



# CHILDREN OF VIETNAM

## BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

April 2016

### What YOUR gifts accomplished in 2015

#### Educating

- 783 children stay in school
- 140 orphans & street children tutored
- 79 youth go to college
- 24 children have bikes for school
- 3 ethnic minority villages have kindergartens
- 1 incense machine for vocational training center

#### Healing

- 26,331 children stay worm free
- 20 children receive emergency care

#### Sheltering

- 18,717 villagers have potable water
- 2 families have new safe homes

#### Nurturing

- 75 orphans have daily milk
- 888 TET baskets given to hungry families
- 75 children receive emergency relief
- 18 pairs of shoes for orphans

#### Single Mothers & Children

- 34 microloans for single mother's business and farming
- 19 houses repaired
- 34 school scholarships
- 14 bikes & 14 desks

#### Children with Disabilities

- 102 school scholarships
- 25 special school scholarships
- 28 microloans to parents
- 25 vocational training
- 19 rehabilitation
- 8 medical aids
- 8 home repairs
- 18 nutritional supplements

### From the President, Country Director & Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2015 was a tremendous year with many children reached and whose lives are improved thanks to each of you who have expanded your heart to include hundreds of poor, orphan, disabled and other vulnerable children in Vietnam.

As spring begins to bloom for each of us during these months, our staff in DaNang continue to be fully engaged in reaching as many children as possible. They work tirelessly through any means possible. Sometimes we support the children directly such as in our school scholarship programs (783 young students) and other times by partnering with organizations such as orphanages to help them improve their facilities or feeding the children. Another example of our work is with single mothers through *Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children (EFWC)*. While it is the women with whom we work directly, there are many studies, as well as our own experience, that show it is the children who benefit greatly once a household is stabilized.

For this issue we are focusing mostly on our EFWC single mother's program. **We do this in honor of all mothers around the globe who love, nurture, toil, and sacrifice for their children.**

### Happy Mother's Day!

In appreciation,

Ben Wilson  
President

Luong Thi Huong  
Country Director

Nancy F. Letteri  
Executive Director



(l-r) Luong Thi Huong, Country Director, Ben Wilson, President, and Nancy Letteri, Executive Director in front of COV office in DaNang

### It's Personal on a Global Scale

Ok, this title definitely seems like an oxymoron...it is not. Meeting the women in our single mother's program makes the global statistics very real, very personal.

Ms. Ha is now a single-mother, but at one time she was a young newly-wed filled with hopes. Seventeen years ago she gave birth to her child, a son. Soon thereafter followed the birth of two daughters. But during all this time, she silently suffered devastating abuse from her husband. According to the UN, 1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. Not all of the women and their children enrolled in

*Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children (EFWC)* are victims of abuse, but all are subject to the stress, humiliation, and deprivations caused by poverty. In her own tearful words, "I sat down under a



abuse and he ruthlessly beat me for years...he would tell me off, he used cigarettes to sting my legs, he chased me out of the home at midnight and I had to hide at the burial ground." One night after being beaten unconscious, she finally gathered the courage and left him. She also had to leave her children with her parents and go find work in a larger city. She always wished an incredible change

would happen in her life.

Multiple studies have demonstrated that empowered women will improve the quality of life for themselves, their families, indeed their whole community. EFWC leverages this potential by investing in women in Vietnam.

Unfortunately, while Vietnam's economy has experienced a recent surge, a remaining 37.3% of the population still lives on less than \$2 USD a day. The economic, health, and educational status of women is particularly inferior as a consequence of cultural traditions that have constrained women's rights and opportunities. For single mothers living in poverty, and for their children, access

to education, healthcare, and adequate nutrition is extremely challenging, if not impossible. EFWC works to break this cycle of poverty by assisting head-of-household, single

mothers develop a plan to increase their economic stature through a powerful combination of micro-enterprise, training, healthcare, housing, and children's school scholarships.

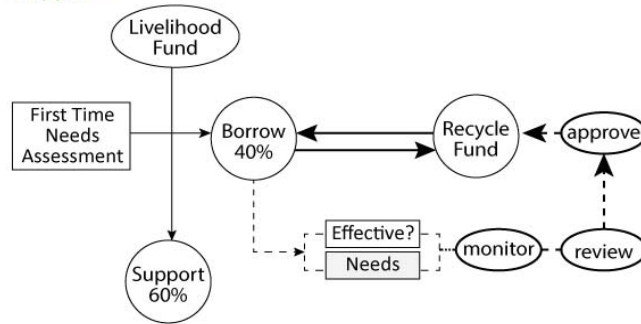
EFWC focuses on resolving the single mother's immediate needs and helping her develop life-long skills that will ultimately lift the family out of poverty.

For Ms. Ha, two years ago, that incredible change happened. She was selected to enroll in EFWC and she started a small restaurant. Now her son is a laborer in a factory, her oldest daughter is attending university and her youngest daughter is in secondary school. Ms. Ha's business is very successful. She repaid all of the funds she borrowed to start her

restaurant and just borrowed additional funds to expand her business to provide groceries in her neighborhood.



Empowering Foundation for Women & Their Children  
REVOLVING FUND PROCESS



**The Livelihood Fund allows mothers to borrow funds to start or expand micro-enterprise or farming endeavors. 60% is "support" and is forgiven; the remaining 40% must be repaid to the Recycle Fund.**



**The ultimate goal is for each EFWC mother to be in charge of her future and to earn a stable income that sustains the family, while the children receive an education and a chance at a brighter future.**

**392 children and 40 additional dependents (e.g. grandparents) are also benefiting from the unwavering effort of the mothers in EFWC who often rise at 4 am and work until 9 pm.**



Ben visiting Ms. Ha



Ms. Ha's Grocery and Restaurant

## EFWC Children Heading to University!

As many of you know, COV has a University Scholarship program for 79 bright and deserving students who cannot afford the expense of university.

BUT, did you know we often integrate our programs. Such is the case with EFWC. Three children of our EFWC families are now attending university with the help of a COV Scholarship. Their dedication to their education and future is very commendable. Take

for example, Cau, whose father died when he was a young child. He lived with his mother and sister in a house needing

much repair. In the rainy season the roof leaked throughout. If there was a big wind, tiles would blow off. They had to get a plastic sheet for cover to avoid getting wet. In the face of odds stacked against him, Cau studied hard and passed his entrance exams. Today he is studying to be a teacher and will no doubt have a bright future.



COV University Scholarship Students



---

## Loving Working Mothers Helping Their Children Thrive

Since 2012, 140 mothers have enrolled in EFWC. Ms. Anh is one of these women. She is a very diligent and hard-working woman with two children. When she was young she became very ill with a high fever that made the left part of her body permanently weak making it hard for her to walk and work outside the home. She and her children suffered hunger regularly. They lived in a house without running water and sanitation. Life was very difficult.



Each woman in EFWC receives a different combination of support depending on her need and skills. Ms. Anh was in great need, she could sew and she had a great dedication to improve the life of her children. She fit EFWC criteria

perfectly. Her house was up-fitted with a toilet, school fees were paid for her children, and she received a health check. Importantly, she attended life skills training, and she borrowed \$300 from our revolving fund to expand a sewing business and start a small grocery shop.

Nine months later, upon entering her home, she greeted our staff with a huge smile. Her businesses are now doing well. She was able to purchase a refrigerator and save some funds to purchase a used motorbike for her business.



Anh family in front of new toilets



Ms. Anh's new grocery store

---

## Quick Takes on Other Great News



Tutoring program helps Hoa Mai Orphanage children succeed in school



Backpack gifts for the young children at Binh Dinh Nam Kindergarten



Ethnic minority village gathering to celebrate a new kindergarten



COV Cycling Team welcomed as they cross the finish line

---

### Want to Stay Informed?

We are passionate about giving children a bright future, and we love to share our good news about the children we serve! If you want more current updates, sign up for our e-newsletter sent out 4-6 times a year. Send us your email address (we will not share it) to: [info@childrenofvietnam.org](mailto:info@childrenofvietnam.org) with "e-newsletter request" in the subject line.

---

### "Like" Us on Facebook

Keep in touch and share with your friends. We post weekly photos and news about the children and COV work. <https://www.facebook.com/ChildrenofVietnam>

---

### Children of Vietnam Legacy Society

Leave a legacy that continues your commitment and concern beyond your lifetime. Join the Children of Vietnam Legacy Society by making gift to Children of Vietnam in your will. For more information please contact Ben Wilson, President, at 336.727.1110 or email him at:

[bwilson8202@triad.rr.com](mailto:bwilson8202@triad.rr.com).

April 2016 Edition

# Children of Vietnam

www.childrenofvietnam.org

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WINSTON-SALEM, NC  
PERMIT NO. 330

## Change Service Requested

### Note our new mailing address!

PO Box 18039  
Greensboro, NC 27419

### Note our new phone number!

336.235.0981

We send our sincere appreciation to all of the individual donors, civic groups and foundations that have generously donated making it possible for the EFWC mothers to give their children a better life.



## Building bright futures for vulnerable children...here's how:

### MAKE A DONATION IN HONOR OF A MOTHER

— you are lighting the path out of poverty.

#### Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children

- Provides business and life skills training for a single mother. . . . . \$50
- Helps a single mother purchase and raise a pig for a year. . . . . \$70
- Helps a single mother purchase and raise a cow for a year. . . . . \$500

#### Educating

- Keeps a child in school with books, paper, pencils, uniforms . . . . . \$55
- Helps a child arrive at school on ti me and ready to learn with a bike. . . . . \$70

#### Healing

- Eliminates parasite infections for an entire kindergarten class . . . . . \$20
- Provides a child with disabilities with health aids (wheelchair, hearing aids, etc.) . . \$350

#### Sheltering

- Builds a bathroom for an ethnic minority family . . . . . \$400
- Supplies enough bricks to build a home for a family . . . . . \$500

#### Nurturing

- Feeds 1,250 vulnerable children specialized vitamin-fortified porridge. . . . . \$25
- Provides infant formula for an orphan for three months. . . . . \$135



**Cảm ơn! Thank you!**