Dear Friends

It is difficult for other nations to realize how much individuals, estates, foundations and corporations in the United States give away each year for charity causes. For the year 2003 it was 240.7 billion dollars. That sum is $827 for every man, woman and child in this country. This is for use within the USA and in other countries and is a phenomenal amount of money.

There are significant blessings I receive in working for CHILDREN OF VIETNAM –

- Seeing monthly donations coming to us - $5 from retired couples in states far away, checks from those on disability income and then larger donations from many of you.
- Being able to see exactly where your donations are being used to deliver poor children out of the darkness of pain or hunger into the light of a new day. We send sincere appreciation to each of you for your dedication to these children.
- Knowing how proud you would be and the great feeling you would feel if YOU could meet the children and families that we work with. You would experience genuine gratitude for a helping hand that will make a difference in their lives.
- Seeing the look on a mother’s or father’s face when they receive your gift. Whether it is in the hospital, a food distribution site or when their child receives a scholarship. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Ben Wilson

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**How Do We Find The Children In Need?**

A very good question.

Each year, we provide aid to hundreds of needy children in our four programs of assistance – Health Care, Nutrition, Education and Housing.

Many cases come to our new office that opened in June in Danang. Many are families who do not know where to turn for help. Many children are carried by a family member often for many miles because they are unable to walk or are too ill. We first request a letter from their village or commune People’s Committee certifying their indigent status. In many cases a visit is made to the home in case of significant assistance needs. In some cases it is clearly evident that the child and family has no resources.

We work closely with The Committee for Population, Families and Children in each of the 6 districts of Danang and also in suburban districts such as Tien Phuoc, Thang Binh, Dai Loc and others. They are familiar with cases needing assistance and lead our staff to them where we can evaluate the family resources. Very few are refused as Committees and people of Danang know quite well we are very strict in our qualification requirements. For example, a family receiving a house can own no more than a bicycle to qualify. People who know our work may refer cases or even bring cases to us for help. These networks of people and organizations are vital to accomplishing our objectives.

As we are in our seventh year of operation, The Street Children Program, orphanages, medical clinics and schools for handicapped children know us very well when they need assistance.

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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

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**Children of Vietnam**

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

SummerNews Update 2004

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2004 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 2004. On behalf of the children, thank you very much: with your gifts you truly changed their lives.

HEALTH CARE -
1. Operations completed in Orthopedic Hospital 52
2. Heart Operations 5
3. Individual assistance in Danang General 15
4. Wheelchairs 1
5. Hearing Aid support – Dr Isselstein (meals) 90
6. CPAP Devices 4
7. Medicine Packs 15
8. Parasite treatment (second dose) 38,300
9. Nutrition Program – Monthly Danang General 45

HOUSING –
1. Houses completed 31
2. Houses repaired 1

...In addition.

New Office - A new one room International Headquarters Office for CHILDREN OF VIETNAM opened in June.
Address #6 Ong Ich Khiem St. Danang Tel 84 511 530 682

Our staff, we now have four employees in the new headquarters. Mrs. Huong and her assistant, Ms Binh, accountant and Mr. Tuan, construction administrator. Total staff - 4 (please note that all US based staff are volunteers.)

Free shipment to Danang in February of 500 pounds of clothing, office supplies, toys, etc. by FedEx.

Visitors Approximately 12 visitors will be with us in September.

EDUCATION –
1. Water Heater and filter for kindergarten 1
2. Washing machine – Tam Ky Orphanage 1
3. Bicycles 28
4. Clothes for children 140
5. Scholarships 6
6. TET gifts of clothes and food 260
7. School bags for art contest 200
8. Electric cooker for kindergarten 1

NUTRITION –
1. Rice monthly for 230 families – ongoing 750
2. Milk supply for Hoa Mai and Tam Ky Orphanages 85
3. Nutrition assistance – individual 21

Lentil Soup Mix We are investigating an opportunity with Giving It Back To Kids to import 75 metric tons of dehydrated lentil bean based soup mix at no cost to us. Many questions to be answered – primary question – Will the children eat it? Samples will be sent to Danang to determine if their taste buds find it acceptable. More to come.

Grant We have been offered the opportunity again to submit a grant request to American Ambassador Burghardt in Hanoi. Last year we submitted 10 projects with a total of $155,000 and were awarded $24,000 for scholarships and HIV/AIDS education program for Street Children. We are honored that we are one of only 10 charities in Vietnam to be offered this opportunity out of hundreds working there.

KINDERGARTENS—A BLESSING
If you want to witness happiness then you should see 45 children in their new kindergarten just completed.

A very nice structure of plaster over brick – 26 ft X 36 ft – with a steel sheet roof, toilets, concrete floor and play area and completely furnished with blackboards, bookcases, bulletin boards, tables, chairs, lighting and ceiling fans.

Prior to construction, we sign a MOU (contract) with local government stating that they must provide land, water, university educated teaching staff and ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

These kindergartens are very important in poor rural areas as there is a critical shortage of them and they are very important for preschool training in order to have a satisfactory start in school. We have a waiting list of 30! Kindergartens are $4800 each.

HOUSES –
We are currently completing our 150th house for a poor family with children since our beginning in 1998. The cost of $650 is under cost attack as are kindergartens due to recent increase in costs of materials. The Vietnamese economy is getting stronger daily with Vietnam being now the world’s second largest exporter of rice. Many industrial factory investments and joint ventures are in progress as well.
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 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 that would benefit from such an opportunity as this, or if you know of one, please contact Joe Lorber at 336-869-6715 or by e-mail at joe@childrenofvietnam.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. Our director, Mrs. Huong, 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 Ben,

We’d like to tell you about the case of one orthopedics patient that we were moved to tears. Her name is Huynh Thi Thu Trang, 16 years old, living at Thang Binh District. Trang is the first-born child and the older sister of 4 younger sisters and brothers in a very poor pure farming family. She lost half of right leg by a traffic accident when she was 7 years old but everyday she gathers pennywort ( A herb used for arthritis ) (walking with crutches) after the class time to help her mother earning extra money to pay for family expenses as all 5 children are pupils. Her father has nephritis, so the main laborer in family is an impossible thing and it’s just a desire for him. Her hardworking mother always feels sorry for her oldest daughter as her friend of the same age learning and playing everyday. But Trang, a disabled child, learns while working and always nurse a wish to be able to walk by her legs in order to be more quickly going to school and easier to gather pennywort.

Recently, her disabled leg hurts her to move and she feels gnawing pain by a splintered bone jutted through the skin. Now is the time of summer vacation and her mother decided to take her to Orthopedic Hospital for treatment. A surgery to remove bone jutted through skin is performed by Doctor. Her mother have not enough money for this treatment and she just borrowed 200,000VND ( $13 ) from a good -hearted neighbor for traveling expenses and medical treatment. Then Children Of Vietnam came to give financial support to Trang and she can receive the needed surgery and will also receive a prosthesis- artificial leg as she wished earlier. We can not tell you what their faces showed at that moment - the mother was so glad she cried and she said:” Thank you very much indeed, I am very much obligated to you for helping us. I will be grateful all my life”. And do you know what Trang said? “Please pass on my words to COV’s manager Board that you are my fairy, you made my wish come true. As from now, I can walk with my leg, I no longer have inferiority complex by walking by hand with crutches. After surgery I am painful but I am so joyful, I can not sleep when thinking about many places I can go with my new leg”.

Luong Thi Huong,

Introducing some of the children you have helped

Taking parasite medication  
Sampling Giving It Back To Kids funded patient
Typical Giving It Back To Kids funded Patient

Typical Giving It Back To Kids funded Patient—third from right.
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.

What YOU can do to help!

“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

Waiting for new school clothes

How many years have you been in Hai Chau orphanage?