippines an estimated 50% live in poverty** at some level. A conservative estimate is that one million children live on the streets as abandoned or orphaned. Some estimates have reached as high as two million children living in this deplorable manner.

These cast out kids serve as prey to drug traffickers, sex traders, and all sorts of other immoral and abusive people. There have been reports that the government has imprisoned these kids and some have even been executed for minor crimes. ***They desperately need the hand of Jesus to RESCUE*** them. Christians' Haven is the hand of Jesus reaching to the very pits of culture to love and RESCUE those whom Jesus loves.

RESTORE

Once a child has been *rescued* by Christians' Haven the process of **RESTORATION** begins.

Our kids come with many issues. They have medical problems due to malnutrition and abuse. They have emotional issues that may take years to resolve. They also have the same spiritual problem as all humans - *the need for the loving touch of our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Christians' Haven is a **full residential care facility** that addresses all three areas of need. A *nurse* is on staff to monitor immediate and ongoing medical needs. A *psychologist* and *social worker*, also members of our staff, work daily with the emotional issues of the kids. **Everyone on campus is equipped to lead our kids on their spiritual journey.**

Children at Christians' Haven live in cottage-style housing in family units of eight to twelve. In this setting they learn appropriate skills for family living and experience the love of our house parents, possibly the first model of love they have ever known.

*Our house parents
may be the first model of
love they have ever known.*





Safe within their new environment, children begin to understand the hope that comes from receiving the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. They are taught that when they give the love of Christ they become more than just receivers of His love.

They become His disciples ready to make other disciples.

RETURN

The children and youth experience the discipleship process by actively participating in activities such as:

- * Feeding children on the streets
- * Prison outreach
- * Street evangelism
- * Helping the elderly
- * Hospital ministry
- * Community service



Not only do they begin immediately to become change agents in their culture but they are equipped to eventually return as mature **disciples who are educated and trained to be contributors** to their world.

To accomplish the goal of eventual return, all Christians' Haven children are enrolled in school where many must work hard to catch up. Christians' Haven believes that every CH kid should have the opportunity of college or trade training before they are released. It is the philosophy of Christians' Haven that if the return is to be successful, the students must be educated and trained in a way that will make them real contributors to their world. **CH kids return as culture changers!**

SPONSORING A CHILD

SPONSORING A CHILD...at Christians' Haven

Won't you consider sponsoring a child. As a sponsor, you become a crucial part of your child's extended family. Your donations will ensure that a child receives an excellent education, improved nutrition, medical attention, shelter support, and encouragement in a loving Christian environment. You will be encouraged to build a relationship with your child through correspondence: letters, photos, Christmas and birthday gifts, and more. House parents and on-site disciplers will help your sponsored child with English so he/she can respond to you in letters at least four times a year. And biannual photos of your child will help you watch his/her physical growth.

Christians' Haven is a full residential program. Each sponsored child has been rescued from a life of despair and want on the streets. The boys and girls at Christians' Haven have no other place to go.

Because Christians' Haven provides full care for our children, our costs per child may be higher than some other programs. For this reason we seek multiple sponsors for each resident child as necessary.

It's easy to start your sponsorship. Fill out the enclosed sponsorship card and mail it along with your check to Christians' Haven. **Your sponsorship kit with a photo and profile of your child will arrive right away.**

What can be better than sharing your blessings with a needy child? How satisfying it is to know that you are ministering to one that Jesus called "the least of these" by helping him or her become a disciple of Christ.

Discover
the **JOY** of helping
a child in the name of
Jesus.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS...EQUIPPING LEADERS

Unemployment rates are as high as 70% in the Philippines. Without a quality education a Filipino child has little hope of earning a living or supporting a family in adulthood. And, without a means to earn a living and function as a productive part of society, our disciples will find it difficult to make other disciples. That's why higher education—college or trade training—is a vital part of the discipleship process at Christians' Haven.

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Each year an ever-increasing number of our youth prepare to make the important transition from high school to college or vocational school. While the cost of a college education in the Philippines is much lower than that in the States, Christians' Haven desperately needs your help in providing scholarships for our students.

Your gifts will help provide tuition, books, meals, lodging, and transportation to enable a young man or woman to obtain academic qualifications and practical leadership skills needed to achieve his or her God-given potential. **This will develop Christian leaders who will influence families, communities, the Philippines, and the world for Christ.**

College sponsorships are considered scholarships. That means the students will have to earn them, not just receive them. They must keep their grades at acceptable levels, maintain Christian behavior, and be involved in a local church actively participating in Christian service. This will provide accountability for our students as they continue to grow and mature. You will receive updates concerning your student's progress.

Start your college sponsorship today. Fill out and return the sponsorship card provided with your first gift, marking that you desire your gifts to help send a young adult to college or trade school.

SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS

SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS (STMT)

Visiting teams are very welcome at Christians' Haven. We enjoy the opportunity to host our guests and offer them a first-hand experience of the ministry happening on our campus as well as the streets of the Philippines as our children and staff "go into their Jerusalem" with the Gospel.

Please call or email us for information on setting up a STMT for your church group or being a part of other opportunities being planned. We look forward to your time with us.



*"For I was **hungry** and
you gave me something to eat,*

*I was **thirsty** and
you gave me something to drink,*

*I was a **stranger** and
you invited me in..."*

Matthew 25:35

Thank you for your support!

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P.O. Box 369 • Webb City, MO 64870
Office: 417-673-8641 • Fax: 417-673-3576
office@christianshaven.com
www.christianshaven.com

