



Children of Vietnam

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

Winter News Update 2012

From Our President and Executive Director

You, our donors, are always there to be sure children have the resources to grow up to be healthy and strong. We send our most sincere appreciation, and we want you to know that our staff members in Da Nang share your passion. Having staff members who are super sensitive to the daily needs of our children is a great blessing and strength.

Any of our staff may rush assistance to a seriously ill child carried to Da Nang General Hospital by a loving parent who has no resources to pay for treatment.

Ms. Binh, one of our staff, will fly with a child and parent to Hanoi at any time to assist the child who is about to travel to the UK to receive a major facial tumor operation from Facing the World (www.facingtheworld.net). Binh helps the family with visas and passports, flight, lodging, translation cards, and provides them warm clothes as needed.

Typical of Ms. Huong, our Country Director, on a recent day off, she visited Minh, a young boy from a remote province who is awaiting two serious operations. She brought him small toys, something he has never had. And, she brought him a special treat—Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch. He loved it!

On occasion, families walk through our door desperate to find help for their child and Ms. Xuan, our receptionist, greets them warmly and with care giving them a

little tea or a bottled water as they explain their story. Sometimes Ms. Xuan will give the child a small toy from a small stock we keep in the office.

All of our 57 university scholarship have magnificent brain power but come from poor families. Ms. Huong, is always available to listen when they encounter personal problems with health, with relationships, or with family health issues. If needed, she offers Children of Vietnam assistance in

the form of medical care, food, or house repair.

Yes, Children of Vietnam has the reputation of being a charity with a big heart because of you, our donors and our staff members, all who go above and beyond.



Nancy Letteri, Executive Director, with COV children

Thank you. The board and staff of Children of Vietnam wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season!



Ben with boys at Thanh Tam Special School
Credit Richard Brummett

Nancy
Ben

Vietnam Factoids

- Population: 89 million
- Size: About twice the size of North Carolina
- Population under 18: 31%
- Children with disabilities: about 1.2 million
- Rural children considered poor: 40%
- Education is not free
- Children without a high school education: 38%
- Children considered underweight and malnourished: 20%
- Children with intestinal parasites are common
- Children without hygienic sanitary facilities: 50%
- Children are still being hurt by Agent Orange/dioxin
- 2,935 victims of trafficking between 2004-2009—this tragedy continues

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.

Reaching Ca Tu Minorities with Educational Initiatives

Your gifts are reaching Ca Tu minority ethnic children living in Tay Giang district of Quang Nam Province. This past August, 200 Ca Tu school children received scholarships providing all the required textbooks, notebooks, pencils, and uniforms. Also, construction is underway to complete a kindergarten giving for 30-35 young children the best start possible for years to come.



Ca Tu kindergarten children watching new kindergarten construction

Tay Giang is the 65th poorest of the 528 districts in Vietnam. It is a very remote and mountainous region bordering Laos. Nearly 95% of the 7,200 people are Ca Tu minority (there are 54 minorities

in Vietnam). Unfortunately, the poverty rate is extremely high at 74%. Because the Ca Tu villages are so remote, to receive an education most children must attend residential schools. These schools house upwards of 800 boys and girls in 1st through 12th grade. While the government does pay some of the school tuition, not all costs are covered. Without scholarships these children are at risk of being taken out of school because of family poverty. By the time the children reach secondary school 17% drop out and this rate increases to 63% in upper secondary school.

To receive these scholarships, many students travelled 50 km (about 30 miles) through very mountainous terrain, some even left home the day before get to the ceremony on time. Two sweet sisters, No and Tre, had traveled the farthest. No is in 3rd grade and Tre is in 5th grade. They live far away, and because their family is too poor to own a motorbike their uncle drove them on his motorbike. They left home on Tuesday morning to make it to the ceremony on Wednesday and stayed with a friend of their uncle's the night before. Our Board Chairman, who attended the ceremony, heard about their trip and asked to meet the sisters to give them a small personal gift. The girls were so happy they sang a very cute song about a cat as a thank you to our Chairman.



Ca Tu ethnic minority children traveled nearly 2 days to receive school scholarship
Credit Jean Janicke 2012

We know that a good education for a child is window of opportunity to leave poverty. Your support is making the difference.

Spending Vacation Days with Youth With Disabilities

Tuan is dedicated to his job, so much that he is giving up his vacation days to provide vocational training for youth with disabilities in and small carpentry. Tuan is COV's Project Manager for the Hope System of Care program giving comprehensive healthcare, education, training, nutrition and upgraded housing to children and youth with disabilities, many of whom may be impacted by Agent Orange. Tuan is passionate about helping these kids, but he has another passion too. Tuan has a degree in forestry, a long work history of project management, and

recently completed a landscaping certificate program. When he joined COV nearly 5 years ago, he worked hard to understand the challenges faced by children with disabilities and then applied his management skills to successfully facilitate service interventions for 367 children. Now we are expanding our program to assist youth develop life skills and Tuan saw a perfect opportunity to merge his two passions. Our thanks to Tuan for giving his vacation time and blending his passion for landscaping with a desire to help youth gain vocational skills to become self-sufficient.



Landscaping & Carpentry

Remember COV in your Workplace.

Federal Employees: our CFC # is 15685.
State Employees: COV is now included in CA, FL & NC campaigns

Facebook

We're on Facebook! We post news weekly about our children. Visit our page and "like" us while you are there.
www.facebook.com/childrenofvietnam

Soup Makes the Difference!

In a small room a big aluminum pot is filled with a steaming thick soup, flavored



Kindergarteners eat 2-3 servings at a time and they are gaining weight!

with beef and carrots, and cooking on an electric coil. Scenes like this are making the difference to thousand of children and adults across the

rural countryside. Each month hundreds of pounds of vitamin-fortified rice and soy dried soup mix received through a grant from Stop Hunger Now is being delivered to rural kindergartens, homeless shelters, orphanages even rural hospitals and old people's homes. Each meal cost COV about 2 cents and what a difference it is making. The comments from kindergarten teachers say it all, "The children eat 2 and 3 servings and they are gaining weight!"

Helping over 75 single mothers

Our thanks to a very special giving circle called Dining for Women (DFW) with hundreds of chapters around the U.S. On October 23, Jamye Cooper, Dining For Women Executive Director, (2nd from right) visited Children of Vietnam with \$30,449.14. This is the first of two checks for a grant totaling \$60,098.28. This represents one of the largest grants DFW has ever given! This grant will fund COV's EMPOWERING FOUNDATIONS FOR WOMEN & THEIR CHILDREN.

Per Jamye, "It was thrilling

and humbling to meet leaders of Children of Vietnam and present them with funds representing support from more than 8,000 Dining for Women members. This powerful, comprehensive COV program we are funding will help



Pictured with Jamye Cooper, Children of Vietnam leaders (l to r) Joe Savittiere, Jr., Board Chairman, Ben Wilson, President and Founder, and Nancy Letteri, Executive Director

75-80 single mothers improve their lives through education, healthcare, housing, emergency nutrition, and microloans. In our discussion of this and other programs

of COV, I was impressed with the impact and sustainability of their projects."

Thuong Dreams of Being a Journalist

Thuong is bright and inquisitive with a quiet smile and lives with 49 other orphans. She won a prize in a citywide writing competition and wants to be a journalist, but until three years ago she had little chance of making this dream come true. School in Vietnam is typically ½ day, and afterschool tutoring is a must to pass the



Thuong with Hoa Mai Director & COV Board Member, Jean Janicke

required exams to go to university. Tutoring was not available for Thuong or for the 49 other children in the

Hoa Mai Orphanage until COV made a long-term commitment to provide afterschool tutoring by teachers dedicated to helping these children succeed. We want to help all 50 children have their dreams come true.

"Education is a vital prerequisite for combating poverty, empowering women, protecting children from hazardous and exploitative labour and sexual exploitations, promoting human rights, protecting the environment and influencing population growth."

--2011 Vietnam Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (UNICEF technical assistance)

Recurring Donations

In the past we have received inquiries about how to make monthly recurring gifts. We are happy to announce that our website has been updated and this feature is now available. Thank you for considering this gift option.

Donate your Frequent Flyer Miles!

COV is very conservative about traveling, as the cost is often high; however, during each year travel costs must be incurred. Your frequent flyer miles would be a very generous gift and highly appreciated!

Winter 2012

Children of Vietnam

www.ChildrenOfVietnam.org

817 West End Boulevard
Winston Salem, NC 27101 USA



Make a Donation

Your gift transforms the life of a child!

Children of Vietnam aids poor, orphan, homeless, disabled, and vulnerable children in Vietnam. The children we serve are located in Da Nang city, Quang Nam province, and the eight surrounding provinces. The aid provided is the result of donations given by you—our friends.

Please send donations to 817 West End Blvd. Winston-Salem, NC 27101 or online at: www.childrenofvietnam.org.

Cảm ơn! Thank you!

"A Little Goes a Long Way in Vietnam." Here's How:

- After school tutoring for orphans \$19
You can help an orphan succeed in school with monthly afterschool tutoring.
- Nourishing meals \$25
You can feed 1,250 vulnerable children a specialized vitamin-fortified rice and soy porridge.
- School scholarships \$55
You can keep a child in school with books, paper, pencils, uniforms, and school fees.
- Bicycles for a child \$70
You can give a child a quick, reliable way to get to school.
- Good healthcare \$100
You can respond to children's healthcare needs with surgeries, medical tests, and transportation.
- Indoor Toilets \$320
You can build an in-door toilet for a poor family so they do not have to "go around" and risk their health and hurt their dignity.



Blackboard work



Khai Tae Family with new toilet
credit: Richard Brummett

Children of Vietnam

Vì Trẻ Em Việt Nam

November 16, 2012

Dear Children of Vietnam Friend,

"We are poor children but we have the same wishes to learn..." so Nep, a young Ca Tu ethnic minority schoolgirl began her speech of thanks this August. Your gift is making it possible for Nep to continue her studies. Will you join us again by making a year-end gift to help Nep and so many other poor, orphaned or disabled children have the chance for a future without poverty?

Standing alone in front of other students, teachers, parents and grandparents, Nep continued, *"Every year that we advance in school is another year of hardship for our families..."* Daily, families in deep poverty are faced with difficult choices—spending their limited cash for the day's meals, or schoolbooks for their children, or medicine for an ill child, or repairing a hole in the roof. All are needed for children to grow to their potential. What choice would you make?



Nep ends her speech with a promise, *"Life is difficult but we know we are lucky to have the support of our parents and COV... [you our donors]. This is the highest spirit gift. We promise to try our best in learning to make you happy."*

To make brighter futures for so many more children another \$40,000 is needed by the end of this year. This is our challenge, but it is within reach. This holiday season please give generously. Your gift will ensure the future of a child.

With sincere appreciation,

Benjamin C. Wilson
Founder & President

Nancy F. Letteri
Executive Director

P.S. Your tax-deductible gift really does give the gift of a life without poverty for poor, orphaned and disabled children – in so many wonderful ways. Thank you.