



This toilet has never been in use



The only well in this region

There are 4 classes: 2 in the morning and the other 2 in the afternoon with a total of 130 students attending school each day. About 150 meters far from the school, there is a pump and a well beside the rice field. It has lots of water but the water may be polluted because of fertilizer and pesticide. As there is no alternative at present, the school really wants to use this kind of water resource for sanitation only because they are afraid of allergies when using that water for other purposes.

However, they cannot afford to install water pipes from the rice field to the school. At the moment, CHIA is in the process of working with the government & the school leaders to help them to install water pipes, to repair the old toilet by rebuilding septic tank, heightening the walls, extending floor, installing on a new roof, hand wash basins & paving tiles. This project will be completed for the beginning of the new school year which starts in September, 2010.

Written by Ms. Dung, Project Development Officer.

Water sanitation for school

When we went to this school, the first priority that we were thinking about was water & sanitation. This is because there is no water and sanitation system here. Teachers & students have no water to drink or clean their hands. There is a toilet but no one can use it because it has been damaged after a long time of no use since it was built in 2002.

The students & teachers have to bring water from their home to school to drink. Even when teachers want to go to the toilet, they have to go to the families of the neighbours and students need to go anywhere around the school.

THANK YOU



From right to left: Jay Nguyen and his friend Tony with their 2 scooters

Jay Nguyen left Vietnam when he was 4 years old in 1975 and lived in a refugee camp before finally settling in Australia with his family.

In May Jay returned to his birth country with his friend Tony to explore Vietnam. The two travelers choose to travel half the length of Vietnam, from Ho Chi Minh City to Hoi An on motorbikes.

Instead of cashing in their motorbike investment, Jay and Tony decided that their wheels could continue to help make a difference and generously donated the two Scooters to CHIA.

The scooters will continue their journey in and around Hoi An and support CHIA's work by allowing staff to access families in remote areas and enable our staff to visit children in hospital.

CHIA is grateful to Jay and Tony for their donation and their adventure through Vietnam will continue to make a difference to those less fortunate.

Did you know?

A **clubfoot**, or congenital talipes equinovarus (CTEV), is a congenital deformity involving one foot or both. The affected foot appears rotated internally at the ankle. TEV is classified into 2 groups: Postural TEV or Structural TEV. Without treatment, persons afflicted often appear to walk on their ankles or on the sides of their feet. It is a common birth defect, occurring in about one in every 1,000 live births. This occurs in males more often than in females by a ratio of 2:1.



**FROM EVERYONE
AT CHIA
THANK YOU !**



News from our education program

Family

Han and her older brother are now living with their 80 year-old grandmother in a mountainous district in Quang Nam province. The children have been living without parent's tender love for 4 years due to their marriage break-up. Their parents have never returned to see them. Before, Han's father married her mother. The happy living lasted about 6 years. After separating, Han's father took them and their grandmother back to Quang Nam with no valuable possessions. But not long afterwards, Han's father left the children to love another woman. Now, the grandmother who is not young and healthy enough to work as a main labor has to do every thing to provide meals for her 2 grandchildren. However, she has no land to grow rice or plant vegetable to cover the daily meals. In addition, because they have no home, they all live at a vacant house of their neighbors. They live with the support of their neighbors and local government.



Han and her older brother who have a deep passion for learning face challenges of leaving school just because they have no money to pay school fee and other related costs. Because of poor nutrition the children look pale and weak. In contrast, even though they are living in hardship their studying results are good. CHIA and the grandmother worry about the children's future and who will take care of them and where they will live.

To reduce the economic burden for the grandmother, CHIA is supporting the education sponsorship for Han and 20 kilograms of rice per month. We are also working with the local government to ask for land so that we can help to build the family a home. It is very fortunate and happy for all of us growing up by parent's love. The children like Han desire to call "mama" or "daddy" but the word "family" is like a dream to them.



Thi



Thi and her younger sister



Optimistic smile Hee

"Smiling to fate"

Thi, who is in grade 10 has to cycle 15km from her home to school everyday. Her class starts at 6.30 am every morning so she has to get up early to travel to school. Some days, Thi finishes her class at 11.30 am and bikes home to take the lunch and then back to school to join the extra classes. When being asked the reason why she didn't take the lunch near school and wait for the extra classes, she replied that: "It is quite expensive for me to pay for lunches, and I think if I eat my lunch at home, every month my mother can save the money in order to treat her illness". Thi's mother has a problem in her left breast but she can not afford to have an accurate assessment in a good hospital. Thi's father died 10 years ago, her mother has worked hard to raise her 3 daughters. They are living in grandmother's house and share with the uncle's family. Her uncle wants to take the house for himself. Sometimes he gets drunk, shouts and chases them out of the house.

Hee is another boy without the love of a mother because she died of cancer 2 years ago. No siblings, Hee lives with his dearest father who is sick often. The family only has a small house and not land to grow rice or plant vegetable, therefore, it is not enough to cover the daily meals. Hee often goes to school without breakfasts and even lunches if his father goes to work over lunch time. Hee's father really wants to work far from home to earn more money but he worries about Hee and leaving him on his own. Although his studying result are still good Hee looks weaker than the other children in his class.

Each child lives in difficult circumstances but they have one thing in common, they are always optimistic and smile to life. They have tried their best to study and hope to get a better future through education. Every one at CHIA smiles with them as they reach for their dreams.

Written by Mr. Quan, Coordinator of Education and Training



News from the health team

Vit's story



The medical team have had a very busy couple of months and are really pleased with the progress of a vast number of our children.

On of our special cases is little Vit, a two month old baby from Duy Xuyen. We first met Vit when his grandmother bought him (at 18 days old) to our free CHIA clinic. His mother was still recovering from the difficult delivery. Vit has been born with an extremely profound facial deformity, and no eyes. His parents are extremely poor and had been advised by some neighbors to bring the baby to CHIA for help.

After Vit was seen by Dr. Heather, CHIA took Vit on as a beneficiary and has formulated a plan and support framework for his future. CHIA has been able to facilitate with Operation Smile, in Ho Chi Minh City, to get Vit access to the best facial reconstructive surgeons and resources in Vietnam. We visit him weekly, monitoring his health and weight maintenance, as our goal is 6 kilos for the start of surgery. He developed some colic, as a result of poor lactose tolerance, and CHIA now supply his mother with a Soya milk based formula.

His family lives in very reduced and difficult circumstances, and had neither the finances nor the resources to access adequate treatment for Vit. Their house is very small, and regular income is difficult for them. CHIA will, in the future, assist the family with the necessary specialized schooling for Vit, as he will need to attend a special school for the blind.

Community health education

To our great delight CHIA's first ever community health education talk was a huge success. Six CHIA staff members worked together to put on a power point demonstration highlighting the benefits of a Vietnamese diet for babies beginning to eat; a talk and discussion; and a wonderful cooking demonstration by the community health workers in Duy Xuyen district.



Our talk was on Infant Nutrition and covered many of the aspects of essential information for new parents. The talk was attended by many members of the community, who enjoyed the bowl of rice porridge, meat and vegetables that was handed out after the cooking demonstration.



One of the most heartening aspects of the talk, was the collaboration between CHIA and the community health workers in district. The community nurses put on a very helpful demonstration of the cooking discussed in the talk, highlighting how simple and easy good infant nutrition actually is.



The event was very well attended and so successful that CHIA has made a commitment to perform community education talks in different districts once a month.

CHIA was very grateful for the support and interest from People's Committee, and look forward to many more successful demonstrations of community education.





News from the therapy team

CHIA Practical and Life Skills

Conductive Education (CE) is completely new in Vietnam, and this first project is being run by Stephanie, an English volunteer who is a qualified conductor, and two CHIA staff. People with motor disorders can most benefit from CE as it does not work primarily with movement, but with learning. It works on teaching the individual how to access their movements and how to apply these into everyday life, and this is why we have called our program CHIA Practical and Life Skills (CPALS).

Before running any classes, we needed to have some wooden equipment made for the children. We have been fortunate in finding a skilled carpenter to work with, and he has produced some good quality equipment. We also have found the biggest challenges in helping families to understand the importance of intervention for their child, and also their ability to bring their children to



Lying program



Mobility program

There are many reasons for them not attending, for example, they live too far from CHIA, are too busy to earn a living, or perhaps they think nothing can be done to improve their child's situation. No matter what the reason, if the parents eventually find a way to attend, it is usually difficult for them to understand Conductive Education right away.

The groups we have formed so far are according to age; two children, aged sixteen months and three years old, attend twice a week for an hour with a parent or grandparent, and five children aged nine years to thirteen years attend two four-hour sessions a week. These children, Dieu, Thuong, Ngoc, and Minh, were all attending the Special Education class CPALS began, and they continue to enjoy their time learning together in class. Sessions start with a lying program, followed by sitting, standing and mobility activities. We are also working on developing the children's fine manipulation skills, and are doing lessons such as Math and writing. We use games and songs to motivate the children and because they are interested in these activities, they hard and are eager to join in with their friends.

Written by Nhu Thuy, CPALS Operation Support

A Little Hy



A nearly old year little boy Hy was born with a deformity in his feet (club feet). CHIA physiotherapist immediately intervened in this case as we know early intervention can significantly help a child in their later life.

Hy's family is in difficult condition. His parents are so young that they don't have much knowledge about their child's condition. No one in his family can earn a living as his mother is unemployed, his father who is passionate about carpenter suffered a hand injury while in his carpentry course. He has to stop to learn for several months. Hy's dearest grandmother has just passed away because of her malignant goiter disease after a long time treatment at Hue Central Hospital.

CHIA is there to help such disadvantaged children like Hy. We sent him to Da Nang Orthopedic Rehabilitation Hospital to make plasters and feet surgery. We also support him with his hospital fee as well as food while he was admitted in the hospital.





Power-cut

"Cup Dien" – Electricity Cut is the most used words in Vietnam this summer and Quang Nam Province is not an exception. We use these words frequently in Hoi An due to the fact that half of our working time here is without electricity since early May this year. While the government is investing more in nuclear power we still rely mainly on Hydroelectric which mostly depends on the water volume in the reservoir of the hydroelectric plants. The lack of rain this year and increasing demand for power in the country are told to be the reasons for the current electricity situation. Services delivery, the main part of our operation, is not much affected by the lack of power supply and the staffs in this part are saying that "we can work without electricity; our children don't need electricity". These staff work directly with the community. So having electricity is better but electricity cut doesn't make a difference to the services they are delivering.

We still rely on power for the operations of CHIA and office workers struggled for the first few days. "Ooops, we rely on our computers more than we could have thought" one staff said. Then with a few adjustments such as having meetings when we have no power or using pens and paper instead of computer, we can say now we are adapting to the changeable electricity pattern.

Hopefully, the electricity supply will be better next year, but even if electricity cut happens again, we will be even more adapted and flexible.



Drainage lead to lack of Electric supply



Dream home

Thim's family lives near My Son Holy land, one of the UNESCO world cultural heritage sites. He is very intelligent and is an outstanding pupil at school, a good child in his family, and an exemplary brother of his three younger siblings. At home, he helps his mother to do a lot of household chores, and also helps to look after his three younger siblings.

Thim's family has many difficulties. His father, who is the main income earner for the family, was recently told that he is in the severe terminal stages of liver cancer. The economic burdens of the family weighs heavily on the mother's shoulders and her only way of earning an income is by farming their half hectare of rice paddy. In order to help her husband to receive his treatment, she has to leave her small 3-year-old child alone at home to cycle around the village to collect rubbish which she can sell, while Thim is attending school. The mother has to spend a lot of time looking after her husband in hospital, so Thim and his siblings have to take care for themselves. The children are able to eat each day, thanks to some small help provided by the relatives and neighbours, who are also very poor.

Thim's family live in a small bamboo and palm leaf hut, with nothing of value inside, and a piggery beside his parent's bed. This flimsy structure is in a disaster prone area. In 2007 and 2009, severe typhoons hit the central provinces of Viet Nam, and left Thim's hut on a slant, likely to collapse at any time. Replacing even such a simple dwelling was beyond the financial ability of Thim's family, and their relatives are all just as poor.

In 2009, after the second severe typhoon and severe flood within 2 years, some areas of Quang Nam province suffered 2.5m flood waters (the worst in over 40 years). Just like many other countries, Viet Nam is suffering from severe natural disasters and the effects of climate change. CHIA was acutely aware of these additional difficulties being inflicted on so many families who are really struggling, even without severe natural disasters. We have now begun helping families like Thim's, to build storm-resistant and flood-proof houses with water and electricity installed and connected, of similar standards to their neighbours' houses. Thim's father is really happy and desire to see the new house as having this house is never in his dream.





Since the beginning CHIA has facilitated.....

Kept **72** kids attending school
 Awarded **40** students for improvement
 Provided **12** bicycles for school students
 Helped **7** teenagers access vocational training
 Built **1** house and repaired **2** houses
 Sponsored kindergarten for **7** toddlers
 Provided glasses for **11** kids
 Delivered **2,332** physical therapy sessions
 Provided **23** Wheelchairs
 Provided **39** other pieces of disability equipment
 Tet gifts & celebrations for **553** kids
 Mid Autumn gifts &

19 Cleft lip and palate surgeries
32 Heart surgeries
16 Colo-rectal surgeries
559 Flu vaccinations
 Cancer treatment for **4** children
246 Cardiac assessments
255 Baseline medical assessments
12 Hearing assessments
49 Vision assessments
80 Orthopedic diagnostics
11 Orthopedic surgeries
 Helped **22** kids access nutritional support
 Provided **440** tins of milk powder
 Health insurance for **97** children

From March to June CHIA has

Conduct **140** home visits
 Facilitated **83** kids to be seen by international medical specialists
 Helped **8** kids have heart surgery
 Treatment for **4** children waiting for major cardiac surgery
 Cancer treatment for **3** kids
 Hearing assessments for **7** children
2 Cleft lip & palate surgeries
35 Baseline medical assessments
 Post-surgical assessments for **6** children
 Medications for **30** kids
 Hepatitis B vaccinations for **7** kids
 Milk powder & nutritional support for **5** toddlers
 Community health education about "Infant Nutrition" for **60** mothers
 Built **1** house
6 Orthopaedic assessments
1 Orthopaedic surgery
115 Therapy sessions
9 Wheelchairs and other pieces of disability equipments
 Sponsored kindergarten for **3** kids
18 Sessions of CPALS (CHIA Practical and Life Skills)
 Organised a day trip for **30** kids on the Vietnamese Day for PWD
 Maintained **72** children in sponsored education

Robyn will be in OZ from October through January, if you think you can help CHIA by setting up a group of potential supporters for Robyn to speak to, please email Robyn as soon as possible to see if the timing and the location can fit with her itinerary.

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: Corrimal, NSW, Australia
 Account name: Children's Hope In Action
 BSB: 633 000
 Account number: 1275 43924
 BPay biller code: 342 949
 Swift/IBAN code: BENDAU3B

Post a cheque / money order to:

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

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

Post a cheque to:

Global Development Group USA
 1314 Longwood Oaks Boulevard
 Lakeland, Florida 33811
 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. Alternatively you can donate through PayPal.

Donate through PayPal:

www.paypal.com

Please visit us at
www.ChildrensHopeInAction.org