



Children of Vietnam

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

Winter News Update 2005

From our president, Ben Wilson

Dear Friends,

As I gaze out the window of my room on the top floor of my mini-hotel, I can see many districts within the city of Danang. I am thinking of all the 330 needy families out there with children who now live in nice homes who earlier only existed in a cardboard box or room made of plastic sheeting. These homes give a new meaning to life for these families as one can imagine. As you read our list of accomplishments for year 2005, you will be able to imagine the happy faces of hundreds of children who are now healthier, happier and more successful in school due to living in a decent, dry house, enjoying our milk supplement program, tutoring classes and parasite eradication program which we plan to continue for many years.

We wish there were a way to bring you the voices of appreciation from the many young students who

periodically make very simple and sincere speeches of appreciation for your gifts of scholarships, bicycles, clothes, operations, wheelchairs, shoes or food. These children have truly defined the meaning of the word APPRECIATION.

Thank you each one for your support.
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

SCHOLARSHIP—TUTORING PROGRAM FOR ORPHANS AND STREET CHILDREN

Tutoring classes for 131 orphan and street children are well under way and the children are so excited. We are serving a snack each night at the end of class and it is a welcome incentive. The purpose of these classes is to prepare the children for the university entrance exam after their 12th grade year. This year we have 20 vocational school scholarships and 11 university scholarships and are interviewing the potential candidates now. An exciting program.

TRAVEL WITH US TO DANANG

In March we had 23 visitors with us in Danang from North Carolina, Florida, California, Texas, New York and England to see our work with children.

Very nice contributions for our work in the amount of \$28,000 were committed during their visit. We are very proud of this response. Thank you, friends

The next planned trip to Danang will be July 18 to August 18, 2006. We still have available space for a few more interested people who would like to see our work with disadvantaged children. Please call Ben Wilson 336 727 1110

2005 Accomplishments and activity report

In every newsletter we strive to keep you informed with the latest developments and activities that your support provides. In this issue, we present our year end achievements. This year certainly showed growth and, most importantly, a significant increase in the effectiveness and efficiency with which we administer the aid and support we offer the children on your behalf. Children of Vietnam still provides all of the listed support for less than 5% administration cost. Thank you for allowing Children of Vietnam to be your representative in the Danang area delivering the truly life changing aid these children so vitally need. The bottom line is that last year we assisted over **5,300** children and their families plus treating more that **46,000** children for intestinal parasites.

The following shows summary results for each of the four major work areas in 2005

Health Care -

- ◆ Parasite eradication for 46,000 schooled and unschooled children
- ◆ Dental equipment serving 1,500 poor children
- ◆ Eleven open heart surgeries
- ◆ Orthopedic limb surgeries for 115 children - the gift of walking
- ◆ Delivered 1,650 wheelchairs - a gift from Giving It Back To Kids and Free Wheelchair Mission (\$66,000)
- ◆ Provided 2 CPAP infant ventilators and one EKG machine to hospital

Nutrition -

- ◆ Monthly rice for 134 families Total 85,453 pounds
- ◆ Monthly rice to 30 Thanh Binh Kindergarten children
- ◆ Monthly milk for 213 orphan & street children

Education -

- ◆ Constructed ten kindergartens in poor districts
- ◆ Bicycle scholarships to 117 poor children
- ◆ Tutoring classes for 131 Hai Chau and Danang Street Children
- ◆ Scholarships for 388 poor children

Housing -

- ◆ Built and donated 113 houses for poor families
- ◆ New metal roof and gate/wall for Red Cross and Tam Ky Orphanages
- ◆ Repaired 5 houses and provided one fresh water well

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED: - **54,929**

TOTAL IN KIND DONATIONS FOR --

- ◆ Medical, dental equipment, supplies, instruments- \$- 2000
- ◆ Wheelchairs – 1650 -\$ 66,000

TOTAL -\$ 68,000

NETWORKING -- OUR LIFE

We are realizing now more than ever the VITAL importance of networking. By cooperating with other charities throughout the world and local NGOs in Danang we can leverage and multiply our financial resources extensively. Networking locally provides the way we locate the needs of the children over a very wide area surrounding Danang. Networking internationally connects COV with numerous other charities worldwide to bring major capacity to our children. Some examples are -

Charaplast - Medical surgery teams

Giving It Back To Kids - Funding in all areas of our work

Swanson Family Foundation - Medical equipment

Samaritan's Purse - Medical supplies, equipment and instruments

Facing The World - Children facial operations

King Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund - Medicines

Fed Ex -- Shipping

WHAT SOME HAVE DONE

The dedication of our donors is so heart warming -

- ◆ A minister's son named Hedrick emptied his piggy bank in order to buy a baby pig for a poor family.
- ◆ A Board member, Susan Wilson, sponsored a spaghetti dinner at her church raising \$2,800 for our work with children.
- ◆ A former Board member, Minhthu Lynagh held cooking classes in her home giving all proceeds to our work with children.
- ◆ A young ten year old lady at Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville emptied her purse to donate to the needs of the children she saw at a Missions Sunday table display.
- ◆ A Vacation Bible School class at Sunrise United Methodist Church raised funds for a house.
- ◆ Two members at Sunrise United Methodist Church, Leonard Reeder and Jimmy Williams built 5 cedar birdhouses and sold them to help our children.
- ◆ A Vietnamese couple in Saigon, Nhan and Duy donated 60 sets of clothing for orphan children in Danang at TET.

How can we adequately express appreciation for such dedication?

Does your group need a speaker?

Children of Vietnam has a speaker's bureau whose mission is to make presentations to groups and tell the story of our work. We are currently looking for opportunities to speak to adult Sunday Schools, mission committees or men's or women's groups in North Carolina and southern Virginia.

The presentations are rich in pictures of the people and areas that we serve in the greater Da Nang area. The pictures show the people who receive medical aid, scholarships, supplemental food assistance and the housing we build or help repair.

If you are part of an organization that would benefit from such an opportunity as this, or if you know of one, please contact Joe Lorber at 336-869-6715 or by e-mail at jlorber@triad.rr.com. All inquiries will be promptly answered and presentations scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

In Their Own Words

(This article is offered in the form and language in which it was received so that you can experience the "intangible" content of the contributor's message. Usually this space is reserved for a letter from our Program Director, Mrs. Huong, to tell a first hand account of the work she is doing. However, this issue contains a letter we received about one of the children who benefited from a bicycle scholarship.)

STORY OF THE BOY NGUYEN HONG DA

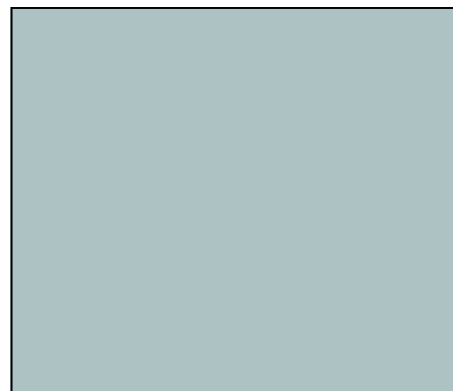
BENEFICIARY OF BICYCLE SCHOLARSHIP

Nguyen Hong Da is name of the boy who was beneficiary of bicycle scholarship program. His family is living in Nam Yen Hamlet, Hoa Bac Mountain Commune. His father died by cancer disease after family's great expense for his treatment in hospital. The mother of Hong Da named Nguyen Thi Hiep, 45 years old have to continue her life with feeding 3 children (Hong Da and two his brothers) in an empty dilapidated house. The oldest brother named Nguyen Hong Dong, 17 years old drop out of school after finishing ninth grade to help the mother earn money for their living and for learning of two younger brothers. He is a

bricklayer and the mother is a farmer. Our boy Nguyen Hong Da was nearly drop out of school at sixth grade by his family so poor and the far distance from his house to school with 6 kilometer. Luckily, circumstance of the boy Nguyen Hong Da was informed to Children Of Vietnam charity Organization and our boy Hong Da received his "dream bicycle" as he said at the bicycle delivering ceremony. Thanks to this bicycle, Hong Da will be able to continue going to school and take his younger brother to school, he have condition to learn and play with his friends at school as well to enjoy his childhood.

After investigating circumstance of family Nguyen Hong Da for delivering bicycle, Children of Vietnam help them build a new house because these children need a safe place to live and to

learn. The mother cried at the new house hand-over ceremony as she was so moved and highly appreciates the concern as well as support of Children Of Vietnam Organization. She said with all the local government representatives that her children were born by me but Children of Vietnam has changed her children's life. Thank you so much for all the donors who have golden heart, you love and help unfortunate children for their better life.



"MEDICINE PACKS" IN ACTION !

A number of years ago the Board of Children of Vietnam developed a "donation product" that was highly requested by numbers of health care workers for use in the outlying regions of Danang. The item was a "medicine pack" which consists of a box and an inventory of simple but effective medicines. After a visit is made to a remote village or countryside

clinic, the boxes are brought back and replenished.

The boxes keep the medicines from the elements and dirt while traveling. The contents offer life saving and pain relief to people who will not come to a hospital or who cannot afford medical care from a provider.

Thanks for making this care possible!



January 2005

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 5% administrative charge.

"A Little Goes A Long Way in Vietnam"

- Build a house..... \$750**
- 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 \$35 each**



COV supplemental rice distribution program assists over 145 families a month..



Child who will get an orthopedic operation to correct a club foot