



## The Residence News

### Thinh's dream becomes truth



Thinh performed as the MC and singer at some parties at The Residence

Thinh grew up in a very poor family in Duy Nghia village about 20km across the river from Hoi An. There are three members in his family, his mother, his elder sister and him. His mother does not have a stable job. Thinh's father was not around when Thinh was born and he has never taken any responsibility for his child. Thinh grew up under the care of his mother. When he was in grade 10, Thinh's mother became very sick and his future was uncertain. Fortunately, he was admitted to the Residence and he can continue his education as he is a very conscientious student.

Thinh's passion is to become a teacher and he always tries his best to achieve his dream. As a result, he has just passed his entrance exams to a local university. He will attend 4 year course to become a Physics Teacher.

Hopefully Thinh continues keeping up his spirit to work hard and become a good teacher in future.

### Example of overcoming difficulties

Thuy was born in a very poor family in Duy Hai Commune, Duy Xuyen District, far from Hoi An about 20 kilometers and across the river. Her father abandoned her before she was born. Thuy grew up under the care of her mother until when she was six years old her mother remarried and Thuy had to move to live with her old grandparents due to her step-father did not accept her. As her grandparents were very old they couldn't take care of her and, as a result, Thuy was accepted into the Residence in 2012 when she was in grade 8. Difference from other children, Thuy has adapted to the new environment very quickly and she feels very happy at the Residence now.

Thuy is very friendly and hard-working. She achieved excellent results in the past 7 years. Last school year she was lacked of 0.1 point to become an excellent student. What's a pity for her! According to her homeroom teacher, she has enough conditions to attend to advanced school next year. Thuy said that she will try her best to pass the entrance exams to the advanced school. She is interested in History and her passion is to become a receptionist to work in Hospitality area. Hopefully she will be successful and have happy life in future.



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## Can you please help?

Truoc is a little boy who is living with his parents and his siblings in difficult circumstances. He is the youngest of four siblings. Unfortunately, Truoc has a cardiac problem which he was diagnosed with three years ago. His family has spent a lot of money for his treatment and follow-up. In addition his father has rheumatism, and when the weather changes, his joints get very painful. His mother has high blood pressure, so his parents cannot do heavy work. All household chores are completed by Truoc's sisters. Although Truoc has to live and study in a difficult situation he is always a strong student at school. Truoc is in grade 10 and he is a very friendly, helpful and a intelligent young man and often helps his classmates in learning therefore he is esteemed in his community.

Recently the Government provided money to the family to help them build a basic brick house. They still had to borrow money from their relatives to be able to complete building the house. Even though they are in debt they are very happy now to own a stable house, especially during the rainy season. Truoc's parents have to work very hard to earn enough money. They have to pay study fees for three of their children who are still in school which causes significant financial pressure for the family.

Truoc's 2<sup>nd</sup> sister is a third-year student at Da Nang Economic University and his 3<sup>rd</sup> sister is a first year student at Da Nang College of education. It's quite hard for their parents to cover all their studying expenses. His oldest sister is working for a clothing company now, so that she can provide a little money for her family, but it is still not enough. Children just like Truoc are now waiting for your education sponsorship to help them continue to attend school, and have the opportunity for a successful future.

### Hand of hope

Nhi and her older brother are living with their grandparents in a very old brick house. Nhi has no father and her mother abandoned Nhi when she was just two years old. The grandparents have brought Nhi and her brother up on a very limited income. Her grandparents are farmers and live on four perches of rice. Because of their old age, the uncles who live beside their house help to grow and harvest the rice. Nhi's grandmother stays at home to prepare the meals and also raises pigs to earn extra money. Nhi is in grade 9 and is a very good student at school. She wishes she can continue to go to school and become a teacher in the future.

In Vietnam, due to the education system structure, children must attend additional extra classes during the school year and the summer holidays at an extra cost to the family. These classes are 'optional', however for the majority of cases this is the only way they will learn all the information required to pass their examinations. This again puts children from poorer families at a disadvantage and increases financial pressure on the family.

Children just like Nhi are now waiting for your educational sponsorship. You can help to ensure one child's education needs are met and we collectively provide them with the best chance of a bright future. Sponsorship includes school fees, school insurance, additional tuition, uniforms, textbooks and stationery.



*Smiling faces of Nhi and her old grandmother.*





*The family of Tin and Toan*



## One Family's CHIA success story

It has been six years since CHIA started to support the family of Tin and Toan. Their mother passed away three days after giving birth to the twins and their family was almost forced to give them to an orphanage as the father could not properly take care of five children. CHIA was introduced to them and we immediately intervened to keep the two boys with their family.

It is very difficult to raise five children for a couple and more so for a single parent. The father was a builder and he could not earn enough for the daily meals of his children. He is very grateful for CHIA's support, often telling us that "If CHIA did not support us, I do not know how my children and I could have survived". Apart from providing nutrition for the two boys, we also supported the family with essential items such as rice, medical treatment and education sponsorship for three sisters in the family. One of CHIA's core beliefs is the importance of education as a means of alleviating poverty.

Now, the twins are in grade one and one of their sisters is working as a professional waitress after finishing a free vocational training. Another sister is studying at college and the third sister is a secondary school student. Everything seems to be getting better for the whole family especially the father as the most terrible time of his life had passed by.

**CHEC (CHIA Health Education in communities)** is a program which supports knowledge of breastfeeding and nutrition and includes practical sessions on how to cook a more nutritious porridge for mothers of children under two years old in Quang Nam communities. The program has been running for 2 years with monthly sessions at different communes where 60 mothers and 60 children attend.

In the program, we deliver basic information about nutrition for children and help mothers to develop knowledge about how important breastfeeding is for a child's growth and development. We deliver information on healthy options for malnourished children to gain weight as well as ways to treat common diseases in children such as constipation, anemia and diarrhea. After the theory section, the local health center collaborators and CHIA program coordinators teach the mothers how to make a nutritious porridge and remind them of the importance in keeping proper hygiene when cooking and feeding their children.

Thanks to the support of the SMEC foundation, CHEC helps mothers to improve their awareness of taking care of children. We are looking forward to continuing the CHEC program again next year in a new province, working with new local partners and more adorable children.





# The Mid Autumn Festival



The Mid Autumn Festival 'Tết Trung Thu' is a very important traditional annual festival in Vietnam held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the eighth month of the Lunar calendar. It focus on the celebration of children. During the entire week of the Mid Autumn Festival, the streets are filled with the sound of fast drumming and the sight of groups of children dancing in colourful lion costumes. The lion will ask to come into a house or shop and dance in order to bring good luck and fortune to the occupants. In return the children will receive some 'luck money'. Vietnamese people describe it as a very happy time and many people stop what they are doing to watch and enjoy the dancing.

Unfortunately many children living in poverty do not get to experience and celebrate in the joys of the Mid Autumn Festival. CHIA organized a Mid Autumn Festival event in Duy Hai community outside of Hoi An on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September to benefit the children who would not have had a chance to participate in this cultural practice. At the local people's commune office, fifty children aged 5-15 who live in poverty or have disabilities gathered together with their families, some government representatives and CHIA staff. The arrival of the dancing lion group meant the fun had started. Children watched the traditional dance excitedly, and a small costume was provided by CHIA for the younger children to have a turn dancing. After this, the children played some guessing games and won prizes.

At the end of the event, every child was presented with a gift bag of sweets, books and stationary; items which many of them would not receive very often. The books and stationary will help them in the school year ahead and the sweets are a great treat for a day that is all about the children.

## Make a donation

### From Australia

(tax-deductible receipts available to Australian donors for donations of \$2 and over)

#### Deposit into CHIA's bank account:

Bank: Bendigo Bank  
Branch: Corrimbal, NSW, Australia  
Account name:  
Children's Hope In Action  
BSB: 633000  
Account number: 127543924  
BPAY biller code: 342949  
Swift/IBAN code: BENDAU3B

#### Post a cheque / money order to:

Children's Hope In Action  
PO Box 7360  
East Brisbane, QLD 4169

### From the USA

In order for donations from US citizens to be tax-deductible we have partnered with Global Development Group USA.

Please stipulate that your donation is to go to

**"Project J156 - CHIA's Quang Nam Project Vietnam".**

#### Donate online:

[www.globaldevelopmentusa.org](http://www.globaldevelopmentusa.org)

Global Development Group USA  
Project J156 – Children's Hope in Action  
120 Hiwassee Circle  
Reliance, TN 37369  
United States of America

### From Anywhere in the World

You can donate to CHIA from anywhere in the World using details provided in the "From Australia" section.

While we will provide you with an official record of your donation, at this time we are unable to offer tax-deductible receipts outside of Australia and the USA.

Please visit us at

[www.ChildrensHopeInAction.org](http://www.ChildrensHopeInAction.org)



## Since the beginning CHIA has

Provided Health insurance for **362** children

Supported **114** Orthopedic diagnostics, **27** Orthopedic surgery

**19** Hearing assessments

Cancer treatment for **9** children

**276** Cardiac assessments

Heart surgery for **55** children

**34** Cleft lip and palate surgery, **16** Cleft-lip assessment

**8** Facial deformity surgery, **23** facial deformity assessments

**20** Colo-rectal surgery

**1064** Flu, **97** Hepatitis B, **49** Rubella and **24** chicken-pox vaccinations

Hepatitis B test for **53** children

**469** Baseline medical assessments

Helped **57** children access nutritional support

Provided **617** tins of milk

Completed community health education about "Infant Nutrition" for **1185** mothers

Managed a Residence of **30** children

Awarded **122** students for improvement

Kept **137** children attending school

Provided **33** bicycles for school students

Sponsored kindergarten for **11** toddlers

Helped **12** teenagers access vocational training

Provided glasses for **11** children

Tet gifts and celebrations for **826** children

Built **21** new houses, repaired **3** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery and **8** piglets as livelihood support

Provided **145** wheelchairs

Delivered **3,392** physical therapy sessions

Provided **52** other pieces of disability equipment

**150** Cpals training sessions (CHIA Practical and Life Skills)

**6** Aqua therapy sessions

Organized a day trip for **77** children on the day for Person with disability

Mid autumn festival for **712** children

*From July to September CHIA has*

Conducted **183** home visits

**4** cardiac assessments

**11** Baseline medical assessments

**249** Therapy sessions

**5** Orthopedic assessments

Delivered **3** wheelchairs and **1** walking frame

Delivered **1** bicycle

Sponsored kindergarten for **6** children

Maintained **89** children in Education sponsorship program

Helped **3** teenagers access vocational training

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **320** mothers and their infants

Nutrition support for **7** children

Delivered **82** gift bag in Mid autumn festival

Delivered **150** gift bag in new school year