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

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

A letter from Ben, Huong & Nancy

Every day we see children living in impoverish circumstances. We see mothers and fathers giving all within their ability to their children. But, sometimes circumstances are just plain hard...someone gets sick, the harvest is poor, school fees are high, a job is unstable, the house roof leaks. Tough and hurtful decisions must be made. And still, through it all, there is love, tenderness and a deep desire to protect their children.

It is not the child or parents who are impoverished but the environment and the challenging circumstances in which they must live. This is why we look at the cause of poverty as multidimensional, and it is why we work to help children and their families with a lending hand in multiple areas of life including support for school, healthcare, clean water and livelihood. We want the children and their families to be lifted out of poverty and looking toward a better future.

Recently, we met two fathers who definitely should get a “Father of the Year” award for their selfless care of their children even in the toughest of times. Their two stories are within this spring newsletter.

Join us during the month of June in honoring fathers who give their all for their children. Make a donation in honor of your own father to show how much you appreciate the care and love he gave to you as a child. Let us know, and we can send a card or email on your behalf.

Thank you, dear friends, for joining us in our mission through your donations, your sharing of our work with friends and family, and your kind words.

In Deep Appreciation & Happy Father’s Day,

Ben Wilson Luong Thi Huong Nancy F. Le
President Country Director Executive Director

Rights for ALL Children To Attend School

On March 13th, about 50 children celebrated “We Ring The Bell” in order to raise awareness about the rights of children with disabilities to attend and learn at school, including children impacted by the long legacy of Agent Orange. The children laughed, played games and received gifts during this happy celebratory morning at a vocational and daycare center for children with disabilities. COV organized this event in collaboration with many caring partners including the Research Center for Inclusion, the Hoa Vang District People’s Committee and the DaNang Association of Victims of Agent Orange. Sometimes just having fun is the best lesson of the day and vital to healthy development.
A Father’s Love

We had the privilege of meeting Son and his Father in March. When we first arrived, Son was waiting to greet us with a truly infectious smile. As we began to talk, a motorbike arrived and a dusty and tired man walked in to stand by Son. This was Son’s father, a farmer, who had just completed a long day in the hot fields. The father explained that Son’s mobility and learning disabilities stem from a lack of oxygen at birth. Beginning in 2017, COV’s Hope System of Care has supplied Son and his family with furniture, healthcare, home repair, and most importantly, education assistance for Son to attend vocational school. As we talked with Son and his Father, a love and a real happiness between them was evident. After finishing 9th grade, Son chose to go to the Red Cross Vocational School to learn how to be a tailor. Son really loves his school, feels very comfortable, and he even plays soccer with his fellow students after his classes. Son’s father listens, then chimes in proudly, “He is very happy at the tailoring school. He has lots of friends, and he will be able to make a living for himself.” Son quickly adds, “I want to get a job as a tailor in a factory and someday find a wife!” COV works comprehensively to help children develop to their fullest in partnership with mothers and fathers whose love builds confidence and brings happiness.

Cyclist Testimonial

I was strongly affected by the Cycling Out Child Poverty tour on program day. Long Vu, the program officer, presented thorough details of what the Children of Vietnam Charity are doing for the recipients and their families. I witnessed and felt the commitments from every COV staff; these individuals are working so hard to achieve the optimum results for all those under the COV umbrella family. Children at the school and those we visited at their homes are thriving, healthy and happy. COV is assisting, creating opportunities for all to reach their maximum potentials. It was an honor to participate with COV, thank you to everyone involved.

Hieu Phan, Cyclist

Daddy’s Girl

Nhu is a shy second grader with a penchant for art and a very tight bond with her Dad. When we visited Nhu at home, we found her school books and art carefully placed on the table. She likes math best and does it quickly and excitedly. She also likes drawing. Her subjects are often about family, friends in school and scenery. With Nhu snuggling on his lap, her Dad shared with us, “Due to difficulties in listening and speaking, Nhu must use her eyes to remember all things that the teachers write down into the board to follow the lesson.” COV provides individualized customized support depending need. For Nhu, she has received health checks, speech therapy, school fees and a support group for her parents. Nhu is lucky as both of her parents are teachers. Her mother teaches in DaNang during the week where she can earn more money, and her father stays home to support Nhu and an elderly grandfather. Every afternoon, Nhu and her Dad sit close while he patiently provides tutoring on her daily lessons. Nhu relies on her father to give her the extra help she needs in school and in everyday life.

The love between them is obvious; she is truly a Daddy’s girl.

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.

Financial and Licensing Information

For our Florida supporters, a copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-HELP-FLA or online at www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com, registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendations by the state. Registration # CH35762. For all supporters, please know that you may contact Children of Vietnam at any time to request any and all financial and licensing information.

Recurring Gifts Help

For most charities, particularly small to medium-sized ones, donation revenue fluctuates dramatically from month to month, and year to year. Automatic monthly giving, however, offers a steady and predictable source of funding. With a more predictable cash flow, COV can plan future projects and initiatives without worrying if enough funds will come in. You can initiate a recurring gift anytime on our website www.childrenofvietnam.org.
Celebrating a Real Success Story

“I would like to share an amazing story from the recent 2019 ‘Cycling Out Child Poverty’ tour”

One day, we attended a gathering for women who had graduated from the Empowerment Foundation for Women and Children (EFWC). This COV program helps permanently lift single mothers and their children out of poverty, through livelihood and financial literacy training, microloans, tuition assistance, health services, home repairs, and other support. I had originally met a number of women in this program during a visit to Vietnam in 2014, while visiting with COV in DaNang through Dining For Women, a collective giving circle. We had visited with these women in their homes and met their families, and learned what wonderful progress they had made through EFWC. Then we all gathered together in a banquet hall where they prepared a delicious feast and we all ate together. It was a very memorable event!

When our group arrived at the March 2019 ceremony honoring the EFWC graduates, a beautiful luncheon celebrating these women’s successes was already underway. I decided to stroll around and take photos. There were perhaps eight or 10 tables filled with women graduates of EFWC, COV staff, and cycling participants.

As I walked up to one of the tables, it dawned on me that I recognized familiar faces. And it was clear that they recognized me as well - these were women whom I had originally met in 2014! Everyone jumped up, there were hugs all around, and excited conversation ensued. I not only learned that these women are doing well, but that they are thriving – I was thrilled!

One of the ladies I reunited with was Ms. Lien. When I first met her in 2014, she was just starting her own daycare business and struggling to feed her family. When I visited with her in 2019, I was so happy to hear that her business is flourishing and her children are employed in the trades. She proudly showed me a photo of her first grandchild. A real success story!! My heart was lifted as I heard similar such stories from the others.

This remarkable event was one of the great highlights of the cycling tour for me. Children of Vietnam truly makes lasting and positive impacts, one child, one family, and one community at a time!”

Rhonda Grissom, Cyclist

Thank You!

Cycling Out Child Poverty Campaign Tour A Success!

$146,974

Raised together to lift children out of poverty in Vietnam!

Here are a few examples of what we can do:

- 85 children with disabilities can receive health, education and social support
- 36 bright but poor students can receive a 4-year university scholarship,
- 7 kindergartens can be constructed for hundreds ethnic minority children
- 72 ethnic minority villages can be provided with water filtration systems
- 484 children in poor household can receive after school tutoring and live skills guidance
- 120 head-of-household mothers can receive livelihood training and microloans
- 80,000 children receive vitamin-fortified meals

Watch your impact through the coming months.

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

**MAKE A DONATION TO HONOR A LOVED ONE**
— you are lighting the path out of poverty.

**Educating**
- A scholarship for a poor primary school student for 1 year .................. $55
- A bike for a child to get to school on time and ready to learn .................. $70
- A college scholarship for a bright but poor student per year .................. $1,000

**Healing**
- Parents with children with disabilities support group meetings .................. $20
- Critical care for a child with disabilities for 1 year ............................... $865

**Sheltering**
- Orphanage facility repairs and supplies ............................................. $200

**Nurturing**
- Vitamin-fortified meals for 1,250 young children ............................... $25
- Business training for a single mother so she can support her children ....... $100
- Single mother business startup for a sustainable livelihood for her family. $600

**Disaster Relief**
- Emergency ready-to-eat food and supplies for victims of disasters .......... $65

*Cảm ơn! Thank you!*

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*Children of Vietnam*

www.childrenofvietnam.org

**Change Service Requested**

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Our phone number!
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Remember COV in your Workplace.

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