



\$10,180 from CHIA's Fundraiser 17th March 2013



Brisbane's Red Lotus Vietnamese Chargrill Restaurant in Fortitude Valley (<http://www.red-lotus.com.au>) was the vibrant location for CHIA's most recent Fundraiser, attended by 40 supporters. Providing humour with a sense of style, our event organizer and MC for the afternoon was Mr. Jak Vaessen of www.facebook.com/agapihairandbeauty. Huge thanks from CHIA to Jak and his dedicated staff at Agapi Hair and Beauty, Spring Hill. Robyn's brother and sister-in-law Bevan and Katia Morley helped Jak a lot in bringing together the event.

As well as also donating a huge number of prizes, Jak generated an outpouring of funds from wallets and purses for the bidding on fantastic goods and services which varied from a gourmet day out on a yacht, 2 Seiko watches, Vietnamese artwork, autographed copies of Tony Parks' gripping novel 'Dark Heart' and many other wonderful items which were all graciously donated. Our special thanks go to Jak Vaessen, Sandie and Tony Downes, Donna and Mark Hipgrave, and Cathy and Roger McComiskie, each of whom donated auction and raffle prizes valued in excess of \$1,000, and the 10 additional supporters who donated a variety of prizes to interest all tastes.



Between presentations about CHIA's activities, Leighton Ross (owner of Red Lotus) and his staff, provided scrumptious traditional Vietnamese cuisine, which was, to say the very least, mouth watering.



From this small but generous group, almost \$5,000 was raised. In addition, \$1,100 was donated from 3 supporters who were unable to attend. Seven supporters signed up on the day, to commit to sponsoring the educations of 11 children in need (a total **annual** commitment of \$4,080).

As always, Robyn displayed charm and elegance coupled with her bubbly personality - it was wonderful to see her surrounded by Australian based supporters of CHIA. Over the past few years I have been privileged to see first-hand, the outstanding and varied work Robyn and her staff do in Hoi An and the surrounding environs. Seeing so many people in Brisbane attending was very pleasing, knowing the determined efforts of Robyn and CHIA's staff and volunteers, are supported.





Doing so much with so little, CHIA provides hope to many children and their families and the money raised by this charity event will go a long way towards helping those in need. I feel confident we will all be keen to support the next fundraiser to raise even more much-needed funds for the outstanding work of Robyn and her dedicated and talented staff at CHIA. This photos shows Kim a couple of months after she joined our POD (Program of Development) for infants with disabilities. When Kim first came, she was intellectually and emotionally unresponsive and could not stand. Her intellectual and emotional improvements have been truly astounding and she can now take several steps unsupported ... and we have seen these improvements in only a few months.

John and Louise Cushion

Note from CHIA's Founder (Robyn Morley) :

I would like to especially thank John and Louise Cushion for writing this piece about the fundraiser, and to thank John for donating his professional skills as event photographer. Phone John on 0417-177-783 if you are in need of a professional photographer.

I'd like to share part of the story of this raffle prize. When I first came to Vietnam, I volunteered at an orphanage. One day this baby (we shall call her Linh) was left at the orphanage. She was probably about 2 months old, with a tiny malnourished body and an enlarged head. We took her immediately to have a CT scan done, and to be assessed by the best neuro-surgeon some miles away. After reviewing the CT scan, and from his distance of metres away from the infant in my arms, the surgeon proclaimed "She has hydrocephalus and probably has other problems as well. There is no treatment for her". I was so shocked that he could wipe out this child's future based on a "probably". In a country where medical resources are so scarce, this was no first experience of just how tough triage decisions can be, in the public health system in VietNam. We went next to another hospital, and had ultrasounds and other tests done, to check out her major organs and internals. No evidence of further problems was found. By the time we were able to arrange the surgery needed by this baby, she had already suffered some irreversible brain damage, but I am happy to say that she has remained one of the favourites at the orphanage and is developing well. One day, an Australian artist Mr. Joshua van Gestel (<http://vangestel.com.au/>) visited the orphanage, painted this picture of Linh, and later donated it to CHIA to be used for fundraising. I am really grateful to Joshua and to my brother Bevan (pictured), who purchased this raffle prize, because he knows how much this painting means to me.



On behalf of CHIA's beneficiary families, the communities in which we work in Central VietNam, CHIA staff and volunteers, please know how grateful we are to all who support us financially, support us with your expertise and time, and by being ambassadors for CHIA. There are so very many ways each person helps, and we are grateful to you all, for all you continue to do for CHIA.

Just imagine, if each of you could start thinking now, about how you can help by introducing 4 new potential supporters at the next fund-raiser, what an event that will be !

Robyn Morley
Founding Director



Children's Hope in Action

Children's Hope in Action is a grassroots non-government organisation founded by an Australian woman, Robyn Morley, to especially care for some of the most disadvantaged children in Quang Nam province, central Vietnam.



Katia & Bevan Morley
and
Jak Vaessen



Invite you to

Children's Hope in Action
FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON
at



11 Duncan St, Fortitude Valley
Chinatown Mall

Sunday 17th march
12pm - 3pm
\$75.00



Lunch includes: Welcome Drink
Vietnamese Sit-Down Banquet
Wines, Beers and Soft drinks
Lucky Door Prizes

RSVP by 14th March
Jak Vaessen
Ph: 0434424247
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Payment by Cash, Cheque or Direct Deposit
Account: Jak Vaessen
BSB: 014195
Ac No: 592425511