



Children of Vietnam

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

Spring News Update 2010

From our president, Ben Wilson

After twelve years in Vietnam working with disadvantaged children, the hearts of these children are profoundly woven into every facet of my personal life. When I'm in the USA, each child I see or visit immediately carries me back to children in orphanages or street children programs near Danang. Often the eyes of a tiny three-year-old face kindly peering at me seems to say, "When is it my time to be adopted? My two best friends were adopted last week and now it should be my turn!" Ouch! How to deal with

this mental pressure? I have even experienced a single parent offering to me her child in order to "give him a better life" and a few necessities. Before Vietnam, I could NEVER have imagined poverty or circumstances so difficult as to mandate giving up a child.

The only way we can help is to continue doing as much as possible for these children and all of the vulnerable children as long as we can. In seeking your support we plan for many years to be able to help these children in such circumstances.

Thank you, each one and every one of you!



picture credit: David Graham

Ben
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
- ▶ Children with intestinal parasites are common

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 COV as a beneficiary referring to us as Children of Vietnam.

Everyone can leave something good behind in this world

Single Mothers Work to Succeed

Ms. Phuong is a tailor but could not afford to repair her one broken sewing machine. To support her six-year-old daughter, she worked as a hired laborer, but her income was not sufficient for the family's needs. In the typhoon season, she often had to borrow money from a neighbor to buy

neighbor's house for safety during a typhoon.

Through COV's Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children

Ms. Phuong and her daughter's lives are gradually changing for the better. Last year she received the gift of a new house that was safe, attractive, and warm. Additionally, COV and the local Women's Union partnered to give Ms. Phuong the chance to fulfill a dream—to own a tailors shop—by providing a micro loan of 8.000.000 VND (\$421 USD). Ms. Phuong's business is now open in a local market and she can earn from 40.000 to 70.000 (\$2-\$4 USD) per day...enough for to support herself and especially her daughter.



Ms. Phuong at her new tailor's shop



Mrs. Phuong's daughter studying on a new learning table

food. Her house was unsafe and leaked. Both mother and daughter many times ran to the

817 West End Boulevard, Winston Salem, NC 27101

Look What Your Support Accomplished in 2009!

You reached out and touched so many young lives—THANK YOU!

Education

- 132 children have bicycles for school
- 85 poor students attended University with scholarships
- 167 orphans and street children received much needed tutoring
- 533 poor children attended school with the support of public school scholarships
- 89 children received clothes and school supplies, reducing their risk of dropping out
- 49 poor high school students maintained their grades with electronic calculators
- 30 street children are benefiting from a computer for school use
- 48 children in Hoa Mai Orphanage have new shoes for school
- 35 young rural children have a new kindergarten in Quang Nam province
- 35 kindergarten children in Hoa Phuoc have a new kitchen to prepare lunch



Receiving a new bicycle to travel to school was a very serious day to this young girl.

Health care

- 36,000 schooled and unschooled children received parasite treatment
- 16 children are healthy today, thanks to life-saving heart surgeries
- 200 children with disabilities received much needed treatment
- 3 children received facial reconstructive surgery in London in collaboration with Facing the World

- 40 very poor children and families received medicine and food relief while staying at Danang Hospital

Housing

- 33 families received stable housing
- 4 families received electric power and a water system
- All the children at the Dai Loc Orphanage and Hoa Mai Orphanage were able to return after repairs were made, following the damage done by Typhoon Ketsana

Nutrition

- 510 children and their families received emergency help immediately after Typhoon Ketsana
- 48 children at Tam Ky Newborn Orphanage benefited with daily milk and formula
- 1,544 poor children had more joyous holidays with treats and nutritious food on Tet Festival, Children's Day and Mid-Autumn festival
- 2 families received sustainable livelihood with a cow for milk and breeding
- 74 very poor children and their families received monthly food assistance
- 205 orphans have brand new clothes
- 3 washing machines now clean cloths at the Street Children Program and Hoa Mai Orphanage
- 65 orphans and Dai Loc Orphanage staff enjoyed a special outing
- 34 single mothers and their 60 children benefited from services to improve the quality of their lives, including education, housing, facilities, livelihood
- 8,752 poor children were nourished with a fortified food mix

You have transformed the lives of 51,231 children!

First Real Spring for Mom

This message comes from the mother of Ngan, who received surgery as part of COV's collaboration with UK-based Facing the World.

It is spring, everyone's favorite season again. I felt like it is only my spring; my happiness is overwhelming.

In the past, I loathed spring. I felt numb; my eyes were unable to see the beauty of spring. How could I feel anything when my daughter had to suffer through illness? I bought new clothes for my family in the holiday, just like everyone else, but we never wore them. We could not find happiness because one of our dearest family members, our daughter was in pain with a serious and likely fatal eye tumor.

My daughter and I spent our spring in a London hospital this year. What an unusual way to spend our Vietnamese new year. No traditional foods, no firecracker, no new clothes, but we are content and happier than ever. We can feel spring

around us, around the coldness of London. Life is perfect in this moment.

There were times I felt like God was never fair. There were times I was hopeless and vulnerable. There were times I hated everything; but it was all in the past. After fifteen years finding a means to cure my daughter, finally I was successful. I want to send a message to other mothers who are in situation that I once was: don't give up searching and believing that one day,



Daughter after her surgery

your children are going to be healthy. Be strong and good thing will come.

Hien,
March 2010

Businesses Donate when You Purchase

Thanks to many civic-minded businesses more and more vulnerable children are having brighter futures. Check out the businesses below; with your purchase, each donates a portion of their proceeds to the children we care so much about.

- www.ladybugsandredthreadsrapshoppe.com - Beautiful custom Adoption Memory Books, Holiday Photo Cards, party invitations. 5% of all orders go to support the children.
- www.wikiwiseman.com/index.php - Design your own t-shirts or use their custom designs. Tees are printed with Eco-Friendly inks. One t-shirt is donated for every piece of apparel sold.
- www.theuniquesheep.com/Colors/vietnam.htm - Looking for unique colors and blends? This artisan yarn dyeing business has a beautiful selection. 50% of sales of yarn or roving in this colorway are donated directly to Children of Vietnam.



COV Honored for Best Practices

We are very proud to be able to share the news that Children of Vietnam was honored as one of only ten programs with best practices, chosen from all the groups that serve people with disabilities in Vietnam! A panel of independent experts selected our **Hope System of Care for Children with Disabilities**, our initiative that provides individually planned wrap-around services that best support each specific child; such services include education/training, micro-loans, retrofitting houses, and access to improved nutrition and health care.

The award is part of an international campaign, "Life is Beautiful," coordinated by East Meets West Foundation and sponsored by the Ford Foundation, that hopes to raise awareness of and gain support for people with disabilities. For more information see:

www.cuocsongvantuoidep.vn/EN/Home-Page.html

A Future Full of Promise Coffee Table Books for sale!

Support COV and enjoy a special collection of photos of the wonderful children we serve along with their beautiful homeland! Books can be previewed and purchased at:

www.blurb.com/user/COV

Pictures:

(left) 5 year old My is hearing impaired and has cerebral palsy. She received hearing aids, nutrition support and physical therapy. *Photo courtesy David Graham*

(top) Phi is totally blind. He received training for massage and is now running his own successful business. *Photo courtesy of David Graham*

(bottom) Thanh Tam special school class for deaf children.

MoneyGram Grant Completely Funds New Kindergarten

In early January, Children of Vietnam learned that MoneyGram had agreed to provide a grant to build and equip a new kindergarten building in the rural Tam Dia village, Quang Nam Province. This generous donation allowed us to construct a kindergarten for one of the ten rural communes on our waiting list for the province.

The new kindergarten building was dedicated on May 13 with great fan fair. The children and parents were dressed in their best clothing, the children's performances delighted everyone, and local Tam Dia officials and MoneyGram representatives offered celebratory speeches.

The kindergarten will serve children ages 3 to 6 and help them to reach important social and learning milestones. As with all kindergarten buildings constructed by Children of

Vietnam, it is equipped with electricity, water, ceiling fans and modifications that make it accessible to children in wheelchairs.

We are thankful for the generous support of MoneyGram International, a leading global money transfer company.



Children of Vietnam

www.childrenofvietnam.org

817 West End Blvd.

Winston Salem, NC 27101 USA

What YOU can do to help!

Make a Donation

Your gift transforms the life of a child.

Children of Vietnam works to change for the better poor, orphan, homeless, disabled, and vulnerable children in Vietnam. The children we serve are located in Danang City, Quangnam Province, and the eight surrounding provinces. The aid provided is the result of donations given by you—our friends and partners.

As a guide, please view the table to the right and see that the phrase “a little goes a long way in Vietnam” is a reality. With your gift these children will have a future full of promise.

“A Little Goes A Long Way in Vietnam”

Give a child a nutritious holiday meal	\$25
Educate a child with a school scholarship	\$40/year
Give a child a bike to get to school	\$70
Give opportunity for a woman & her children.....	\$50
Keep 350 children free from parasites	\$52/year
Feed a family of four.....	\$60/year
Expand the horizons of a child with disabilities.....	\$100
Provide a family with livestock for sustainable income. ..	\$300
Build a family a house	\$1,250



Kindergarten boys in countryside



Nap time in Tam Ky orphanage

Children of Vietnam

Vi Tré Em Việt Nam

May 15, 2010

Dear Friend of Children of Vietnam,

We are sending out a special appeal on behalf of children depending on us for nutritious food, infant formula, and milk.

COV provides food for over 10,000 children in our many programs. These children live in orphanages, or at programs for street children, or with their bitterly poor families. They need additional nutrition in order to stay healthy and to continue to grow.

We are asking you to fulfill this need with a gift of any size.

Forty-three of these children live at the Tam Ky Newborn Orphanage located in Central Vietnam. Our goal is to provide the 17 infants with 3 to 4 bottles of fortified formula a day, and the 26 children, aged 20 months to 11 years, with one box of whole milk a day. The average cost per serving is about .33 cents. In other words, \$15 will allow all 43 children to benefit from milk for one day, \$100 will give milk to these children for one week, and about \$5,200 will make a full year of daily milk available. To date we have \$1,800 provided by many generous donors to supply these children with milk.

More is needed. Will you help?

Children grow every day; their bodies do not wait. You can ensure that these children have the chance to remain healthy and strong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Benjamin C. Wilson
Founder & President



Tam Ky infant

P.S. The world is truly a small place. No child should suffer ill health and loss of potential due to the lack of a glass of milk or a bowl of rice with tofu and vegetables. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift of \$200, \$100, or any other personally significant amount.



Youth eating fortified rice and tofu



Rural children receiving packets of food

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