



Children of Vietnam

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

Spring News Update 2004

From our president, Ben Wilson...

Dear Friends

We have had an exciting and meaningful year in 2003. We now have a staff of three in Danang to carry out our work: Mrs. Huong, Program Manager and Ms. Hang and Mrs. Tram her assistants. Ms Quy left in March to get married.

Our programs are growing with more than 42,700 children receiving assistance in 2003. Individual assistance was provided to 2600 children in the form of scholarships, orthopedic and heart operations, hospital care, health examinations, houses, bicycles, clothes and shoes which were very meaningful.

In the area of "collective" assistance, 9800 children received assistance in the form of rice to families, schools for handicapped children, kindergarten construction, vocational school and medicines. "Collective" means monthly deliveries of rice, milk, vitamins, etc were given or a kindergarten was built or upgraded to serve the children everyday.

Parasite elimination treatment was completed for 30,300 children which was very effective, leading to healthier lives for the children.

As we view the future with great optimism, we continue to develop relationships with local



Ben Wilson and one of his new friends at Tam Ky Orphanage. Program director, Mrs. Huong looks on.

agencies who greatly assist us in carrying out our programs efficiently and effectively. Most of all, we deeply appreciate the heartfelt support of all our donors, without whose help we could not exist. I bring you much love from the children.

Ben Wilson

Vietnam Factoids:

- ? Population: 80 million
- ? Size: about twice the size of North Carolina
- ? Half of the population is under age 25
- ? Literacy rate: 89%
- ? Per capita income: \$350
- ? 40% of population lives below the poverty line
- ? 38% of children under 5 are malnourished.
- ? Land mines and unexploded armament are still a threat to children.
- ? Education is not free

New House!

Children of Vietnam is now celebrating that we have been involved in building over 112 houses to date. This could not have happened without your support.

From time to time we get lulled into focusing on the project and not spending time to think about who is receiving the homes. As you will read from our Director, this house made a material difference in the lives of this family. The home was built as a community effort which involved his neighbors as well as his family. The picture shows a typical home we have built.

Dear Ben,

I was really moved on Saturday (Nov 29) giving house to the family at Dai Hiep Villarge, Dai Loc District .

As I told you the day we went there last month, the man was very sick and staying in bed. He had no money to treat his disease and



he was very hopeless .He told me that his wife complains to him all time! I do understand his wife because they are in vicious circle and they do not know how to escape from the circle. In our Country the man always is the pillar of the family, especially in Rural areas this concept shows more clearly .

This time, when we just came to the door of the new house, his face showed us every thing. He told us that his sickness has gone

away and from now on he can sleep all night long and does not worry about house collapse or leak. I could feel it by his deeply - felt words very simply. I like affection in countryside so much. His relatives and neighbours helped him with all labor until his house was finished. It is very respectable, very praise - worthy. They have less money but are better off. It is a worthy house to admire !

817 West End Boulevard, Winston Salem, NC 27101

www.childrenofvietnam.com

Phone: (336) 727-1110

E-mail: ben@childrenofvietnam.com

2003 Accomplishments and activity report

In every newsletter we strive to keep you informed with the latest developments and activities that your support provides. This time, we want to emphasize both the statistical as well as the narrative reporting of activities. The following is what you have allowed to happen in 2003. On behalf of the children, thank you very much –you changed their lives.

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| ? Built 34 houses – 112 to date | ? Health program for Tien Phuoc - examinations and treatment for 510 children | ? Parasite Eradication Program for 38,300 children Hoa Vang District (Initiated) |
| ? Built 1 Kindergarten | | |
| ? Provided 20 orthopedic limb operations | ? 400 Scholarships presented | ? HIV/Aids Treatment and Education Program for 30 HIV positive children and Education Program 650 at risk children. Initiated in November. |
| ? 141,000 pounds of rice delivered to 230 families and local schools | ? 136 Bicycle Scholarships | |
| | ? 2 Computers for a school and Hoa Mai Orphanage | |
| ? Funded 6 heart operations (2 completed) | ? 1 School Water system | ? Total - 4200 Children given assistance plus 38,300 children in Parasite Eradication Program |
| ? Provided 157 children with hospital assistance in the form of payment assistance | ? 15 Sewing machines for Tien Phuoc vocational school | ? Medical supplies: medicines and clothes delivered \$123,000 |

In September, with support from **Giving It Back To Kids**, we agreed to send 5 children to Hue or Ho Chi Minh City for open heart surgery, giving them a new lease on life. GIBTK sponsored four operations and COV sponsored one. Two operations were successfully completed and three are waiting for their health to improve and for surgery to be scheduled schedule.

Bicycles as scholarships

– A multi purpose gift is a bicycle – In the countryside where children live 3 to 6 miles from school, parents may remove children from school after third grade to help with chores, household duties or to sell lottery tickets for family income. With a bicycle, the child can return to school, run errands, help in the market and also enjoy riding. The 136 bicycles we presented to poor children in 2003 were such a blessing and were equipped with a basket, full chain guard and integral lock for theft security, all for \$32 !! We have donors who give a bicycle each month.

Partnerships in 2003:

Our partnership with Carolina Adoption Services (CAS) in Greensboro, NC was active in Tam Ky New Born Orphanage (35 children) and Hoa Mai Orphanage (45 children) in Danang. The concept is to improve the health of children in orphanages in order to facilitate the adoption process in the future. CAS provided funds to begin a

nutrition and health program by providing milk, vitamins, shoes, intestinal parasite medication and staff support. A VERY welcome program at the orphanages as they never seem to have enough milk or vitamins for the children. **CHILDREN OF VIETNAM** also provided a water heater, washing machines, shoes, benches, swings, medicines, bicycles and a computer.

Medical Mission – A full, long day Medical Mission Program to Tien Phuoc District 50 miles South of Danang was held in November. Examinations for more than 520 people including 300 children were provided and 17 children will be brought to Danang for further treatment and orthopedic operations. Danang General Hospital staff of 15 volunteer doctors and nurses



participated. This program is a typical application for our Medicine Pack Program where portable steel cabinets are provided to medical teams. The boxes are filled with medicines and supplies for treatment of children and adults, some who



Children at a school receive metraprazol tablets which are extremely effective in treating internal parasites. This is a joint program with the Danang school system, Danang Health Department and Children of Vietnam.

have never seen a doctor – Can you imagine such a thing?

Parasite Program -- A very successful intestinal parasite eradication program was implemented in 2003 for 30,300 rural school children. Infestation of the four common types of parasites were reduced significantly – from an average of 37% down to 1.2% in all children. Another program was initiated in November for 38,300 children ages 5 to 18 years. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen of Winston Salem kindly raised the necessary funds for this program as they did also in 2003. Many thanks to them! What a blessing this program has been for the health of the children!

Does your group need a speaker?

Children of Vietnam has recently formed 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 Da Nang 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, or know of one, that would benefit from such a opportunity as this, please contact Joe Lorber at 336-869-6715 or by e-mail at joe@childrenofvietnam.com. All inquiries will be promptly answered and 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. Our director, Mrs. Hong, updates our president regularly concerning the progress of the projects and activities in which we are involved. This article will give you a feeling of the value of a bicycle made possible through your generosity.)

Dear Board;

This week Giving It Back To Kids (GIBTK) gave us 30 bicycles (\$600) for presenting at TET and a kindergarten (\$3800) for 40 poor children to be completed by March. The following is Huong's email of appreciation to GIBTK and to COV.



Thank you so much for very nice gifts to children . Since I've received your email I have been very happy until now . I can imagine children's happiness when they receive bicycles . I think that is a dream of many poor children .

It was my dream when I was young in high school . My house from school 7 km (4.2 miles) and over three mountains .Many friends left school because they walk too far in danger darkness . My family had only a cranky bi-

cycle and it was broken all time. Chain was not good ,had no pedal pads only pedal fulcrum and slipped when going uphill .But I could not use it often because at that time my family had three members who could use the bicycle and my father took care of it very carefully. It was a valuable thing of my family and he put it at home and all people had to walk! So funny .But I love him very much, some time we reminisce about those things and he has tears .

With 30 bicycles to 30 children to 30 families it mean that you give 30 marvelous things to their life on occasion of Christmas and New Year . Can you imagine ? Are you happy ?

Thank you so much Robert .

Letters we like

The following letter was sent to Children of Vietnam by a governmental official to thank you for the gifts of sewing machines.

Dear Mr Ben,

In the past years, the work of protection, education and caring for children of Tien Phuoc District was concerned by the Government, especially orphaned children, disabled children and difficult children. However, the investment in

children was limited because of the lack of local finance.

In September 22, 2003, Tien Phuoc's poor children were visited and presented 15 sewing machines by Mr. Ben C. Wilson who is the President of Children Of Vietnam, Mr Robert Kalatschan- the President of Giving It Back To Kid and Mrs Huong- the Representative Lady at DaNang. This special gift has a necessary and important meaning for the poor children. It helps the vocational studying



of Tien Phuoc's poor children for a stable life.

On behalf of Tien phuoc Children Population Family Committee, we would like to express our gratefulness for the concern of Mr Ben, Mr Robert and Mrs Huong. We wish for more help from all of you to improve the vocational training and solving job for poor children in next years.

Introducing some of the children you helped



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Children of Vietnam

www.childrenofvietnam.com

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 7% administrative charge.

“A Little Goes A Long Way in Vietnam”

Build a house	\$650
Provide rice for a family	\$60/year
Scholarship for child.....	\$60/year
“Piggy” project (Includes some food).....	\$50
Fund a medicine pack.....	\$250/pkg.
Buy a bicycle.....	\$35 each
Buy a child’s hearing aid	\$80 each



One of our guests helps with supplemental rice distribution



Distribution of school books and supplies in the Danang area.