



## “Escape from Alcatraz” fundraising swim

Braving strong currents, powerful tides and numbingly cold water, CFSI Board of Trustees member Peter Gibson and sons William and Nicholas took the plunge in an “Escape from Alcatraz” fundraising swim across San Francisco Bay in the US on October 14. Against the backdrop of the picturesque Golden Gate Bridge, the hardy swimmers - who, in the purist spirit of open-water swimming, opted not to wear wetsuits - completed the 2.5km swim from Alcatraz, the infamous former island prison, to San Francisco in chilly 12°C seas in order to raise funds for, and awareness about, CFSI. Read the full story at <http://www.cfsi.ph/escape-from-alcatraz-fundraising-swim/>



## CFSI’s work highlighted on television talk show

CFSI’s Director for External Relations Joseph Lumanog appeared on PTV’s live-to-air “Good Morning Boss” program on October 17, 2013, to talk about CFSI’s humanitarian work, particularly the ongoing relief efforts in Zamboanga City. Watch the full video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZxuLoEt9cl>

# Community and Family Services International NewsBrief

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Welcome to Community and Family Services International's "NewsBrief" e-newsletter, providing information on the latest CFSI activities, events and programme highlights.

## Philippines: CFSI serves displaced children in Zamboanga



Roughly 80,000 people displaced by recent conflict remain in evacuation centers or with relatives throughout Zamboanga City in Mindanao, in the southern Philippines. In difficult conditions – floods, incessant rain, deep mud, congestion and limited sanitation facilities – CFSI is providing children with safe, welcoming and fun places to play and learn at the biggest evacuation center in the city, the Joaquin F. Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex. Read the full story at <http://www.cfsi.ph/cfsi-serves-displaced-children-in-zamboanga/>

## Viet Nam: SWEP-Viet Nam helps make children's lives happier



SWEP-Viet Nam’s Community-Based Social Worker Training Programme trained volunteers from the Happier Group - a dedicated band of people who conduct activities for parents and children at Children’s Hospital No. 1 in Ho Chi Minh City. As a follow-up to the training, SWEP-Viet Nam provided the Happier Group with a grant to enable them to put into practice what they had learned, which included one-on-one activity sessions in the hospital with children who had suffered burns. Read the full story of the work of CFSI’s SWEP-Viet Nam at <http://www.cfsi.ph/swep-viet-nam-helps-make-childrens-lives-happier/>

## Philippines: PAI workshop strengthens families



CFSI’s Park Avenue Initiative (PAI) helped to socially and economically empower families from Pasay City in Metro Manila at a three-day workshop entitled “Family Reflection for Families of Concerns”, held from October 13-15 at Tierra De Oro Resort-Hotel in San Pablo City, Laguna. Facilitated by PAI, a total of 42 participants (representing 21 families) and 16 community support workers took part in the workshop, which was aimed at identifying families’ social and economic strengths and weaknesses, exploring issues related to communication and practices, and promoting an understanding of family relationships and systems. Read the full story at <http://www.cfsi.ph/pai-workshop-strengthens-families/>