



CHILDREN OF VIETNAM

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

May 2017



**Poverty hurts children.
The impact is lasting.
It is multifaceted.**

Poverty

37% of all children in Vietnam live in poverty

Poor health

10 million children are infested with parasites

Poor nutrition

24% of children under 5 are malnourished

No sanitation

41% of children do not have access to hygienic toilets

No clean water

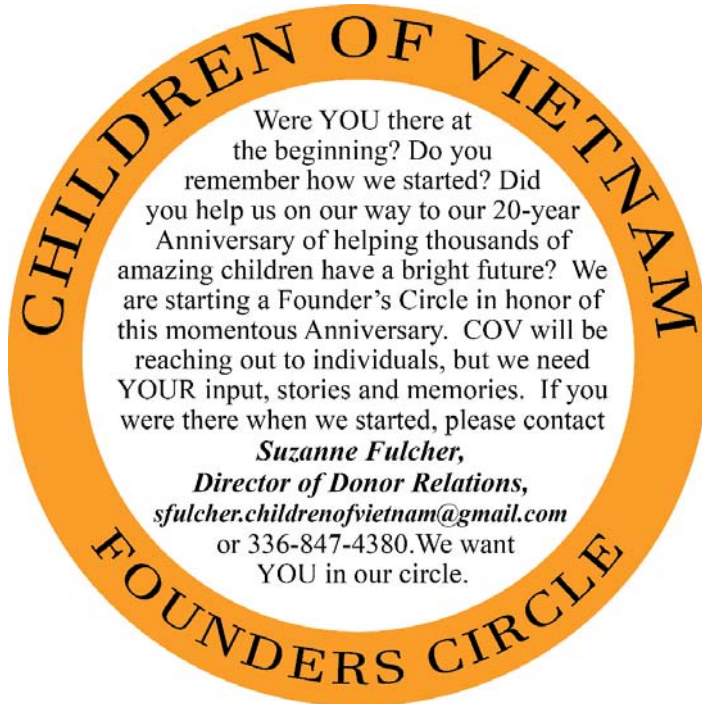
Unsafe water & sanitation accounts for half of most of the communicable diseases

Low income

Minimum wage in Vietnam only meets between 50% to 70% of basic needs

Minimal or no education

80% of children with disabilities never attend or drop out of school



Get ready . . . get set . . . it's almost Children of Vietnam's 20th Anniversary! That's right 2018 marks 20 years of Building Bright Futures for children in Vietnam. And standing beside us is YOU – 20 years of caring and compassion!

- Almost 20 years of educating minds.
- Almost 20 years of mending bodies.
- Almost 20 years of sheltering families.
- Almost 20 years of nurturing children's development.



Why Should Children Have To Wait?

That is the question Larry and Sue Hungerford asked themselves after reading about COV's work with ethnic minority C'Tu families in the Tay Giang region. They were curious and decided to do some research. The research unfortunately told some cold truths.

Ethnic minority groups make up around 12m of Vietnam's population of 90m, but account for over 50% of the poor. Mountainous areas in the central region,



New kindergarten dedication ceremony

where many ethnic minority people reside, struggle in grinding poverty despite continued economic growth of Vietnam.

The Truong Son Mountain Range in Tay Giang district of Quang Nam province lies 125 km (78 miles) southwest of Da Nang city. Tay Giang has a population of 12,992 and is among the poorest of Quang Nam's districts.

Members of the C'tu make up 97% of the population, and nearly all live below the poverty level. These generous and peaceful people primarily live off the land. The rainy weather is ideal for growing jute to produce fibers needed for their beautiful textiles. Many have neither sanitation facilities nor clean drinking



These children cannot wait

water.

Larry and Sue Hungerford firmly believe that children cannot wait and they need a good start now. They also believe that kindergarten is critical to build a foundation of knowledge and skills needed to escape poverty. Kindergarten promotes all areas of child development: cognitive, social, emotional and physical (nutritional, health and hygiene).

SO, they decided to do something AMAZING to make sure these "children would not have to wait."

They issued a challenge to YOU and all of the supporters of COV to build kindergartens for these children that are so in need. They will give \$1 for every \$2 raised by COV to build kindergartens. The Hungerford's want all of us raise enough money to build 15 kindergartens in the next 5 years.

COV's kindergartens are designed to provide comfortable, secure buildings completely furnished with ceiling fans, lighting, electrical systems, water systems, indoor toilets, washrooms, and awnings for shade. The facility accommodates up to 45 children (usual class-size is about 25 children). Children attending kindergarten are typically between the ages of 3-6 years. The government provides a college-educated teacher, pays the salary and all other operational expenses once built.

Upon completion of the kindergarten, COV and the local community host a dedication ceremony with an inset plaque in honor of all of the donors. Let us know if you want to join us during one of these dedication ceremonies!

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.

- Ethnic minority children make up more than 60% of all poor children. Facing language barriers and long, difficult treks to school, ethnic minority children are 20 – 25% less likely to complete the first five years of primary education than the majority Kinh children.
- There are high drop-out rates among children from ethnic minorities in remote villages due to: (1) high rates of poverty; (2) poorly equipped schools in remote areas; and (3) lack of information. Such groups therefore risk being marginalized perpetually from mainstream society.
- When kindergartens are not available, older siblings' enrollment suffers as they are kept home to care for the younger ones. While this affects both sexes, it is predominantly the education of the girls that is sacrificed.
- Studies in developing countries have shown that attending pre-school increased the probability of enrolling in primary school by 24%.
- Students who attend kindergarten routinely perform better in reading, writing and mathematics in primary school.

Rise Against Hunger and Children of Vietnam embark on a NEW initiative: Empowerment of Women through Enterprise (EtE)

We are delighted to announce a new initiative with our partner Rise Against Hunger (RAH) that will enhance and advance our Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children (EFWC) program which helps single moms provide a better quality of life for their children. Thanks to a grant and technical advice from RAH, over 200 women will improve their business acumen and financial literacy, boosting them and their children to economic



A small business opens up a great amount of hope for this family

self-sufficiency. Southeast Asia remains the region with the highest number of people living in extreme poverty, and one of its seven poorest demographics is households headed



Ms. Suong and her children in quarry near her house

by women. Through this new endeavor, we will work with head-of-household women like Ms. Suong who has three precious children. When her husband abandoned them seven years ago, she had no means to earn an income. She is selling beverages to the workers of a nearby quarry, but it is not enough. Today, they lack even a bed and rice cooker! A

desk, chair and lamp for the children to study is a luxury far beyond reach.

To support Suong and other single mothers working hard but caught in the cycle of poverty, each will participate in training that increases financial literacy and business skills, resulting in the development of microenterprise plans, and a small grant to implement this plan. Women enrolled will work toward building a broad range of businesses such as fruit stalls, street-side restaurants, tailoring, and poultry farming, depending on their situations.

With RAH serving as technical lead, this new enhancement is a key addition to COV's existing comprehensive EFWC. Through EFWC, these women and their children have already or will soon receive health and nutritional support (you cannot work if you are ill), house repairs if needed, and school scholarships for their children. EtE aims to further alleviate poverty for women entrepreneurs by fostering business skills and networking, providing microfinance, and equipping their businesses with basic services.



Breeding cows can offer these women a substantial way to feed their families

We do not know what Ms. Suong's microenterprise plan will be yet. Training begins later this summer. However, we do know full well of Ms. Suong's desire and ambition to give her children a bright future, and she will work hard to pave this path for them.

10 Years of Feeding Children in Vietnam: Two Hearts Filling a Million Bowls



Rise Against Hunger food shipment

Ten years ago, an amazing thing happened when a man named Ben, founder of COV, and a man named Ray, founder of Rise Against Hunger, set out to make a difference. Together with a team in Vietnam and thousands of volunteers in the US, they filled MILLIONS of lunchtime bowls for Vietnamese children. When Rise Against Hunger and Children of Vietnam became partners, it was simply to fill a need: the need for nutritious meals to go to malnourished children. Together, we have done that and more. There have been more than 1 MILLION meals served to hungry children in Vietnam each year for a decade. Through this partnership, meals have been distributed to orphanages, kindergartens, schools and remote areas where food sources are scarce. This is a partnership that has not only fed children but made a real difference in their lives. The meals provide 23 vitamins and minerals that are essential for their growth. Having a meal at school also encourages regular attendance and enables children to focus and learn. This partnership continues because there are still too many malnourished children in Vietnam.

HSBC Bank Executive Visits with University Scholars

As a young person, did you receive advice that may have changed your life? Did you ever take advantage of an opportunity that led you to where you are today? Recently, the university scholarship students were honored by a visit from Mr. Ton That Anh Vu Head of Human Resources at



Mr. Vu speaking to a packed room

HSBC Bank (Vietnam). He offered sage words of encouragement and shared his own life experiences from the business perspective to a packed room of

our students.

Every year your scholarship gifts afford the students opportunities to attend life skills workshops and develop a supportive network that helps prepare them for a work life

after school and to become economically self-sufficient.

Also, every year the students raise funds and then decided where to donate these funds. In past years, they have purchased food and distributed this food to poor families at the hospital, and another time they purchased supplies for an orphanage then joined the young children for fun and games.



Poster thanking HSBC and COV

Thank you to Mr. Vu and HSBC Bank, and thank you to each of our university scholarship sponsors! Your gifts are giving our students a good education, life skills, a professional network, and the desire to give back. Your gifts are transforming their futures!

The KEY to Eliminating Parasites in Children

Did You Know?

The World Health Organization estimates that up to 20 percent of nutritional intake is lost when a child is host to parasitic worms.

We want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to the Reagan High School Key Club for wanting to change this statistic! Parasites cause a multitude of problems for children

living in poverty in Vietnam. Not only can they cause malnutrition, fatigue and health problems but also effect cognitive development as well as days lost from school. Over this past months, the Key Club conducted a change drive to change the lives of children. They collected \$577 in loose coins from friends and family to help pay for twice yearly parasite treatments for over 28,000 children.

REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL
KEY CLUB



Reagan High School Key Club



Collected change



Girl in Yellow swallowing parasite treatment

IRA Required Minimum Distribution

Required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA? You have the option to distribute tax free by directing it to the charity of your choice. Your distribution can support charitable causes and get a tax break while meeting tax requirements for IRAs. Please contact your financial advisor for more information and consider Children of Vietnam in your discussions.

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.



Save The Date! Cycling Out Child Poverty 2018

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Remember that feeling of hopping on your bike as an eight-year old and tearing off down the road? As you went, every turn in the road was an adventure and a new opportunity. You can get that feeling again, and this time you can help a child in Vietnam have the same opportunities you did. JOIN US and CYCLE through the rolling hills and rice patties of Vietnam and make stops along the way to see the children and families who benefit from YOUR participation. **MARK**

YOUR CALENDARS—MARCH 15-17, 2018 for the trip of a lifetime that will change lives.

Can't make the trip? No problem! You can change lives while making your own adventure stateside. You can challenge yourself and form a team to ride the same the number of miles that participant's in Vietnam will be riding. For more information call: 336.235.0981 or email sfulcher.childrenofvietnam@gmail.com.



Did You Know?

“About 2.1 million or 24.9 per cent of the Vietnamese children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition, according to statistics from the National Nutrition Institute. In addition, 1.2 million or 14.5 per cent of the country’s children are underweight. That means one in every four Vietnamese children under the age of five suffers from malnutrition, while one in every six children is underweight.” -- Vietnam News, August 6, 2015



Filling her tummy



Boys enjoying a nutritious meal



Porridge with 23 vitamins and minerals.

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Children of Vietnam

www.childrenofvietnam.org

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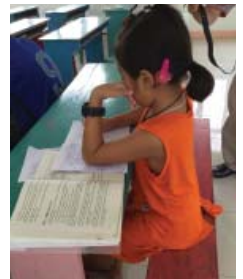
Our phone number!

336.235.0981



Remember COV in your Workplace.

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



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

MAKE A DONATION TO HONOR OF A LOVED ONE

— you are lighting the path out of poverty.

Educating

- Keeps a child in school with books, paper, pencils, uniforms \$55
- Helps children arrive at school on time and ready to learn with a bike. \$70
- Awards a university scholarship to a poor student for 1 of 4 years \$515

Healing

- Eliminates parasite infections for 200 children \$112
- Gives critical care to a child with disabilities for 1 year. \$350

Sheltering

- Trains an entire community handwashing and other hygiene \$100
- Builds a bathroom for an ethnic minority family. \$700

Nurturing

- Feeds 1,250 vulnerable children specialized vitamin-fortified porridge \$25
- Provides business and life skills training for single mother. \$50
- Invests in a single mother to improve her family's economic stability \$320



Cảm ơn! Thank you!