



Children of Vietnam

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

Winter News Update 2009

From our President, Ben Wilson

There she was when I first met her, standing on the front porch of her new house donated by Children of Vietnam, as the family is very poor. Che Mao Hanh, 9 years old, now in first grade, lives in this house with her 11 year old brother and her father, a part-time rice farmer in rural Hoa Vang Province. Her mother left the family when Hanh was three. Hanh was crippled and could not walk until several leg operations were completed after her mother's departure.



of precious children since starting work in Vietnam 11 years ago and sometimes a child will immediately capture your heart! After a short visit, Hanh looked up at me and said - "Mr. Ben, can I go with you so I can have a better life?"... Speechless, I had to turn away to hide my tears.

And here I am, a large human being, melting into a thimble full of humbleness at this simple question! What to do? How to help this little lady? Somehow, a school scholarship, study desk and lamp, bicycle, and rice supply is not sufficient – but this is what we have to offer.

Thank you so much, our donors, for making these gifts possible.

Thank you!

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

Giving Across Generations

Richard Woessner, age 94, has been a COV donor for six years. Mr. Woessner was born in 1915 and experienced the hardships of the Depression. That, however, did not stand in the way of his dream to become an engineer. He attended night school at Cooper Union, a free engineering college in New York City, and received his engineering degree after six years.



Two years ago, Mr. Woessner learned of Phuc, a young girl in Danang who also had the dream of becoming an engineer. Phuc's father was very ill (he died this past June) and her mother sold noodles on the street. The family had borrowed money from family and friends to allow Phuc to attend her first year at the University, but was unable to allow her to continue. Mr. Woessner reached across the world and across generations to provide a scholarship through COV so Phuc could continue her education.

Phuc and her American Grandfather continue to write to each other. The following is a recent letter from Phuc, which will tell her story and touch your heart.

Dear grandfather ,

Tonight , i cant't sleep .i wrote the letter to mom .how are you grandfather ? are baby and older sister well? i really miss my father. i wish i 'm seen one more time. he is good father . i'm very love my-



Huong, Director and Phuc

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Your Response Provided Relief for Hundreds After Typhoon

Immediately after we sent out word that help was needed for the victims of the September 29th typhoon, you responded and relieved the stress and suffering of over 500 children, women, and men with donations equaling over \$12,000.

An orphanage roof was repaired and relief packages of rice, noodles, oil, and canned fish as well as mosquito nets and blankets were distributed in the days immediately following the typhoon that caused over \$6 million (120 billion VND) in damage to homes, rice fields, fishing boats, and municipal infrastructure.



Challenges are still ahead for many poor families as they face the struggle to rebuild their homes now in rubble or damaged. With meager incomes and their crops destroyed, COV plans to assist these people as far as our funds will go. Thank you for generous response!

GOOD NEWS--500 House Challenge

Our 500th house is just around the corner!

With your support, almost 500 homes have been built for poor families since 1998 with 494 completed or funded to date. Make a donation to help the 500th family with a sponsorship of a house (\$1250) between now and January 5th; you will be entered into a drawing for a gift of a lovely framed piece of Vietnamese art created in the ancient town of Hoi An near Danang. The contest is now in effect!! Donations by check or on our Website by Pay Pal are welcome.



Framed by Irving Park Frame

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.

Katie's Story

Katie was five years old when she joined us on August 12th 2002. Days earlier she had left her village with two total strangers and a giant leap of faith. In just a few months time she learned to speak English and the first thing she talked about was her desire to help her Vietnam family.

We looked to fulfill Katie's desire and found Ben and Children of Vietnam. Over the last 11 years Ben has helped tens of thousands of children. Ben explained what it would cost to build Katie's family a much-needed house. Katie got busy and found a job (she was now 7 years old) modeling for American Girl Magazine and earned enough to build her family a beautiful new home.

In June of 2009, Katie went back to Vietnam for her first visit "home." Katie's biggest thrill was the run down a narrow path to greet her mother. After a tearful reunion, her dad picked her up and carried her all the way to their home where she reunited with her six siblings, her grandmother, and many cousins.



None of this would have been possible without Ben Wilson and Children of Vietnam. If you are receiving this newsletter, you know the work that COV does and how many lives Ben has saved. Please keep COV in your prayers and as you consider sharing your blessings this holiday season remember Ben and his children in Vietnam. Warmest Holiday Wishes – Katie's American Dad

1st Annual Children of Vietnam Golf Outing

It was initially a very treacherous morning for golf with drizzle, mist, and heavy clouds! Did that stop golfers from gathering at the lovely Jamestown Golf Course near Greensboro? NEVER! At eleven AM the weather settled down and it became a perfect day for golf—cloudy but no rain. The 49 male and 5 female golfers had a fantastic time. Congratulations to Ashley Bell's team which had the low score. Not only was the golfing good but the barbecue with all the trimmings was out of this world. Our dedicated incoming Board Chairman for 2010, Dan Quinn, organized the whole event. A hearty thank you to Dan and all of our fabulous golfers.

Aspiring Actress & Model With a Soft Heart

In the heart of South Carolina, there is a dedicated young 18-year-old lady who has Vietnamese children in her heart. She seeks every opportunity to gather new toys or purchase clothing for poor orphan and street children as well as those hospitalized. Last September she sent ten full sets of clothing for three and four year old disadvantaged children. These items are forwarded to us in Winston Salem for hand carrying into Vietnam. It is a fact that seeking to become a Hollywood star or model has not marred her feelings for these special children. We thank you, Dynasty, for your sincere dedication.



Dynasty Dixon

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*mother .now, she must rear children alone. sometimes , i saw her crying side by side his altar. I older sister in my family , i always remind me of my responsibility .i have tried my best in my study. i wish i can study much. i like subject that i'm learning. i want to looking for good job when i graduated . i'll earn much money to care for my mother , my brother & sister, and help streets children have difficult life as me
i expect to see grandfather soon,
your granddaughter, phuc*

Rivers of the World Organization (ROW)

COV actively pursues partnerships with organizations with which we have common goals so that through collaboration we can jointly maximize and leverage our resources and increase our impact. Such was the case in September when we were treated to a very special visit by five members of Rivers of the World Organization, an international charity based in Georgia.

As two organizations with basically the same objectives, we immediately created a venture to provide such items as bicycles, calculators, desks, chairs, computers, shoes, washing machines, rice cookers and tutoring, all funded by ROW. All items were provided to orphanages, street children, and countryside children near Danang. Also, a new house for a poor family and a rural kindergarten for 35 children were funded. We are grateful to ROW for their willingness to partner with COV.

FACING THE WORLD VISIT - CHILDREN FACIAL TUMORS

In August, a medical team from UK, sponsored by Facing The World Charity of London visited Danang with a team of surgeons and nurses to train Surgeons and nurses in Danang General Hospital in techniques for facial tumor removal. Also surgeons from Danang will train in London for these procedures in the near future.

Many children in Central Vietnam are afflicted with various types of facial tumors and deformities. Causes could be genetic, malnutrition, disease, lack of prenatal care and impact of Agent Orange/dioxin. Their dreams of a new life come true with the assistance of Facing The World with help from Children of Vietnam. Last August, many were evaluated at Danang General Hospital by this team and the hospital staff and 17 were approved for tumor removal. Four are now in London for this surgery. Four were completed last year. We are the coordinating agency for Facing The World in Central Vietnam and locate cases and arrange for transportation, medical tests, clothes, Passports, visas, etc. We send sincere appreciation to Sarah Driver - Jowitt, Executive Coordinator for leading this fantastic team.

November 2009

Children of Vietnam

www.childrenofvietnam.com

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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



Tutoring for 120 street children and orphans.