



# Children of Vietnam

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

Winter News Update 2007

## From our president, Ben Wilson

WOW! Yes, WOW! This has certainly been a WOW year for Children of Vietnam. One aspect of our work that we don't often highlight involves the networking and cooperative ventures with organizations that share our mission to support the children we serve.

In May we received 45,000 pounds of special fortified oatmeal for orphan chil-

dren donated by Counterpart International and also a full container of requested medical equipment for Danang hospitals donated by Swanson Family Foundation.

In July, after a casual meeting with the captain of American ship USS PELELIU, docked in Danang, a donation of Medical and other supplies was presented to COV.

Read further about this and other networking opportunities in this issue. All total, these in kind gifts equal \$158,000 worth of support that will positively impact the children in the region.

Our staff worked tirelessly to facilitate the receipt of these gifts and distribute them where needed. We are very blessed to receive these contributions, and we send sincere thanks to our donors for these gifts!

– Ben Wilson

### What's New?

Beginning in 2008, COV will offer donors the option of an automatic bank draft to simplify the giving process for your convenience. A form for this purpose will be posted on our website at [www.childrenofvietnam.org](http://www.childrenofvietnam.org).

If you would prefer to receive a form by mail, please call Susan Wilson, COV's Board chair, at 336-286-9896. Thank you for all you do to support the children!



## In Support of Physician Training

*Excerpted from the November Trip Report written by Jim Laub of Charplast (Charity Plastic Surgery Teams) COV staff helped facilitate the meetings and will continue in this role during future visits.*

I arrived in DaNang with one of the Polish doctors (a pediatrician), and after our meeting with DaNang General Hospital, we were given a tour of the pediatrics ward. When we were there, the Polish doctor saw a child with Pneumonia and acute aspiration who also had a cleft lip. The baby was having problems retaining food and suffered some breathing problems...The Polish doctor asked for a gown and mask and immediately took over and showed them how to treat the infant with techniques they did not know. She had a crowd of doctors and nurses around her for 30 minutes as she showed them how to deal with this condition...The Polish doctor has since de-

ecided to stay in Danang an extra 4 days and is spending all her free time at the hospital. She actually pulled a 24-hour shift at Danang General today so she can learn what is going on and how to help. These doctors are so committed. After March, they will come back with more specialists after more needs are determined.



---

# COV Fundraiser

## An October Pig-Pickin and Auction

On October 20, 2007 Children of Vietnam held an awesome evening of food, fun, music and auctioneering. Of course we should have pictures of this wonderful event, but everyone was so busy, the cameras sat in a corner, unused.

For those of you who attended, I believe you would agree that the venue, food, music, and auctioneer made for a fun-filled evening. The Walker Street Fiddlers and Wild Clovers kept our feet tapping and Auctioneer, Joe Tatum kept us bidding on items from sports memorabilia to Vietnamese artwork and crafts.

At the end of the evening, COV had received donations over \$13,000 to improve the lives of the children of central Vietnam. We thank each person who supported the children that evening by purchasing a ticket, donating an auction item or purchasing one of the items offered for auction. We hope that some day many of you will be able to join us on one of our visits to DaNang to see, first-hand, the difference your generosity is making in the lives of thousands of disadvantaged children.

Your love and support for these children is deeply appreciated



Some of our 46,000 taking parasite medication

---

## Letter of Appreciation

Lt. Hepler, an officer on board the USS PELELIU docked at Danang Port in July 2007, sent us this letter after working with COV.

*Mr. Wilson,*

*I want to begin by saying that it has truly been an honor to work with your team here in Danang!*

*Ms. Huong and the rest of the Children of Vietnam team in Danang are remarkable people! I was impressed with the organization instantly and that sentiment has only continued to grow. When we originally met with Ms. Huong, we were of the understanding that the government had cleared all of the eight boxes of donations through customs; she would only need to accept it. However, the day prior to the ship's arrival, we found out that there was a completely different customs requirement for donations to NGO's. Ms. Huong immediately shifted gears, began coordinating with all governmental agencies here, and clearly relayed all of the requirements necessary. Without Ms. Huong's assistance, there is no way we would have been able to complete the paperwork necessary to deliver the gear prior to the ship departing. After Ms. Huong spent countless hours with Vietnam customs, we were able to deliver the medical supplies. The ceremony yesterday was a very memorable time for all of us!*

*I will actually be getting out of the Navy in February and may be relocating to North Carolina. I would like to meet sometime and learn more about your organization. Of all organizations I worked with in Danang, Children of Vietnam is by far the organization that impressed me the most!!*

*I look forward to hearing from you again and cannot stress enough how impressed I was with your organization here. The team in Danang truly "gets it" and it is evident how much they are focused on improving the lives of those in need.*

*Sincerely,*

*LT Kent Hepler  
USS PELELIU*

---

## Meet our staff

Children of Vietnam currently has five staff members managing our DaNang office. We would like to introduce you to one of them as each are key to making our operation run smoothly, efficiently and economically.

---



**Mrs. Tram, Program Assistant**  
Ms. Tram is 34 years old and has been with COV for four years. She is married and has a 6-year-old daughter, who the family calls "Funny."

She was raised in Quang Nai province and has one brother and one sister. Her father, who recently passed away, worked with the US Military and as a result was jailed for three years after the Vietnamese conflict. Ms. Tram

attended Ho Chi Minh University, where she majored in English. Before coming to COV, she was a tour guide and a translator for the World Bank. She loves working with children and was so happy to become a part of the COV staff. When she met Ben, she found him so interesting and caring.

When asked what she enjoys most about her job, Ms. Tram says, "Everything." Helping the children and their families has made her realize how lucky she is. She says that Ben is like a father to her and the staff is like family. When Funny was asked in school what her mother does, she said, "My mother gives presents and gifts for the poor people."

---

## Crisis Support

### Noodles, rice and flooding

Each year COV sets aside a fund for emergencies such as the one this recent fall. Your donations make a difference in our ability to respond quickly to families in unexpected crisis.

During the heavy flooding in October and November, this building, Hoa Phong People's Committee of Hoa Vang District, Danang was used as a distribution center for families and children displaced by the floods. Each of more than 200 families received 10 KG of rice, 30 packages of noodles, drinking water, and school clothes for the children, which were lost in the floods.



---

## KFC-Vietnam Support COV

We want to thank KFC-Vietnam and Mr. Pornchia Thuratum, General Manager, for helping us raise \$2,563. This March KFC placed donation boxes in 40 of their restaurants. Their customers responded generously and this September 29th COV was able to present 82 public school scholarships to poor children. We are honored by the support from KFC and its customers!



## P&G Gives Toothbrushes

One thousand toothbrushes were generously donated to COV by P&G. this gift could not have been more timely as the local Catholic Free Medical Clinic had recently requested toothbrushes from COV. The clinic staff were elated when they heard the news. We had enough toothbrushes that we were also able to furnish them to the Danang Street Children. We extend a sincere thank you to P&G!



# Children of Vietnam

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 6% administrative charge.**

## **"A Little Goes A Long Way in Vietnam"**

- Build a house ..... \$950**
- 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 ..... \$37 each**



Because of your help, they will walk again



Little Lucas, recently adopted from Murphy Orphanage in Danang by Ms. Lisa Adams of Taylors, SC