From the President, Country Director & Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The children and families whose futures you are transforming are so very much more than children tutored.

Poverty hurts, stifles, and makes children and families so very vulnerable, but it is their enduring spirit to do more, be more, and push through these challenges that is inspiring.

♥ It is Phuc, a young adolescent with a mobility disability, who received physical therapy and a microloan to start his own business. To leverage this opportunity, he first created his own vocational training by going to a local barber asking for mentorship. He now earns nearly $140 a month from his own shop.

♥ It is the bond of sisterhood expressed when Thai, a single mom, while attend one of our business training for single mothers, stood up and reflected with the other women she came to know over the day … “I am no longer a single mother.”

♥ It is a new teacher, one of our university scholarship students, who is now tutoring orphans and shares with her young charges, “failure is the mother of success.”

We thank you for joining with us and seeing not only the challenges, but also the possibilities for a new and better future for these children.

Ben Wilson
President

Nancy Letteri
Executive Director

Toilets - The untalked about need

In 2010, COV was invited by Tay Giang District, the very mountainous district of Quang Nam Province, to assist the nearly 8,000 C’Tu ethnic minority to find ways to improve the quality of life for families. So now why toilets… Well toilets are an unmet need for the gentle C’Tu families. 97% live in poverty and live day to day doing subsistence farming.

We don’t talk about toilets very much but the need is VERY real. UNICEF estimates that in Vietnam, “6.5 % of the population resort to open defecation and close to half of the population in rural areas do not use sanitation facilities.” Open defecation leads to diseases including parasitic infestations which can cause malnutrition, disease transmission and other medical conditions. To date we have helped 40 families with household toilets. Our sincere thanks to all our donors who are helping these families one toilet at a time.

Helping a child with disabilities grow to his/her potential ........................................... $350

Building a bathroom for an ethnic minority family ......................................................... $400

Supplying enough bricks to build a home for a family ................................................. $500

Gift giving a box of holiday food for a family ................................................................. $25

Feeding 2,500 vulnerable children specialized vitamin fortified porridge .................. $50

Empowering a mother with a micro-loan ................................................................. $700

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 a 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.

Building bright futures for vulnerable children... here’s how:

MAKE A DONATION. Your continuing gift gives an education, safe and stable housing, sound nutrition, and good healthcare for poor, orphaned and disabled children — you are lighting the path out of poverty.

Educating

Tutoring an orphan at risk of leaving school ................................................................. $20

Keeping a child in school with books, paper, pencils, uniforms .............................. $55

Helping a child arrive at school on time, safe and ready to learn with a bike ........ $70

Eliminating parasite infections for an entire kindergarten class ............................. $20

Giving emergency hospital support for seriously ill children ............................... $100

Helping a child with disabilities grow to his/her potential ....................................... $350

Building a bathroom for an ethnic minority family ....................................................... $20

Supplying enough bricks to build a home for a family ................................................. $50

Gift giving a box of holiday food for a family ................................................................. $25

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Empowering a mother with a micro-loan ................................................................. $700

Cảm ơn! Thank you!
This summer, Ngà was selected to join COV’s EFWC. She was given a small microloan to expand her grocery business, she received training on business management, and she was provided with a full health check. Equally helpful and important, the girls, now in 4th and 2nd grade, were given a school scholarship for books and uniforms, a lamp to study at night and a bike to share to ride to school. All of this totaled $639…a small amount for a new lease on life. Ngà shared that she is so happy and promises to try all her best to change the life for her daughters.

- Average monthly household earnings have increased by 31%.
- 100% of loan payments have been made on schedule except for one individual.
- 25% of the children in these households have left school. Many have graduated high school and are now employed; remarkably, 13 currently attend college through our scholarship program.

Ngà gave up her work at electric company, and she tried to start a small business for coffee and groceries hoping to make up the income from her husband. But she was always behind. She could not image her life this way. Ngà’s story is not unusual. Women in Vietnam are more likely to experience higher rates of unemployment and to have ‘vulnerable forms of employment.’ Lack of access to financial capital is the factor most cited in surveys and interviews as a constraint to entrepreneurial development in Vietnam.

COV’s Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children (EFWC) training and micro-credit programs allow women to overcome these barriers to successful entrepreneurship.

**“Pill Day” for Thousands of School Children**

It is a warm sultry day, and school has just started for the children in Hoa Vang, the most rural district of DaNang City where rice paddies and water buffalo surround schools and small towns. In each of the districts 11 communes, 26,000 children, school by school, are lined up in a row. They are like children everywhere wiggling and giggling happy for this change of schedule. The children look with curiosity at the doctors in white coats, nurses and COV DaNang staff. Today is “Pill Day.” This day happens twice a year for the children in Hoa Vang when COV partners with health clinic staff and the schools to distribute medicine that will keep these children parasite free.

Intestinal worms thrive where poverty, malnutrition, inadequate sanitation, and minimal health care and awareness exist. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates over 10 million children in Vietnam are infected with intestinal parasites. Further, WHO classifies parasites as among the six most dangerous diseases that infect humans. Infections have been shown to have a negative impact on cognitive tasks and long-term health. Parasites consume over 30% of the food digested by a child, basically stealing the food away from the child and causing illness and even death if not treated. School children in Hoa Vang, between 25,000-30,000 per year, have benefited from “Pill Day” for eleven years... that is nearly 640,000 doses thanks to all of the incredible support from you, our donors.

HSC promotes the rights of children with disabilities to develop to their fullest potential, assists children and their parents in gaining access to critical interventions, and promotes the “voice” of this vulnerable population. During the month of September, I had the opportunity to meet many more children like this young boy. There was the 5 year old girl who was born totally blind and the boy born without an outer ear and profoundly deaf. I met with parents and doctors in white coats, nurses and COV DaNang staff. Today is “Pill Day.” This day happens twice a year for the children in Hoa Vang when COV partners with health clinic staff and the schools to distribute medicine that will keep these children parasite free.

Malnutrition, inadequate sanitation, and minimal health care and awareness exist. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates over 10 million children in Vietnam are infected with intestinal parasites. Further, WHO classifies parasites as among the six most dangerous diseases that infect humans. Infections have been shown to have a negative impact on cognitive tasks and long-term health. Parasites consume over 30% of the food digested by a child, basically stealing the food away from the child and causing illness and even death if not treated. School children in Hoa Vang, between 25,000-30,000 per year, have benefited from “Pill Day” for eleven years... that is nearly 640,000 doses thanks to all of the incredible support from you, our donors.

**SCHOOL**

September is a huge month for everyone here at Children of Vietnam. Thanks to you, our donors, we see more than 600 young bright faces head to another school year. This year our scholarship award ceremonies were combined with the Mid-Autumn Festival. The days were happy and filled with bright colors of gold and red, dragons, lanterns and sweets for all the children.

**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 with “e-newsletter request” in the subject line.

- Or -

Visit our Facebook page at Facebook.com/childrenofvietnam

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**The Children of Vietnam**

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DO YOU KNOW how riding a bike can help reduce child poverty in Vietnam?

Not long ago, bicycles were the most popular way for Vietnamese people to get around, whether going to school, work, or the local market. Now-a-days families use the motorbike with as many as five people on board, small children sandwiched between their parents, traveling at speeds up to 20 miles an hour. It is now children in Vietnam who depend on the bicycle to get to school ready to learn. And it is this cycling to school each day that will pave a path out of poverty for those children whose families struggle to earn enough for daily food.

IN HONOR OF THESE CHILDREN CYCLING EACH DAY . . .

We invite you to join our group of ordinary bike riders and ride through Vietnam’s exquisite countryside on March 10-14, 2016. We will set out from Da Nang in Central Vietnam to ride for four days through some of the world’s most beautiful scenery -- brilliant green rice paddies, rolling hills in the shadow of distant mountains, and finally back to Da Nang along the sparkling waters of the East Vietnam Sea. The four-day route will cover 135 miles (217 kilometers), or about less than 50 miles a day.

Or can’t join us in Vietnam? Form a team of your own and ride your bike at home while friends sponsor your ride. Or ride a stationary bike on your campus or health club!

Gather your friends, family and colleagues to sponsor you and make a difference. For information on registration, costs, and a kit for gaining sponsors, send an email to: info@childrenofvietnam.org or call: 336.235.0981.