



Children of Vietnam

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

Special Anniversary Edition 2013

From the President, Executive Director & Country Director Fifteen Years of Caring For Children of Vietnam

This is a special edition of our newsletter to commemorate 15 years of caring for children. We have filled it with photos of some the children of the nearly 300,000 children who have been touched by your generosity. Your financial and volunteer support has eliminated pain, filled tummies, improved grades, given sight and the ability

to walk and play.

Yes, this is what fifteen years in Vietnam can do for children who have so little but are always smiling, making the best of life. What does it do for us? All of our hearts—yours, ours, COV staff, and partners—can be filled with joy in knowing that children’s lives were and continue to be transformed.

Milestones

- 1998 COV founded by Ben Wilson and Luong Thi Huong. Ms. Be receives 1st compassion house
- 2003 38,000 rural & poor children participate in 1st parasite remediation program
- 2005 10 kindergartens built & 115 street children begin tutoring as educational initiative expands
- 2006 70 children receive live-saving heart, orthopedic and eye surgeries as health initiative continues
- 2007 100 children with disabilities receive comprehensive care as Hope System of Care program begins
- 2008 74 youth given opportunity for higher education as university scholarship program grows
- 2009 510 families receive emergency supplies after Typhoon Ketsansa
- 2011 4,940 children receive vitamin-fortified food as nutrition program focuses on rural poor
- 2012 16 single-mothers supported as Empowering Foundations increases enrollment
- 2013 300,000 children helped over 15 years of caring for children thanks to you!

Ben Wilson
President

Nancy Letteri
Executive Director

Luong Thi Huong
Country Director



A Thank You Letter Written with Gratitude

(Excerpted from letter of Ms. Bong, a recipient of a 4-yr university scholarship)

Yes, I did it. I passed the hard university entrance examination...But, at that time, there was a mixture of emotion in mine – happiness and sadness. I thought I could not come to the university because my family is too poor...Fortunately, as a miracle, I got the scholarship information from Children of Vietnam. The happy and indescribable emotion covers



University students celebrating birthday of scholarship program

and makes me feel that I am in the heaven...Now, I am graduated with a B.A. Degree in Education. During the last time, I get the real love from Children of Vietnam, specially the sharing from the lady staff. They gave me useful advices, love, and best orientation for my future. Everything I get today as miracle from these fairy ladies. I had no longer felt lonely and feared the sorrow. I am stronger and more confident.

Scholarships to Keep Girls in School!

In Danang there are 25 very special and bright middle school girls. We call them our Bright Scholars and they come from the poorest of families. Often during these formative years, pressure for girls to leave school mounts in order to help at home. But, many want to be doctors, teachers, some want to be singers and one wants to be an artist. We promised that if they keep their grades up we will continue to provide

assistance all the way through university. Last year Gate City Rotary kicked off our trust for these young ladies and provided books, uniforms and tutoring. The proceeds from this year's annual fall golf tournament will continue to build this trust fund.



All 25 Bright Scholars passed their exams this year.

Huong Duong Home for Special Children

Sometimes the need is so obvious. This is the case with Huong Duong Home. From one of our board members who visited this April. "...the first stop was the Huong Duong Home for special children. I don't think there was a dry eye when we were in there. We arrived to little eyes peeking out of a small, one room dilapidated house with school benches. Inside were 13 children, all with special needs....blind, mute, mental disabilities. It is run by a blind man who wants to help

others with disabilities. One of the blind boys sang for us while their blind leader played the guitar. I can't even describe the little boy's pride while he sang. Truly priceless." Your donations are now supporting this center with food and some of the operational costs.



Young blind boy singing for visitors



Ben Wilson sitting with children in the only school room

Remember COV in your Workplace.

Federal Employees: our CFC # is 15685.
State Employees: COV is now included in CA, FL & NC campaigns.

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.

Education is a Big Deal

Helping children receive an education is one of the most important activities we do. Over 500 poor children receive yearly scholarships. And, over 150 street children and orphans



Scholarship books for the school year

receive after school tutoring. Experience as shown that without tutoring these vulnerable children have very little hope of passing an entrance test to get into high school and even less chance of getting into university.

Milk Money!

When we first began bringing milk and infant formula to the Tam Ky Newborn Orphanage nearly 5 years ago, there were 43 children and babies. Now the number has doubled to 80. You should see these young ones drink! It is like candy! Thanks to compassionate youth like Katherine Pueschel who sponsored fund-raisers at school and donors like St. Leo Catholic Church the milk is delivered each month without fail!



Milk for orphans
Richard Brummett

Single Moms Work For Their Children

Moms working to pave a path out of poverty...that is what all of the single mothers enrolled in Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children have committed to achieving. One by one they are doing it too!



Single mom running small business to support children



Donate your Frequent Flyer Miles!

COV is very conservative about traveling, as the cost is often high; however, during each year travel costs must be incurred. Your frequent flyer miles would be a very generous gift and highly appreciated!

Maria Hoang - A Lady for All Children

Recently, Maria Hoang's warm heart and love for children led her to fund a much needed kindergarten for 40 ethnic Ca Tu children in a remote village in Quang Nam province. Maria was born in the historic central city of Hue. She earned a Masters Degree in English and French from the University of Saigon. She taught high school at Cia - Long College for Girls in Saigon and also at Dong Khanh College for Girls in Hue.

Maria came to the USA in 1973 and settled in Orlando, FL. She organized Bi-Lingual Education Program serving Vietnamese immigrant children and taught there from 1975 until retirement in 1998.

EVERYONE in this remote mountainous village was so deeply moved by the gift of a kindergarten by COV supporters. The village ladies sang a sweet song of appreciation and everyone had tears in their eyes. The speeches by key people in the village were also met with tears from



Ca Tu kindergarten children

EVERYONE. The village speakers and residents said **NO ONE HAD EVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS FOR THEM IN ALL THEIR LIVES.** This is the special legacy of Maria Hoang, one who dedicated all her life to children here and in Vietnam!

Join Our Team!

Make a difference in the life of a poor and vulnerable child by donating your time. As a COV volunteer, your time and talents serve children in poverty in central Vietnam. We have a small but energetic team, and your efforts will support nearly 40,000 children. Here are just two of our current needs.

- Have skills with numbers? As a growing non-profit, COV is seeking volunteers to assist the finance committee with budget and financial analysis.
- Bringing it all together...COV is also seeking a volunteer coordinator to help build and maintain our volunteer base.

Positions can be flexible as to location and time commitment. For more information, e-mail: Nancy Letteri, Executive Director, nletteri@embarqmail.com.



Summer 2013 - Anniversary Edition

Children of Vietnam

www.ChildrenOfVietnam.org

817 West End Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27101 USA



Make a Donation

Your gifts transforming children's lives for 15 years

Your continuing gift gives an education, safe and stable housing, sound nutrition, and good healthcare for poor, orphaned and disabled children — you are lighting the path out of poverty.

Please contribute via US mail to 817 West End Blvd. Winston-Salem, NC 27101 or online at:

www.childrenofvietnam.org

Your gifts in action. Here's how:

- After school tutoring for orphans \$19
You can help an orphan succeed in school with monthly afterschool tutoring
- Nourishing meals \$25
You can feed 1,250 vulnerable children a specialized vitamin-fortified porridge
- School scholarships \$55
You can keep a child in school with books, paper, pencils, uniforms
- Bicycles for a child \$70
You can give a child a quick, reliable way to get to school
- Good healthcare \$100
You can respond to children's healthcare needs with surgeries, tests, medicine
- Indoor Toilets \$320
You can give a family an indoor toilet so they do not risk their health and dignity
- Stable Housing \$625
You can help a family with bricks, cement, roofing for a house



Boy with missing hand enrolled in Hope System of Care



Ca Tu Ethnic School Girl

Cảm ơn! Thank you!

Children of Vietnam

Vì Trẻ Em Việt Nam

June 14, 2013

Dear Children of Vietnam Friend,

Thank you for 15 years of caring for children! You are responsible for transforming the lives of 300,000 children. Some received live-saving surgeries, others given a bowls of vitamin fortified porridge, some had new houses constructed, some received bikes to get to school, and others received scholarships for school, tutoring and even university.

Will you continue transforming the children's lives and make a *Special 15-Year Anniversary Gift* this month so that even more children in need can be reached?

Every child matters and has the right to grow, be happy, and develop to his or her fullest. This is our mantra in everything we do. You are making this happen.

In this special anniversary newsletter, a letter is excerpted from Bong, a young university student. Bong says so well, what so many children would say to you, "I will live well how to make you proud of me. I wish all of you healthy and happy. One more time, thank you so much."

In appreciation,

Ben Wilson
President & Founder

Nancy Letteri
Executive Director

Luong Thi Huong
Country Director

