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

Summer, 2005 News Update 2005

From our president, Ben Wilson
Dear Friends,

What began as only a VISION in 1998 has now become a well recognized, efficient and smoothly operating charity organization in Danang, Vietnam and Quangnam Province with administration costs of below 6%.

The assistance given to thousands of disadvantaged children has had a remarkable impact on their lives all because of the special blessings of people like our donors.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific donations have come for many purposes, a great number of them designated gifts - that is, for a specific purpose such as scholarships, houses, operations, prosthetics, kindergartens, bicycles, rice, clothes, milk, educational tutoring and many things needed. Thanks to you, many children now have a better life.

Ben Wilson, President

Kindergartens

Our kindergarten program is in full swing for 2005. Because of a splendid gift from Mr. and Mrs. Leslie M. (Bud) Baker of Winston Salem, 10 kindergartens will be constructed in extremely poor rural areas of Danang and Quangnam Province. Some areas have no kindergartens at all while others had dilapidated facilities that severely needed replacement. This program will provide a much needed educational boost for children in poor areas as they approach the first grade.

“Small change, small change...”

Six years ago, in the heat and humidity of a Vietnam afternoon, my husband, daughter, and I stood in front of an open air street shop in Saigon buying a few trinkets to bring home. Held safely in my arms was our newly adopted infant son. As we waited for the change from our purchase, I noticed we had attracted a small group of street children. The shopkeeper pointed out over the counter while speaking to me in Vietnamese, all of which was incomprehensible until I caught something I could understand – small change, small change – which I soon held in my hand. Turning around, I found a slight street girl, hair unevenly cropped just below her ears, poking out her hands filled with sets of postcards saying, “One dollar. All you postcards. One dollar. One dollar.”

Off to the side being jostled by the growing crowd was a woman wearing a wash-worn grey cotton shirt and an infant slung on her hips silently watching – her face tired, her eyes beseeching. I gave the change to the street girl in exchange for the postcards. Then we left the shop walking down the hot cracked sidewalk.

Since that day, I have often wondered if the woman was also the mother of the street girl. Or, were her beseeching eyes asking me to give her a dollar too? What happened to her; did she feed her baby that day? Where is that little street girl; did my change make a difference to her? I will never know, but I do know that Vietnam and its people had a profound impact on my view of the world. Today, Vietnam is more a neighbor than a far away place. I now see a mother, a baby, a little girl, and so many other children with hopes and dreams but so little resources.

See Small Change, page 2

www.childrenofvietnam.com
817 West End Boulevard, Winston Salem, NC 27101
Phone: (336) 727-1110
E-mail: ben@childrenofvietnam.com
2005 Accomplishments and activity report

In every newsletter we strive to keep you informed with the latest developments and activities that your

The following are summary results for each of the four major work areas.

Nutrition
- Monthly rice to 146 poor families
- Monthly rice and milk to orphanages and disabled children
- Food supplements for 776 poor children

Education
- 72 Bicycles for poor children
- Monthly support for Hoa Quy, Tuong Lai and Hai Chau Orphanage and classes for disabled children

Health Care
- 41,000 School and unschooled children treated for parasites
- Food for 105 orthopedic patients
- 5 Heart operations
- Medicines and vitamins for 46 Tam Ky Orphan children
- 2 CPAP Respirators for premature infants
- Hospital assistance for 52 ill children
- 550 Wheelchairs delivered in Danang and Quangnam Province

Housing
- 61 Compassion Houses

Small Change ...Continued from page 1

Neither you nor I can make this world free from pain and poverty, but each of us can look into our hearts, review our finances, and access our energy and give what we can. I ask you to join me in supporting Children of Vietnam to improve the lives of children by giving what you can, even small change. Maybe, just maybe, what we give and do will have a positive impact, maybe even save a life.

BEN'S GRANDDAUGHTER'S WORDS

Children of Vietnam is such an amazing program. It is wonderful that my grandfather can raise so much money and travel every year to help those less fortunate than us. Someday I also would like to travel to Vietnam to help children who cannot help themselves. I believe that if everyone was informed about the hardships in their lives, more people would stop thinking only of themselves and start caring about other people. If that did happen, then the world would become a better place.

Olivia Wilson, 14 years old.

PARASITE PROGRAM UPDATE

The third year of parasite eradication has begun for 2005 with 41,000 school children being treated in Hoa Vang District of Danang city. We are now also treating hundreds of children not previously treated because they could not attend school.

I think it is really neat that my grandfather helps other children in need. Sometimes I just think about what it would be like to see these children. If one child came here she would see how different their lives are to ours. If one child from America went to Vietnam, she would see how difficult and sad it is there. I hope I can go there someday and see how much my grandfather has done for them. THANKS FOR HELPING!

Isabel Wilson, 10 years old.

Nancy Letteri, COV Volunteer
Does your group need a speaker?

Children of Vietnam has a speaker's bureau whose mission is to make presentations to groups and tell the story of our work. We are currently looking for opportunities to speak to adult Sunday Schools, mission committees or men's or women's groups in North Carolina and southern Virginia. The presentations are rich in pictures of the people and areas that we serve in the greater Danang area. The pictures show the people who receive medical aid, scholarships, supplemental food assistance and the housing we build or help repair.

If you are part of an organization that would benefit from such an opportunity as this, or if you know of one, please contact Joe Lobber at 334-860-6715 or by e-mail at jjerber@triad.rr.com. All inquiries will be promptly answered and presentations scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

In Their Own Words

(This article is offered in the form and language in which it was received so that you can experience the “intangible” content of the contributor's message. Mrs. Luong Thi Huong is the Children of Vietnam program director.)

The narrow alley led our mission to a small house about 18 square meter, and attached to three other families walls, the roof having many holes like stars in the sky. A few small bowls, chopsticks in the corner, some clothes hang on the wall.... and the woman was almost moved to tears as she answer us in a voice choked with emotion about her family situation.

"Where is rest-room?" I asked. She shows us a pack of plastic bags and explains "my family could only use them in early morning and throw to dust-cart"

Although hard-working to sell rattan arts, their monthly VND 400,000 income ($25) is not enough to cover everyday needs. The youngest handicapped boy is 12 year-old, name Nguyen Thanh Nhan is at Tuong Lai special school. The second girl is 15 year-old, name Nguyen Thi Anh Ngoc is 7 grade in Ly Thuong Kiet secondary school. The oldest is 17, name Nguyen Thi Ngoc Anh is in 10 form of Phan Chu Trinh high school and she was likely to leave school any minute because family had not enough money.

“What is the most need in your family?”

My heart-broken about my daughter having to leave school.

The girl eyes wet with tears when we promise to support VND 150,000 ($9.50) per month to keep her at school. It means she comes and goes freely everyday to school wearing the traditional white Ao Dai with her friends.

“We will also help you to build a new house”, I told the woman. She held her children and was struck dumb with emotion:"This is out of my dream"

Mrs. Huong, Program Director

Hoa Mai Orphanage

As part of our ongoing relationship with this orphanage, we take the children for a special adventure each September and March. This time it was to a nature park in the mountains surrounding Danang.

TUTORING - A New Era

By virtue of a generous gift from Eric Hemel and Barbara Morgen of Scarsdale, NY, we are starting special tutoring classes right away for 126 children, grades one through twelve in the Danang Street Children Program and Hai Chau Orphanage. Subjects to be tutored are Vietnamese, English, Math, Physics, Chemistry and Literature.

The concept here is to elevate their learning abilities in order to pass the university entrance examinations. In the near future, we plan a Danang University scholarship program for orphan and street children and someday we will be able to provide a scholarship for any student desiring a university or vocational school education.
Children of Vietnam

817 West End Blvd.
Winston Salem, NC 27101 USA

What YOU can do to help!

Our mission is to provide direct aid to the poor and handicapped children of Viet Nam. Our work is done primarily in Danang and surrounding area.

The aid provided is the result of donations given by our friends and partners.

You can make a difference in the lives of the children we serve by making a 501-C-3 tax deductible gift to Children of Vietnam. We cannot continue our work without you.

As a guide, please view the table to the right to see that the phrase "a little goes a long way in Vietnam" is a reality and an opportunity for you to make a difference with a small contribution.

We are still providing aid with less than a 6% administrative charge.

“A Little Goes A Long Way in Vietnam”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build a house</td>
<td>$800 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide rice for a family</td>
<td>$60/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship for child</td>
<td>$60/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund a medicine pack</td>
<td>$250/pkg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy a bicycle</td>
<td>$35 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy a child’s hearing aid</td>
<td>$80 each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COV supplemental rice distribution program assists over 145 families a month.

Child who will get an orthopedic operation to correct a club foot

Gifts of stock are welcomed by CHILDREN OF VIETNAM and may allow avoidance of capital gains taxes depending on each individual situation. Please call us 336 727 1110