



Children of Vietnam

Winter News Update 2005

From our president, Ben Wilson...

Dear Friends

TSUNAMI !! What a word – and what a catastrophe in our world today! How blessed we were in our work area, Danang and Quangnam Province as all the terrible, gigantic waves from the tsunami were blocked by Thailand and Malaysia peninsulas.

But, the tsunamis of health problems continue in Danang and surrounding areas: Malaria, Tuberculosis, Dengue Fever, Japanese Encephalitis, N5H1 Avial Flu., Bird Flu, Diarrhea, malnutrition and now the threat of HIV/AIDS all are impacting the lives of so many children. With reasonable medical and health care out of reach of so many children, especially in rural areas, we feel an ever increasing challenge to find more funds for these needs.

It's true that in many places medical help is available, but it's not free. And too often parents are not aware of where the medical help is located, and they don't have transportation or funds for tests, X rays, medicines and food. Doctor fees may be waived for disadvantaged families but

there is no government social program to help the children with all other costs listed above.

This is where you, our donors make such a difference in the lives of the children. Your gifts provide funds for medicines, tests, operations and food, giving dis-



abled children the gift of walking and sick children the gift of a healthy life.

Thank you so much for the heart you have for these special children and your kind 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

A Special Thank You

The contributions to our work by **Giving It Back To Kids** and Robert Kalatschan of Huntington Beach California , have dramatically expanded the work we are able to do, and we are sincerely grateful. In 2004, these generous folk have contributed \$85,000, funding 65 houses; three kindergartens; 100 orthopedic operations; 3 heart operations; 90 bicycles; 60 scholarships; vitamins, clothes and shoes to Hoa Mai and Tam Ky Orphanages and much more. Their objectives and ours are parallel and we have an excellent working relationship and understanding of the needs in Vietnam. Robert has traveled to Danang each trip since 2002 to see our work and assist in planning.

Houses --New Houses --

Yes, beautiful new houses !

2004 was our greatest year for building houses; 72 were built and given to poor families. That brings our total number of houses to 198 since our founding in 1998. For these recipients, there is nothing to compare with a new, clean, dry and secure house – and you can provide one, complete with an indoor toilet and possibly a solar cooker, for \$750 complete. Right before Christmas, several North Carolina and California families pooled their resources and provided two houses for deserving families. We deeply appreciate this interest in our work by our donors.

2004 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 7% 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 **38,500** children for intestinal parasites.

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

Children assisted Monthly: 531, (All Year: 5369)
Parasite Eradication Program 38,592
Total 4,492

Housing

72 Compassion houses
3 House Repairs
6 Kindergartens

Nutrition

Monthly supplemental rice for 145 families
Monthly Rice and milk to disabled/poor schools and orphanages
Pigs to poor families 249
Bamboo shoots to poor families 114 lots

In kind contributions

Medical and other supplies, clothing \$5000

Education

448 Scholarships for poor children
100 Bicycles for poor children
Monthly support for Hai Chau, Hoa Quy and other schools for disadvantaged children 682 children
Medical insurance for poor children 1000 children
Equipment, swing sets, benches, washing machine for Xuan Hong and Hoa Mai Orphanage.

Health Care

38,592 children treated through the parasite eradication program.
108 children received orthopedic operations paid for by Children of Vietnam
23 children received hearing aids
6 infant CPAP Units placed at a local hospital
5 Heart operations
20 medicine packs deployed to outlying areas
Hospital assistance for 123 children

Bicycles for School

This program continues to be a very significant and popular program for the children we serve. In 2004 we gave 100 bicycles to children who must travel long distances to school. One family in Winston Salem gave seven bicycles to this program in honor of their grandchildren at Christmas, a gift to other children who have so little. Your \$35 gift can bring unexpected, tremendous joy to a child so far away.



Vietnam Red Cross Presentation

The Red Cross of Vietnam presented their Distinguished Humanitarian Award to CHILDREN OF VIETNAM in January, honoring our work in 2004 with disadvantaged children. Mr. Pham Nhu Nghia presented the award to Luong Thi Huong, our Program Manager.



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 from one of the children who benefited from an operation and other support. The art work is the handmade Christmas card she enclosed with the letter.)

Da Nang December 15, 2004

Dear Mr. Ben, Mr. Robert

Dear Mrs. Huong and all Mr. and Mrs. in Children Of Vietnam

As many other children in difficult circumstance, I've got many misfortunes in my living such as inborn disabled, heart disease and poor family. And I also know that our society have so many unfortunate children have no parents, no house and living with their diseases. My circumstance as an example, it's a poor family, my house was just a temporary, leaky, tottering hut. The sunlight shined through the holes in the roof caused so dazed that I couldn't take a nap in noon-time. In winter, the wind blew in at holes that caused so cold and in rainy days, rain water in the roof dropped down the rough ground floor. In the days of heavy rain, water spread all over the floor, my family just seated on the table or bed, the wind blew impetuously outside, I were nervous for the roof would be fly off but

how lucky it was ! the roof was still stable. But we could not live in a such situation, my house needed to be repaired but it was just a dream of my family because my parents worked with all their might just enough breed or 3 of us. I am an inborn disabled child so it was very hard to move around, my leg was



always straight, I could not seat and the more difficult of playing, I had no friends, I felt so unhappy. I have wished a warm house and the intact legs in order

to go out and play with friends. And now, my dream is come true, I have a spacious house and I can move around with my legs. All thanks to your support, Mr. Ben, Mr. Robert, Mrs. Huong and staff of Children Of Vietnam. All of you have a golden heart, you loved and changed dreams of our unfortunate children to truth, you bring to me joy and happiness for my brighten future.

You donated for my orthopedic operation including food, physical treatment and monthly medicine money for my heart disease. I greatly appreciate your help and your visits to my house. I will try my best in learning and good-hearted in order to help other difficult children in future. On be half of all unfortunate children, I would like to thank you for your love and help. I also have a special thanks to Mrs. Huong for her whole-hearted help. Wish a happiness and healthy to all of .

Nguyen Thi Minh Dung

Wheelchairs, Wheelchairs Everywhere !

In January we were extremely pleased to receive a shipment of 550 very special wheelchairs, which are now being distributed to disabled children and adults in the Danang area. These chairs represent a \$20,000 a gift from Giving It Back To Kids and Robert and Dorothea Kalatschan through "Free Wheelchair Program" in California.

Robert, Founder and President of GIBTK and spent a week in

January working with our staff and 6 local agencies distributing the chairs and interviewing the recipients. This gift is the result of a two year effort by GIBTK, the lead organization for this program and CHILDREN OF VIETNAM. We received excellent assistance from the Foreign Affairs Department of Danang in bringing our first 40 foot container through Danang Customs without duty, taxes or fees.



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 7% 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



A child you helped with an operation. Thank you for making his life better



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