



# Children of Vietnam

Mission: to provide direct aid to poor and handicapped children in Vietnam

Summer News Update 2011

## From Our President Ben Wilson

As every founder knows, there comes a time when one begins to look back over all the years of hard work and dedication. We are nearing our 14th year this October, and I am amazed at the huge impact we've had on the lives of many thousands of children thanks to the fantastic support of all of you, our donors. There also comes a time when one must look to and prepare for the future to ensure that all children continue to have the opportunity to grow and develop.

With the future in mind, I am happy to announce that COV has appointed Nancy Letteri to serve as our first Executive Director, and our first full-time US-based staff. Prior to accepting



Nancy Letteri - our new Executive Director

this new position, Nancy volunteered then served as a member of the Board of Directors for five years. In the last few years, Nancy has been vital in securing grant funds and program design. She will be working closely with me each day as she brings a wealth of nonprofit knowledge, dedication, and most importantly, a passion for the children. Join me in welcoming Nancy in this new role. She can be reached at [nletteri@embarqmail.com](mailto:nletteri@embarqmail.com) or 434-964-6376.

Always, our minds are filled with pleasant images of happiness in our 14<sup>th</sup> year of bringing a new life to the beautiful children in Vietnam – the resulting smiles and sincere voices saying *Cảm ơn bạn* (thank you) explain how grateful these children are.



Founder and President

## Vietnam Factoids

- Population: 89 million
- Population <18: 31%
- Children with disabilities: about 1 million
- Rural children considered poor: 40%
- Education is not free
- Children w/o a high school education: 38%
- Children considered underweight and malnourished: 20%
- Children with intestinal parasites are common
- Children w/o hygienic sanitary facilities: 50%
- Landmines and unexploded armament are still a threat to children
- Children are still being impacted by Agent Orange-dioxin

## Leave a Legacy

Make a bequest in your will; it is the final and everlasting expression of your love and values. When you do so, please consider naming Children of Vietnam as a beneficiary. Leave a lasting legacy.

## Gathering Friends to Help and Celebrate Women!

When Terry Ball of Greensboro, NC heard that March 8th was the 100th year anniversary of International Women's Day she invited a few friends for dinner to celebrate. They were joining thousands around the world on this international holiday honoring the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. As Terry explained, "We also decided to adopt a charity in hopes that our local women who have so much, might share with those who have so little."

"At the suggestion of Kathryn Billings, we chose Children of Vietnam as that charity and then sent out an e-mail to friends and asked for their support to help women rise out of oppression by writing a check for at least \$10 toward COV's empowering women's program." Within a month of this dinner, Children of Vietnam started receiving donations to support **Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children**...\$480 so far!

Thank you Terry and Kathryn and all the friends who contributed!



Mother and daughter prepare rice cakes to sell each morning.

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## 2010 Made a Difference to Thousands of Children!

Making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children takes great concerted effort and many resources. On behalf of all of these children, we extend our appreciation for the generous support received this year and years past.

**EDUCATION** 905 children have brighter futures with access to education. This initiative provides bicycles; primary, secondary and university scholarships; tutoring for orphans and street children; vocational training for children with disabilities; and kindergarten construction in rural communities. 2010 highlights include:



Street children live in dorm-like buildings. There is little funding for extras such as afterschool tutoring. Thanks to COV's tutoring program these children are all now passing end of year exams!

- 77 university scholarships were given to hard working and self-directed young people who overcame many challenges
- 395 young children received primary and secondary school scholarships
- 132 street children and orphans received tutoring
- 73 children with disabilities attended public, special, and vocational school
- 108 children received bicycles to help them attend school
- 3 kindergartens were constructed in rural

**NUTRITION** 3,955 children are staying healthy with improved nutrition. 2010 highlights include:

- 1,333 children received Tet and Children's Day holiday gifts of food and small toys
- 2,558 received daily milk and/or nourishing meals
- 75 children and their families received help to develop sustainable livelihoods



Kindergarten children eating Stop Hunger Now food donated to COV Nutrition Initiative.

**HOUSING** 97 children and their families have a stable place to call home. This initiative builds new homes, repairs homes, constructs indoor toilets, and repairs orphanages and street children homes. 2010 highlights include:

- 14 children and their families now live in new homes
- 30 orphans have repaired living quarters
- 45 children with disabilities are benefiting from repaired or new housing
- 8 families have repaired homes and/or indoor toilets



**HEALTHCARE** 36,221 children are in greater health. This initiative provides parasite prevention treatments; heart and other surgeries; assistance to families while their children are hospitalized; support for children needing facial reconstructive surgery; and health aids to children with disabilities. 2010 highlights include:



Thousands of children just like these boys receive low cost anti-parasite medicine every 6 months.

- 19 children received critical heart surgeries
- 36,000 were treated for intestinal parasite infections
- 200 children with disabilities received health checkups, medicine, and needed medical equipment

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## Service Tour Launching!

On June 19, our first ever *Hand-in-Hand Service Tour* is being launched. Four volunteers will travel to Da Nang and spend five days volunteering at an orphanage. Each morning, the volunteers will work in the orphanage's newly initiated mushroom farm then in the afternoon teach English and play with the children. Watch our website blog for postings and photos from our volunteers!



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## COV YouTube Video

In December of 2010, a young film studies graduate from the UK, Lucy Shepherd, visited Children of Vietnam. She recently honored us with a video she created that tells the story of our work. The images are beautiful. Thank you Lucy and thank you to Ed Sheeran, up and coming UK singer/songwriter, for allowing the use of his hit song "Spark." Take a few minutes to watch this inspiring video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=VY263J\\_e68M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VY263J_e68M)

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## Prefer an E-newsletter?

Looking toward next year, we hope to begin distributing our news via an e-newsletter. If you would like to be on our e-newsletter list, send us your email address (we will not share it) to: [info@childrenofvietnam.org](mailto:info@childrenofvietnam.org) with "e-newsletter request" in the subject line.

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## Little Red Envelope Reception Assisting Children with Disabilities



One of the many children with disabilities who have a better life because of Hope System of Care. She is attending a special school for the disabled.

her powerful photography. All gifts were generously matched by Bob Page of Replacements Ltd. That brought the total available for the children we serve to over \$31,000! THANK YOU!

We extend our most sincere appreciation to everyone who supported our *Little Red Envelope Reception for Hope System of Care*, a program that combines Healthcare, Education, Nutrition and Housing for children with disabilities, wrapping these most vulnerable children with the care they need. The "little red envelope" is traditionally given to children on the Tet Holiday with a little money tucked inside. We were honored by everyone's generosity, our guests for the evening, and by the kind words of Dr. Charles Bailey who first believed in the *Hope System of Care* and approved funding through the Ford Foundation, and by Catherine Karnow who gave a personal showing of

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## Ms. Ly Becoming Famous!

Photo by Catherine Karnow Wins Award!

In our last newsletter we featured an interview by Catherine Karnow, a well-known photojournalist. We are happy to share with you that Catherine has won 2nd place in the prestigious International Photo of the Year Award. To read more about this photo and Catherine Karnow: [www.poyi.org/68/13/02.php](http://www.poyi.org/68/13/02.php)

Even while Ly's photo is appreciated around the globe, she continues with her everyday life. Ly has just finished school for the year and will stay at home playing with her

cousins, who live next-door, and helping her mother with chores. Ly has poor health and very wide-set eyes due to suspected exposure to Agent Orange. Regardless, she is a very charismatic young lady and all who meet her are charmed!



photo credit: Cathrine Karnow  
Ly looking in mirror and combing her hair.

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## Clara's Kindergarten

Clara is a 3rd grader stepping up to the challenge of raising \$10,000 to build a new kindergarten for children in the small mountainous village Trung Chanh. Clara



Clara has started the Be Salt and Light website to sell her necklaces and raise funds for a kindergarten.

also happens to be Ben Wilson's granddaughter.

In her own words, "I'm Clara Wilson, a 3rd grader in Columbia, South Carolina. My Paw Paw started the charity, Children of Vietnam, in 1998. He told me about the typhoon that destroyed a lot houses and schools in Vietnam a year and a half ago.



I said, "Hey, we can help Paw Paw! We'll rebuild one of the classrooms that was destroyed and make a whole bunch of kids happy!"

To raise funds, Clara is selling fantastic handcrafted \$10 necklaces at her own website: [www.besaltandlight.com](http://www.besaltandlight.com).

Also, Clara is using Citizen Effect's on-line fundraising platform. To read about the community that will receive this gift or to donate go to: [www.citizeneffect.org/projects/trung-chanh-kindergarten](http://www.citizeneffect.org/projects/trung-chanh-kindergarten).



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www.ChildrenOfVietnam.org

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## Make a Donation

### Your gift transforms the life of a child

Children of Vietnam works to change for the better poor, orphan, homeless, disabled, and vulnerable children in Vietnam. The children we serve are located in Danang City, Quangnam Province, and the eight surrounding provinces. The aid provided is the result of donations given by you—our friends and partners. **THANK YOU!**

*“A little goes a long way in Vietnam.”* Your gift, no matter the size, will help thousands of children have a future full of promise. Please contribute via mail or

[www.ChildrenOfVietnam.org](http://www.ChildrenOfVietnam.org).

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## “A Little Goes A Long Way in Vietnam”

- Brighten a child’s holiday with food for a nourishing meal . . \$25
- Provide a future for a child with a school scholarship . . . . . \$55/year
- Give a child a bike to get to school. . . . . \$70
- Keep 350 children free from parasites . . . . . \$52/year
- Wrap a child with disabilities with needed support . . . . . \$100
- Help a single mother build a sustainable life..... \$250
- Provide a family with livestock for sustainable income. . . . . \$300
- Build a house for a family and give new hope . . . . . \$1,500



Each child receives health check before taking parasite medicine



Children at Hoa Mia Orphanage eating lunch