



# Children of Vietnam

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

May 2014

## From the President Partnerships for Life

The children! The children! They are what we are all about!

Having just returned from Danang, I am full of memories of children with serious facial disorders gathered at Danang General Hospital for final examinations prior to surgery. Our ten-year PARTNERSHIP with Facing The World in London ([www.facingtheworld.net](http://www.facingtheworld.net)) allows us to bring children to their program from all over Vietnam to have surgery performed in Danang or London on serious facial tumors, birthmarks and deformities, thus giving them a new life.

Their volunteer Angel in residence, Eimear Murphy, is a trained surgical nurse who is donating her time in Vietnam to coordinate bringing these children through the preliminary procedures to surgery – blood tests, CAT Scans, MRIs, X Rays and complete examinations. This fearful experience for these children is carefully monitored and eased by Eimear who is a loving caregiver. The surgery results are remarkable and last a lifetime.

Another major PARTNER is Stop Hunger Now (SHN) ([www.stophungernow.org](http://www.stophungernow.org)) who annually grants us more than a million meals for poor children. COV distributes these meals in Central Vietnam to kindergartens, street children, hospitals and schools for children with disabilities. We are able to leverage this gift and deliver these meals for less than two cents per meal.



Ethnic minority girl with SHN meal

We welcome any and all who share our mission and will eagerly work together for these children. Thank you for joining us too, and we send sincere thanks to all our donors for your keenly sensitive support and focus on serving many, many children each year, thereby giving them a better life and brighter future.

Ben Wilson  
President

## Welcome Aboard

At COV we try to connect you with our beneficiaries through our words, our photos and our stories. But it is a uniquely moving experience to be on the ground in Vietnam, embracing the families and seeing the children's faces. Executive Director Nancy Letteri invites you to join her this fall for a program tour. ProgramTour dates are from September 22, 2014 – October 10, 2014. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Letteri at [nletteri@embarqmail.com](mailto:nletteri@embarqmail.com).

## Love Our New Look!

COV is excited to announce that we are revamping our style. Here is a sneak peak of our new logo. But that's not all you have to look forward to. Be sure to keep checking our website [www.childrenofvietnam.org](http://www.childrenofvietnam.org). COV staff and volunteers are hard at work preparing for the launch of our updated website later this summer.



**YTD Highlights**  
**Your Support Is Making a Difference**

Educating

- 74 Students attending university
- 179 Orphans receiving tutoring
- 25 Girls attending school & tutoring
- 4 Children biking to school daily
- 45 Ethnic minority children learning in 2 new kindergartens
- 120 Ethnic minority children sleeping with new insulated ceiling

Healing

- 5 Children healthier with emergency support
- 25,740 Children parasite free

Sheltering

- 5 Children with stable housing
- 728 School children drinking potable water

Nurturing

- 75 Orphans drinking daily milk
- 500 Children benefiting from emergency food
- 872 Children nourished with Tet food baskets
- 21 Children with disabilities supported at special school
- 19 Youth with disabilities have special day out
- 336 Services aiding children with disabilities
- 34 Single mothers helped with health check, livelihood training & house repairs

## The Gift of a Bike Means More Time Studying Guest Writer: Ellen Martin

My husband and I had an amazing experience in February when we joined the COV team for a day of delivering bicycles to children on the outskirts of Danang. It was our first visit to Vietnam, and the day we spent with COV was without a doubt the best day of our entire trip.

We started the day at COV's cheerful office in Danang, where we met Nancy and an enthusiastic group of staff and volunteers. After packing the bikes into the van, we started off towards a rural area outside of Danang to meet with four families going through difficult times.

For me, a bike has always meant fun and freedom, getting outside to feel the wind in my face, or simply a way to avoid driving. That day I learned that for one boy, a new

bicycle meant that he no longer had a two-hour commute, on foot, to school each day. For all of the children, the gift of a bike meant more time for studying, helping out around the house, or going to the market for meals. It meant they would be more likely to stay in school, and receive the lifelong benefits of an education, with more opportunities for a brighter future.



Student with new bicycle

I'll never forget those families and the smiles on the faces of those adorable kids as they hopped on their new bikes for the first time! There is hard work being done, and the path out of poverty is always difficult, but overall we witnessed a huge amount of hope and joy, and we were incredibly lucky to be a small part of that.

## Be Proud of Your Selfies

Investing in girls' education is one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty. Thanks to the **OneVietnam**



COV staff supports #CaseForGirls

Network, the **#CaseForGirls** campaign utilized social media to raise awareness of the importance of this issue. From January through April, for every selfie hosting a sign reading "#CaseForGirls" Western Union donated \$10. In addition Western Union matched every cash donation.

COV is proud to announce that the campaign was a resounding success! Over \$29,000 was raised towards scholarships for girls' education. Thank you to everyone who participated in this campaign and helped us reach this amazing goal.



Bright Scholars make a heart to show their appreciation



Girl with new bike



Bright Scholars in front of COV office

## We Are Effective- The Big Gulp Pays Off

In the November 2013 newsletter we reported on Children of Vietnam's parasite prevention program in the rural Hoa Vang district. In early 2014, the Danang Children's Hospital sent medical teams out to survey the children in all districts of Danang. They were puzzled by the results. Why were there almost no cases of worms in one rural district when parasites persist even in the city? The answer was simple – the COV parasite prevention program.



First grade boy holding medicine for parasite prevention

We are grassroots – They say it takes a village to raise a child, and it certainly takes a grassroots team to deliver medicine to every child in a rural district. COV works with the local health officials and the local education officials so that trained medical



Boy and girl with parasite medicine

professionals can deliver the treatment through the schools. We are passionate – the children are smiling and laughing again after the taking the medicine. "It tastes like candy," said a five-year old boy who took the medicine at his kindergarten. His classmate, Loan,



Girl taking "Big Gulp" parasite pill

agreed with him – even though at first she was so shy around a foreign visitor that she forgot her name! In just one day in March, the program reached this kindergarten and 600 others in eight locations. Thanks Kiwanis International and Twin City Kiwanis for supporting this program!



## Education-Through mud and mist...

With the basic needs of food and shelter provided, a student can focus on school. If you travel for several hours through mist and mud and mountains you will arrive at one of the middle schools in Tay Giang that gets support from COV. The 300 students live in dorms because their homes are far away in this mountainous region, and in 2014 COV built a new ceiling in the dorms and provided food for the school meals. This 7<sup>th</sup> grader likes the new ceiling in her dorm room and through the giggles of the girls in her room she said she wanted to be a teacher.



Axan middle school girl

## GIVING THE BEST START POSSIBLE...

Further down the road is a new kindergarten built by COV. As part of the agreement COV makes with the local



Two teachers in front of Axan Kindergarten

government, the local partners provide trained teachers. Typically in this region, kindergarten will be held in a community center with a thatched roof and little in the way of facilities. The two teachers for the new kindergarten have over eight years of experience each and one said she never dreamed she would be able to teach in a real classroom. The district is

hoping for more kindergartens from COV, especially for four communities that have no kindergartens at all.

## TUTORING FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN...

Tutoring is very important in Vietnam as students have to pass exams to move to each level of education. With many schools running classes in shifts, a student may only get half a day at school and needs to supplement their learning with

tutoring. COV provides tutoring to the 50 residents at Hoa Mai orphanage, including Thuong who is an aspiring journalist. With the help of COV tutoring, two orphans passed the university entrance exam last year, greatly increasing their opportunities for a better life.



Two generations of journalists. Volunteer photographer Richard Brummett and Thuong at Hoa Mai Orphanage

## EMPOWERING THE WHOLE FAMILY...

COV education assistance comes in other forms as well, like a study desk. As part of our wrap-around program, Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children, the little girl in the middle is getting a desk and scholarship while her mother gets livelihood support so she can take care of the family. The little girl currently does her homework on an old bed, and the desk will help her study her favorite subjects—math and literature. The mothers in this program said their dream for their children is that they can complete school.



Awarding home study desks for worthy students

Education is an important way to help others in Vietnam.



Mr. Xuan receiving Ben Wilson Children's Humanitarian Award

One of COV's university scholarship recipients now works for COV and helps children with disabilities as a way to give back. And Danang businessman, Mr. Xuan, was honored with the COV *Ben Wilson Children's Humanitarian Award* this year for supporting scholarships, assistance in kindergarten construction and much more.

assistance in kindergarten construction and much more.

## Shop Through Amazon?

Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Children of Vietnam when you shop at AmazonSmile ([www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)). Shop away and know you are helping vulnerable children!

## Hungerford Hope Challenge

Haven't made a gift in a longtime? Here is a way to double your impact to help some very vulnerable children... those with disabilities from poor families without even basic resources. Steadfast supporters Larry and Sue Hungerford have offered us a challenge to help these children. For every dollar raised they will match it up to \$10,000 for Hope System of Care. Thank you for considering and thank you Larry and Sue!

## Volunteers Needed 2 hrs/monthly

If you live in Greensboro or High Point, NC, and have a few hours a month to give, you would be a great asset to us. In our ongoing effort to be efficient and effective we are looking for volunteers to assist with critical responsibilities that need to be completed each month. If interested in joining our team of dedicated volunteers send an e-mail to Nancy at [nletteri@embarqmail.com](mailto:nletteri@embarqmail.com). Thanks for considering!

May 2014 Edition

# Children of Vietnam

www.ChildrenOfVietnam.org

817 West End Boulevard  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101 USA



### 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.

---

### Make a Donation: Your gifts building bright futures for children

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](http://www.childrenofvietnam.org)

---

### Your gifts in action...here's how:

#### Educating

- Tutoring an orphan at-risk of leaving school . . . . .* \$20
- Keeping a child in school with books, paper, pencils, uniforms . . . . .* \$55
- Helping a child arrive at school on time, safe and ready to learn with a bike . . . . .* \$70

#### Healing

- Eliminating parasite infections in 50 kindergarteners . . . . .* \$20
- Giving emergency support for seriously ill children . . . . .* \$100
- Helping a child with disabilities grow to his/her potential . . . . .* \$350

#### Sheltering

- Ensuring good hygiene and dignity with an indoor bathroom . . . . .* \$320
- Supplying enough bricks for a house for a family of four . . . . .* \$500

#### Nurturing

- Feeding 1,250 vulnerable children specialized vitamin-fortified porridge . . . . .* \$25
- Nourishing with a serving of milk for an orphan for one year . . . . .* \$80
- Empowering a mother with a micro-loan . . . . .* \$700

**Cảm ơn! Thank you!**



Mother with disabled son



Mother with visually disabled daughter



Mother with special needs daughter