



Children of Vietnam

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

Winter News Update 2011

From Our President & Executive Director

EDUCATION is a safeguard for children from trafficking. Spawned by poverty, a lack of education and opportunity, ethnic discrimination, and unequal gender relations, the trafficking of young children into the sex trade and cheap labor is a real danger. The problem is exacerbated by porous borders, a lack of legal protection, ineffective enforcement, and corruption. Education can be a powerful trafficking prevention tool where young children between the ages of seven and eighteen are vulnerable to trafficking. When boys and girls stay in school, the risk that they will be trafficked or tricked into unsafe migration is reduced.



Nancy & Ben visiting children at orphanage

Yes, Children of Vietnam invests heavily in education from construction of kindergartens to primary/secondary school scholarships to university scholarships for one very good reason—to ensure students stay in school until graduation. This is a pathway out of poverty, a pathway to a decent living for their families, and a path away from unscrupulous trafficking agents.

Education is a gift that lasts forever. Thank each of you for your kind support.

Ben Wilson
President

Nancy Letteri
Executive Director

Vietnam Factoids

- Population: 89 million
- Size: About twice the size of North Carolina
- Population under 18: 31%
- Children with disabilities: about 1.2 million
- Rural children considered poor: 40%
- Education is not free
- Children without a high school education: 38%
- Children considered underweight and malnourished: 20%
- Children with intestinal parasites are common
- Children without hygienic sanitary facilities: 50%
- Children are still being hurt by Agent Orange/dioxin
- 2,935 victims of trafficking between 2004-2009—this tragedy continues

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.

One Family's Story to Lasting Change

Two children, Nghe the older son, and Hanh, disabled, the younger daughter, and Nhan a single father. Mr. Nhan has limited skill with no steady employment, but he takes any job offered though they are temporary such as a bricklayer or woodcutter.



COV Country Director and Mr. Nhan, single father, with a new path for increased income.

A few years back he faced a choice no parent would want, without sufficient income to feed both his children he brought his son to an orphanage, which would care for him until he could return home. We first met this family in 2009. They were living in a crude shack built on a cement slab. With

the support of a donor we were able to build a new and much more stable home. Still, COV staff members continued to worry about this family. Life was better but still very difficult. Recently, looking to help this family permanently leave poverty, with the support of another donor, we assisted Mr. Nhan to purchase a motorbike so he could start a business as a driver for hire to stabilize and increase the income for his family.



Old Nhan House before



New Nhan House After

Sometimes the choices are just too difficult . . .

Imagine as a parent having to make the choice of paying school fees for one child or paying for critical medical care for another child. Ms. Hanh faces this choice. She is a single mother and sells noodles on the street. It is not enough. Her 2nd grade son has a stomach problem, must take medicine, and goes to the hospital often. Her 11th grade daughter wants to stay in school to graduate. There is not enough money to do both, but this September a school scholarship made all the difference enabling her daughter to remain a student and keep studying!



Ms. Hanh and daughter who received a COV scholarship and can now stay in

Bright Future Scholars-Each One a Rising Star

Did you know that with the sponsorship of many donors, 70 very dedicated and talented young people are able to attend university each year? As of May 2011, we now have 56 COV Bright Future Scholars who have graduated, and of these, 48 have found employment already. This year another 70 are currently attending classes. We are so very proud of this program and more importantly proud of our COV Bright Future Scholars. Each one is truly a rising star.

These students are unique in every way but one - they all have in common perseverance to obtain an education by overcoming extreme hardship. They also desire to give back. For example several scholars work as tutors in our tutoring program for orphans and street children. In addition, these scholars always volunteer when called to action like the time a typhoon blew off the roof of our warehouse that stores food for poor children. With one call the COV Scholars joined us into the night to salvage nearly 134,000 meals. Finally, even more telling is that these students upon graduation often help pay for their younger siblings' education.



COV Bright Future Scholar sitting at her desk at home



COV Bright Future Scholars visiting our Da Nang office



COV Bright Future Scholar sitting on her bed in the orphanage where she lives

"Someday I will make it."

We recently read an article in the New York Times by Nicholas D. Kristof about a young girl who so much reminds us of the many children receiving COV scholarships that we are compelled to share her story with you here.

Young 14 year old Phung looks after her brother 9 and a sister 12 as her mother died of cancer last year. She is determined to complete her schoolwork. She arises at 3 a.m. daily, careful not to wake them as all three share the same bed. She then studies as she cooks rice for her siblings. Phung wakes her brother and sister, and then after breakfast they all trundle off to school. For Phung, that means a 90-minute bicycle ride each way. She arrives at school 20 minutes early to be sure she's not late. Phung asks her father for tutoring in math and English, but he tells her money is not available. Every day, she helps her little brother and sister with their homework first and then completes her own. Sometimes she doesn't collapse

into bed until 11 p.m., only to rouse herself four hours later. Phung yearns to attend university and become an accountant. "Someday I will make it," she says. On Sundays, Phung sleeps in. As she explained, "I don't get up till 5."



COV primary/secondary scholarships gives future full of promise

Call To Action—Your “HOPE”

Join Vietnamese Student Associations on campuses all around the States and Canada by posting on the COV Facebook a photo that illustrates what gives you hope. They have just launched a campaign “Hold on the Hope” to raise awareness about children with disabilities in Vietnam whose lives are shackled by poverty and lack of access to services. COV’s program Hope System of Care works to improve the lives of these children and by sharing your own “HOPE” you give hope to these children too.



Post your own HOPE on <http://www.facebook.com/ChildrenofVietnam>

A few COV facts...

- 100% of our Board Members contribute financially
- 100% of our Board Members volunteer time in addition to their board responsibilities
- We recorded 4,124 volunteer hours in 2010. The equivalent of 2 full-time staff. These hours do not include many, many volunteers who did not submit hours!
- All of our staff in Da Nang are Vietnamese nationals
- We collaborate with well over 50 local partners in Vietnam to leverage every dollar

A Primary/Secondary School Scholarship is . . .

In Vietnam, the expenses to send one child to school often require a family’s entire income for a month. Faced with this choice many families cannot afford to not enroll their children in school or their children eventually drop out to help support the family financially. Yet, there is no better way to build a self-sufficient future for a child than to provide an education.



A typical school day

Each year you, our donors with gifts of \$55 each, give hundreds of children a future full of promise by donating primary/secondary school scholarships. These children want to learn, and you give them that opportunity. That is the essence of your gift; the tangibles are:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| School & activity fees | Mandatory health & accident insurance |
| Textbooks | Pencils and Pens |
| Uniforms | |
| Notebooks | |

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 your e-mail address (we will not share it) to: info@childrenofvietnam.org with “e-newsletter request” in the subject line.

Parasite Reduction Critical to Child Health Thanks to Twin City Kiwanis Club

Year after year, the Twin City Kiwanis Club in Winston-Salem, NC has supported COV resulting in hundreds of children’s lives being improved in so many ways. Now they are responsible for thousands of children keeping healthy by recommending COV’s Parasite Reduction Program to the Kiwanis International Foundation!

Intestinal worms thrive where poverty, malnutrition, inadequate sanitation, and minimal health care and awareness exist. Parasite infections have been shown to have a negative impact on cognitive tasks and long-term health. Parasites consume over 30% of the food digested by a child, basically stealing the food away from the child and causing illness and even death if not treated. Children grow every day; their bodies do not wait. Treatment saves the lives of children who needlessly suffer due to parasitic infections, increases school attendance, and protects the health and cognitive development of children.



Parasite treatment costs 3 cents per child twice a year

The Kiwanis International Foundation approved the recommendation and awarded a grant that provided treatment to over 30,000 children this fall. Thank you Twin City Kiwanis and Kiwanis International Foundation!

Children of Vietnam

www.ChildrenOfVietnam.org

817 West End Boulevard
Winston Salem, NC 27101 USA



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.

Your gift, no matter the size, helps thousands of children. Please contribute via mail to 817 West End Blvd. Winston-Salem, NC 27101 or online at:
WWW.CHILDRENOFVIETNAM.ORG.

Remember COV in your Workplace

- Federal Employees our CFC # is 15685
- CA & NC State Employees, COV is now included in your campaigns

THANK YOU!

"A Little Goes a Long Way in Vietnam"

| | |
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| Brighten a child's holiday with food for a nourishing meal . . | \$25 |
| Keep 350 children free from parasites | \$52/yr |
| Provide a future for a child with a school scholarship | \$55/yr |
| Tutor orphans & street children. | \$80/yr |
| Wrap a child with disabilities with needed support | \$100 |
| Provide a family with livestock for sustainable income | \$300 |
| Give a "Bright Future University Scholarship" | \$700/yr |
| Build a house for a family and give new hope | \$1,500 |



Schoolgirls happy to have new schoolbooks



Street children attending evening tutoring

Note to Donors Over Age 70 1/2

You can direct your IRA custodian/administration to make contributions to a charity without having to include the distributions as part of taxable income. The Charitable IRA Rollover provision is in effect for the tax year ending December 31, 2011.

Children of Vietnam

Vì Trẻ Em Việt Nam

November 19, 2011

Dear Friend of Children of Vietnam,

Education that promises a future, homes that shelter from the weather, healthcare that saves lives, nutrition that enables growth. We thank you for these gifts that lift the spirit and open the door to a better tomorrow for thousands of children. Will you join us this year again in offering these gifts?

We have assessed the need and set a challenge to expand our services in the coming year so children do not miss the window of opportunity that is open only during childhood. Below are some of our goals. Together we can change lives!

❖ **500 primary & secondary school scholarships for girls & boys at-risk of dropout**



We came to know Nho as a secondary scholarship student. He is now receiving a university scholarship learning to be a teacher. In a recent letter... "I promise to study very well so that I do not betray the help of the organization."

❖ **20 life-saving surgeries for children with congenital heart disease**

Tien needed surgery but her parents earned only \$60 a month. With the help of COV, today, Tien is thriving!



❖ **24 secure homes for extremely poor families**

The Tran family now has a new home. Before, Mr. Tran was scared, "If it is broken, my 3 children will not have a place to protect themselves from raining season."



❖ **4,000 orphans, street children & poor rural children with nutritious meals, milk & formula**



Kindergarten children in very rural Hoa Vang are gaining weight because of vitamin-fortified meals.

Stretching every penny, we work with many local partners, including many of our university scholarship students, each of whom contributes what they can. Join us in meeting our challenge to reach more children. With your support hundreds, indeed thousands of children will have a future full of promise. This holiday season please give generously. No gift is too great to ensure the future of a child.

With sincere appreciation,

Ben Wilson Nancy F. Letteri

Benjamin C. Wilson
Founder & President

Nancy F. Letteri
Executive Director