



Children of Vietnam

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

June News Update 2009

From our Chairwoman, Susan Wilson

Vietnam Factoids:

- ◆ Population: 84 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
- ◆ Children with intestinal parasites are common

To begin, I would like to thank our donors, staff, Board of Directors, and supporters for honoring Children of Vietnam with your time and resources.

Although 2009 has proven to be a difficult year for many non-profit organizations, I am pleased to report that COV continues to thrive and grow. We are thankful for the donations we have received, many through contacts made by those of you who are reading this newsletter.

This year has seen the addition of three new Board Members; Stuart Macintosh and Jean Janicke from Washington, DC and Koryn Madigan from metropolitan New York. The expansion of our Board within the US, has afforded us with new growth opportunities. A fundraiser organized by Ms. Madigan, in New York City, resulted in a donation of \$20,000. What a blessing for the children of Da Nang.

In addition, Children of Vietnam partnered with another non-profit organization, Dining For Women (DFW). In April, COV was represented at over 150



DFW Chapter Dinners across the United States. Through this relationship, COV will be able to build 10 homes for women heading poor families in Quang Nam Province. Also, we will deliver 35 bicycles to girls, and provide young women with 100 public school scholarships and 40 vocational scholarships. Thank you to all the women with DFW who made this possible!

A special thank you also goes to Replacements Ltd. in Greensboro, NC, which provided Children of Vietnam with the gift of word and pictures on their new electronic billboard. Travelers traveling on Interstate 40 and 85 are treated to wonderful pictures of the children we serve.

Finally, on the technology front, Children of Vietnam is working hard to improve its infrastructure and technology. If you have not seen the new website, implemented in March, please take a look, <http://www.childrenofvietnam.org>.

Thank you for all you do to support the children. My wish is that you could all visit our programs in Vietnam and see, first-hand, the difference being made by your support.

Susan Wilson

Children of Vietnam Received Champion Medal

We are happy to announce that our staff and COV received a champion medal from the DaNang Foreign Affairs and People's Committees. This is a great honor for us, and we thank our outstanding staff, our dedicated Board of Directors, and all of our very generous supporters. Thank you for your trust and confidence in the work we do on behalf of Vietnamese children.

In addition to this most recent honor,

COV received five awards in 2008.

- ◆ The Union Executive Board of Danang SCEDFA reward for the excellent performance in Union activities
- ◆ Hai Chau People's Committee award for the excellent achievement in the work of taking care of poor children of Hai Chau District.
- ◆ Hoa Vang People's Committee

Award for the significant achievement in the work of protection and care of children.

- ◆ Quang Nam People's Committee award for the remarkable contribution for the Economic and Social Development of Province.
- ◆ Chairman of Danang People's Committee award for contributions to humanitarian activities of Danang City for 2008.

2008 Accomplishments and activity report

The following shows summary results for each of the four major work areas in 2008

Education

- Bicycle scholarships for 47 poor children
- University scholarship for 88 poor students in Danang City and other provinces
- Tutoring classes for 163 children in Danang Street children, Hai Chau Orphanage and Hoa Mai Orphanage
- Public school scholarships for 522 poor children
- Books, clothes, and school supplies for 36 poor children

Health care

- Parasite eradication program for 32,000 schooled and unschooled children
- Funded 18 heart surgeries at Danang and Hue hospital
- Funded 100 children with disabilities in Hai Chau District of Danang City for the Hope System of Care project
- Medicine and food assistance for 39 children at Danang Hospital

Housing

- Built 27 houses for families
- Repaired 3 houses for families
- Upgraded Hoi An Orphanage, Dai Loc orphanage, and Danang Street Children Program House 5

Nutrition

- Funded 6 Cows for poor families
- Monthly food supplement for 19 children at Mang Non Kindergarten
- Monthly milk for 48 children at Tam Ky New born Orphanage
- Tet gifts and Children's Day gifts for 901 children
- Monthly assistance for 79 poor children-food Nutritious dried food supply for 11 institutions including orphanages, street children programs, social sponsoring centers, and retirement homes serving 3,192 children and adults with 285,000 meals

Total number of served:39,803

In kind contributions for year 2008

Orthopedic medical supplies-Danang Orthopedic Hospital	\$18,000
Soy meal, 40 ft shipping container	\$57,000
Misc. Medical Supplies	\$10,000
Sutures	\$ 2,400
Shipping Grant	\$ 3,000
Fund Raiser Support	\$14,000
<u>Air Fare</u>	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
Total:	\$105,900

Update on Our HEALTH-E Program

In May, Children of Vietnam received in Danang our second forty foot container of a very nutritious, highly fortified food product from STOP HUNGER NOW to be distributed to more than 11 local institutions to supplement their meager diets. The 43,100 pounds of dehydrated food mix with a value of \$73,100 will provide 285,000 meals to children and adults in orphanages, street children programs, Social Sponsoring Centers, and Retirement homes. We sincerely appreciate this very special gift to the children and adults of the Danang area.

- The gift totals \$100,000 or less each year
- The withdrawal goes directly from the IRA to the charity

The donor does not need to itemize his or her taxes to take advantage of the rollover. If the donor does itemize, however, he or she cannot also take the contribution as a deduction. Contact your financial advisor for more details.

IRA Charitable Giving Option

A charitable gift made directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) will not be taxed as income as long as:

- The gift is made in 2009
- The charity is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions
- The IRA holder is age 70½ or older
- The charity is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization

Tra My Update

Ms. Tra My of Hue, a severely handicapped young lady whose photo you saw in our December Newsletter and our guests visited in March. After exhaustive pursuit of a day care facility to support her without success, we received a generous gift to provide a stipend to the family of 500,000 Vietnamese Dong (US \$28) per month to assist the family with her daily needs and care. Any contributions to provide continued support for her care will be appreciated



Hope System of Care Bringing More Services to New District

In 2007, the *Hope System of Care for Children with Disabilities (HSC)* began as a collaborative project with the Hai Chau People's Committee (HCPC), to implement a care management system for children with disabilities including those who have congenital impairments or may have been negatively affected by exposure to Agent Orange/dioxin. We are delighted to report that preliminary evaluations indicate that the project is meeting our objectives. The lives of children with disabilities are improving and local government agencies, medical institutions, and educational centers are working cohesively to ensure



these children develop to their highest potential.

Over the last several months, we have received many visitors interested in our project including Michael Martin of the US Congressional Research Service and members of the US-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin. Our staff and partners have worked with much dedication and passion serving these children, and now we are delighted to report that the Ford Foundation is providing COV with a second grant, to bring this project to a second district in

partnership with the Ngu Hanh Son People's Committee. We are honored and even more committed to developing an effective system that serves children with disabilities.

Children of Vietnam Partners with Dining for Women

In April, COV was the featured organization, chosen by Dining For Women (DFW), a national grassroots-giving circle that provides hope and financial support to poor women around the world. With over, 150 chapters, nationwide, women around the country were treated to information and videos about COV.

One video seen by the women in

April was a documentary created by Page Walters of Charleston, SC. Page is a chapter leader for the DFW Chapter in Charleston. Thanks to the efforts of our COV staff in Vietnam, the Walters family, during a Vietnam vacation trip, was able to visit a woman and her daughter in need of housing. The story of these two families, one American and one Vietnamese is chronicled in this moving, 10-

minute video. You can view the video through the following Youtube link. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gda9FH0OFwn)

Marsha Wallace founded DFW with a dream of building relationships with women at home and abroad. Each month a non-profit organization, providing help to impoverished women, is highlighted. Women dine together

COV Looking Beyond Today - Our Future is Bright

During the past year, the Board of Directors of COV has considered how our organization will continue our mission in the future. It became clear that we needed to broaden our leadership base to increase our reach both within the United States and globally. We realized that this would require COV to take the next step in its development by hiring a Director of Development and Communication located in the United States. We are pleased to announce to our supporters, donors, and business partners that Nancy Letteri has accepted this position effective June 1, 2009.

Many of you have met Nancy or seen



Mrs. Nancy Letteri,
Director of Development
and Communication

her name in our newsletters. In the past Nancy has served on the COV Board of Directors and volunteered her time to write a number of grants, including the Ford Foundation grants for special initiative, Hope System of Care. In her part-time position, Nancy will continue to manage our current and future grants, advise the board on fundraising efforts, and help us to better develop the COV infrastructure.

The Board of Directors wishes to thank Nancy for all the work she has done for COV in the past and to invite you in welcoming Nancy in her new capacity.

June 2009

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 5% administrative charge.

"A Little Goes A Long Way in Vietnam"

Build a house.....	\$1,250
Provide rice for a family	\$60/year
Scholarship for child	\$40/year
Provide family with livestock for sustainable income....	\$300
Fund a medicine pack	\$250/pkg.
Buy a bicycle	\$70 each



Orphan friends



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

Mending Hearts Call for Help

Children of Vietnam has a list of 200 children with congenital heart defects who are in need of surgeries. We regularly receive requests for assistance beyond our list. All of these children have families who live in poverty who do not have the funding to help their children live healthy lives.

Please join us in assisting these children by making a gift of any size. A child's heart surgery, depending of the specific diagnosis, can range from \$700 to \$3,000.

Below are just two of the many waiting children and hoping to be able to play like their friends and siblings.



Tuan lives with his older brother and mother. His brother quit school to work as a fisherman to help support the family. They live in a 60 m² house with metal roof and nothing valuable inside. Doctors have indicated that Tuan needs to have an operation immediately.

Thuong lives with her parents who are both farmers who earn about \$26 USD per month. They've worked very hard to save money for four years to build a small house in order to resist bad weather. Her parents have borrowed and collected funds from their family and neighbors to pay for the surgery, but it is not enough.



Please join Children of Vietnam in providing a positive response to the requests we regularly receive from parents whose hearts ache but are too poor to help their children.

PETITION FOR SUPPORT

Respectfully to:

Da Nang's Fund for Child Protection - Children of Viet Nam

My name is Ho Van Tu born in 1997 and my wife is Huynh Thi Ha born in 1976. We live in Tra Doa hamlet, Binh Dao District, Quang Nam province. I am writing this letter to you to demonstrate the following matter.

After marriage, we have one boy named Ho Nhu Thuat in 2003. Unfortunately, he got inborn heart disease. We took him to Hue Central Hospital to cure. Here, doctors asked for an urgent operation which costs 20 million VND (US \$1250) to improve his health. However, both of us are farmers and our income from crops is so little in comparison with the expense we have to pay for our son's surgery. That is an enormous expense to a poor family like us.

Thus, we submit this letter to you and your organization - a humanitarian one and respectfully look forward to receiving your grant.

Sincerely thanks

Ho Van Tu

Cut here and return to COV with your gift. Thank you!

Yes, I will help! Enclosed please find my gift of \$_____ for a child needing heart surgery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your donation funding a part or all of a surgery will truly be a gift of a future for these endearing children.

Thank you!

Message to Children of Vietnam: _____
