

## **Gentle Hands Inc. Philippines**

Over the last 15 years Gentle Hands has been a ministry dedicated to helping the urban people of the Philippines. Over 5,000 babies have been born at Gentle Hands since it began in the bottom level of Denie and Dennis Heppner's home in St. Ignatius village. Their medical outreaches have extended over several areas of the Philippines from the Northern Mountains to Smokey Mountain in downtown Manila, as well as into other countries such as Myanmar and India. Since the ministry began in 1990, it has branched into churches, Bible studies and in September 2000 an educational program was started.

Charity and Evan Graff (the Heppner's oldest daughter), started an educational foundation for street boys in 2000. Teaching in the garage of their home and under bridges where the poor lived, they taught many ten and eleven year olds to read and write in their own language. In 2003, they took over the administration of GH. Soon GH was licensed and registered under the Department of Social Welfare and Development and were able to process adoptions both locally and internationally.

Gentle Hands, now run by Charity and Evan Graff, is a child and youth welfare agency meant to be on the front lines of rescue and rehabilitation of the medical, social and educational needs of at-risk children and youth, working towards improving human community life through the love of Jesus and family centered care.

At present Gentle Hands has a staff of 30+ (paid & volunteer) and over 50 babies and children all in various stages of rehabilitation, legal paperwork, adoption, and reunification.