



THE ROAD A HEAD

Hong, a 19 year old girl, has 4 brothers and sisters in our program at CHIA. The first time we met her, we were really impressed by the hands of a person who had been working really hard.

Her mother died 4 years ago, within 2 days of giving birth to twin boys. Hong had no choice but to become a mother that day. She has been looking after her youngest brothers and 2 other sisters since they were really little. Her father is a mason who works around Hoi An and when the rainy season comes, he does not have much work to do. When Hong was in 10th grade, she gave her up her dream of becoming a business woman. In order to have enough money to educate her siblings, she knew she had to earn a living now.

She is a mother now as she has to work every day and look after the children because her father is not really good at looking after the babies. "Whatever I can do for all my brothers and sisters to make them have a better life, I would do it for them" said Hong.

Hong was often on our mind because she is such a young girl, doing such an important job in raising her siblings. We do not know where she gets the energy to do all these things. It is a hard job that not many people could do, but she is doing it! And we know that she could make her family better with her love.

We asked her what she really wants to do now and what does she think about her future. All she said is how can she educate her siblings until they are mature enough to live their own lives ...but when we asked her " what about your own life? " She had no answer!

One of the choices for Hong is to join Streets International. It is an NGO that specializes in training for poor and disadvantaged children to learn professional skills of cooking and restaurant management in the service department. This school provides young people with school fees, all others living costs, and a better job after finishing the 18 month-training course. CHIA is helping her to join this program. Hoi An is a good place to get these kinds of jobs. This opportunity will allow her to work in her home town and continue to contribute to looking after her siblings.

"Can I apply to this school? I want to become a Manager in the future?" said Hong. Great, this is something we really wanted to hear and we knew she could make it come true. The road ahead is never closed for a person like her, a person full of dreams and hopes.

From the bottom of her heart, her love for her family is so immense. And we know that what she has sacrificed for her family will be worth it because of the success of her brothers and sisters. She is a real Mother with a big heart!



WANTED

Second hand cell phones using GSM technology for the purpose of maintaining communications between CHIA and inpatient children and their families.



News from our education program

Looking at these pictures, do you see how our children are happy to have such generous donors? The children and even their parents have not ever seen a foreigner but when they heard that some foreigners were sponsoring their education, they really wanted to meet and thank them. Furthermore, to understand more about the children's circumstances, there were some donors that visited Hoi An and took the chance to visit the children that they had sponsored.

Juliana is an Australian woman who is sponsoring the education for 2 children through CHIA. In Mar, 2010 Mr. Trevor – her uncle came to visit Hoi An and the children. With small gifts and a letter from Juliana, the kids were really excited and grateful to Juliana Brennan.

Anh is a cute boy who is living with his mother and his older brother. An Australian couple, Sandra and Gary, support him, 4 other students and 3 kids at kindergarten. They came to Hoi An several times and visited their beneficiaries.

Mr. Philip from Singapore Rotary Club also visited the children when they received their donations. Phuong is one of 8 children that the club sponsors. He has no father; his mother has a mental health condition. Phuong has to prepare his meal by himself in the kitchen that you see on the picture. Though living in a poor condition, his school results are always good.

By visiting the children the donors could see that their money is used really well. CHIA and its beneficiaries are sincerely grateful to all the donors who are giving opportunities to poor children through our organization. Your wonderful support can help these poor children to complete school and to have a brighter future.



Helping hand



Ha is an 11 year old girl who has suffered a lot. After Ha's younger brother was born in 2004, their father left the family home. Ha's older brother had to leave school when their mother became ill to take responsibility of caring for their mother and earning an income, to assist the grandmother in supporting the family. Unfortunately, Ha's mother died 3 months ago. Ha is now in grade 6 and her younger brother is in grade 1. With the very low incomes from the her younger brother and their frail grandmother's work, it is really hard for them to cover their daily meals and their school expenses.

Ton grows up in a poor family consisting of his parents, his older sister and his younger sister. However, they are not lucky at all because his father has mental health problems and his mother had a stroke that left her paralysed. Ton's younger sister has one leg that she is not able to use completely, due to a birth defect. After the mother had the stroke and could not work anymore, the family's economic situation became very bad. As a result, Ton and his older sister had to leave school last year. His older sister was sent to a pagoda in the coastal province of Nha Trang (500 kms away) to continue her education because the family could not pay for it. Ton stays at home to take care of his mom and his younger sister when his father works far away from home. Sympathizing with the family, the local government supported a concrete house so that they could reduce their burden. CHIA is currently looking for an education sponsorship for this boy so that he can complete his schooling.

These two cases and many other poor children are waiting for your hands. Just for USD160, you will help them to have a brighter future through CHIA's education sponsorship program. Working together we can build a better life – a better world.

Written by Mr. Quan, Coordinator of Education & Training Sponsorship Program



Medical - Proudly sponsored by NOKIA

Flu vaccination

Stepping into the hall of the hospital, I saw there were many children with their parents who came there for flu vaccination very early. A happy feeling occurred in my mind when I saw the smiles and innocent eyes from our patients and their families. At 7.30 am, the event started and the atmosphere was really nice. All of us who took part in this event realized the meaning of what we were doing so everyone showed their happiness to join the program. From CHIA staffs, doctors to cleaners in the hospital, they all have shown their willingness to help the parents and their children. Because they know that each vaccination not only prevents children against the attack of viruses in winter. This significantly reduces the number of children that get sick. And having a sick child is a big difficulty for these people who already suffer so many difficulties in their daily lives .



Medical News



There are many children who were born to have everything from health to wealth and those born with nothing. I am talking about a story of a baby girl named Trang Ha. Ha's parents married when they were both very young. The mother has no job while the father is an assistant for a tourist boat in Hoi An. They live with a grandmother in a small cottage with simple furniture inside.

A few months after birth, Ha often had some symptoms of bad health. While Ha was receiving treatment in Danang hospital, her parents were informed their lovely baby suffered from Leukaemia. They couldn't believe what they heard, they had a strange reaction, and left the hospital without permission. However, after a few days Ha's health got worst, they had to bring her back to Danang hospital. CHIA knew this case in the beginning of 2010 and contacted a hospital specializing in cancer treatment. We have seriously considered if we should help this case because we all know that cancer is difficult to cure and it takes up to about 150 million dong (7,500US\$). However, we were told by a doctor of Saigon Haematology hospital that there was a high chance for her condition to be treated. Thus, Ha was transferred to this hospital and had Chemo therapy. During the time, Ha also had other difficulties with eating and breathing. Recently, the doctor from Haematology hospital informed us that Ha could not get along well with this treatment. What bad new it is! This little girl spent most of her life in hospital since birth. Ha is back home now and we hope she will enjoy the rest of her life with her family.

The smiles on the faces of families showed that they came there not just because their child could get a free flu vaccination but because they could feel the love and warmth from the community in general and CHIA in particular. And we realized that by a small action, you can bring big warmth in a bitterly cold winter to people around you.

Although there were many families who live in remote areas, they tried to bring their children to the hospital. Like the family of the boy "Vu" from Nam Giang district which took 2 hours to get to Hoi An, they tried to bring their child to the hospital in the cold and the rain of the winter. Because there is no vaccination available in the hospital in Nam Giang and they also couldn't afford to pay for a flu vaccination on their own. Or the father of the twins "Hung & Hoa", he took his two boys to the hospital punctually in spite of his busy job. "My boys have not gotten the flu since they had the vaccination and I want to express my thanks because I know you all love my twins", he said.

Written by Ms. Thu Thao, Medical team.



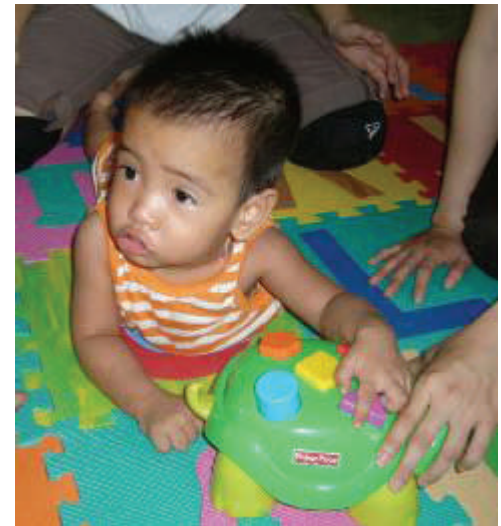
Making progress

Kin has athetoid cerebral palsy, which means his muscle tone fluctuates and causes involuntary movements. This makes it difficult for Kin to, for example, hold himself in an upright position, target a specific object, or control the muscles needed for speech. Kin has been attending CPALS sessions twice a week with his grandmother, since the beginning of May 2010, and has made some fantastic progress!

Kin has learnt to independently keep himself propped up on one forearm whilst playing with a toy with the other hand, and to indicate which toy he would like by eye-pointing. He particularly enjoys reading books, and in the last few weeks, Kin has learnt how to sit at the plinth and hold on with one hand, whilst reaching out to turn the page of a book with his other hand; he can also keep his head up for a few seconds whilst doing so!

Kin's tolerance of standing has greatly improved, as has his ability to weight-bear, and he tries very hard to lift up his head. One of his favorite activities is to stand with a chair and to pull down small cars or frogs that are hanging on threads in front of him. He is very motivated by this, and it is a great activity to encourage him to weight-bear, support himself with one hand whilst manipulating with the other, to develop head and trunk control, balance, as well as fine manipulation skills.

Kin has learnt to maintain his grasp of the rung of a small ladder-back chair when walking, and with a little support for his trunk, he is now able to release either knee by himself, to step and to place his foot on the floor. Kin really enjoys walking now, especially when he is moving to an activity that he is excited about. Great work Kin!



A day out

Vietnam experienced a lot of wars to fight for its independence. Many people died in the wars and many people who did survive have been affected by poisonous chemicals which were used during the war. For some though, their bad luck continues, as their children are born with disabilities which is believed to be a result of being affected by those chemicals. The difficulty of those children with disability is unimaginable. This makes the family struggle more, especially with poor families because they cannot afford to get them good treatment. All those children tried to overcome their pain and the challenge to socialize with friends in the community. CHIA organized a day for children with disabilities so that they had a chance to see and had a nice chat with each other. They also supported their difficulty when they were joining in some games and shared the happiness when they won the games. This also meant they can overcome their own obstacles to stand up in their life. One boy tried his best to write a sentence "Please give me a chance to be a healthy boy". Everyone in the place choked up and looked at each other without words. Hopefully, CHIA can do many more activities so the children can enjoy many other nice things in life.





Hopes and Dreams



Dung's family live in Duy Nghia commune, one of the poorest regions, far across the river from Hoi An old town. Their house is so far away from any high school, that it would have been impossible for him to attend. Two years ago, Dung and his family were very happy when Dung was offered the opportunity to live at Hoi An Children's Home, so he could resume his education, attending a high school in Hoi An.

This clever boy is now in grade 12 and has a really good plan for the future. He told us " when I was a young boy, I saw my father and grandpa working in Quang Nam Army Unit as an officer which impressed me and I want to follow my family's tradition." Since that day, he often thinks about that dream. He often goes to the Army unit near his family and sees the soldiers maneuvering. Everyone has a dream, and Dung is so proud of his dream, of his family, and of the home.

It is really hard for poor families such as Dung's to support their children for education. Even though at the moment, his parents have to work really hard to support his sisters. This can be very hard for any poor family. Although Dung's family is short of money, it is not short of hopes and dreams.

Dung considers the home as the second sweet home where he can continue his studies, pursue his dream of being an exemplary soldier, and have fun with lots of friends who have the same situation, who can easily understand each other. Sometimes he misses his family so much but has no time to go home to visit his parents, he does not want to miss any lessons at school and extra class lessons and his schedules.

Duy Hoa is a poor mountainous commune of Duy Xuyen district. Residents here earn their living mainly by farming or bricklaying. The number of temporary houses in this area is quite high. Thanks to the support of a representative of Duy Hoa commune, CHIA staff came to visit one of the poorest families of the commune- Mr. Dung's family.

There are 6 other members in Mr. Dung's family including his wife and 5 daughters. They suffer from many difficulties. Although the oldest daughter is only 16 years old, she had to give up her studies because of difficulties in their lives. She wants to contribute her little effort to help her parents in earning some money so that her younger sisters have the opportunity to attend school like other children of the same age.

When we met Mr. Dung's family, their house was made from temporary materials such as bamboo and plastic. It was narrow and dilapidated. Their house was severely damaged by the typhoon in 2009. Whenever the weather turned bad, they feared for their safety, worried that the house would collapse around them. Whenever it rained, the house would become full of water because of the leaks in the roof and the walls. The domestic water system of the family was primitive and they had no toilet.

Children's Hope In Action (CHIA) has funded the building of a new house. Thanks to CHIA's supporters like you, they now have a solid house. The house with water system, electricity & toilet will be warm in the winter & cool in the summer. From now, his family has a stable place to live. His children have a place to study. They will have a good night's sleep despite the storm outside. Mr. Dung sometimes runs from the front of the house to the back of the house just to see or to touch the bricks and the door... He is very happy with a smile of contentment because the desire of his lifetime has become true.

Dream house



Written by Mr. Tran Duy, Project Assistant, IT & Housing



Christmas Eve

As a one year volunteer at CHIA, I knew that this year would be special and full of adventures, but sometimes I was worried if I would get homesick at Christmas-my favourite family holiday.

I did not have my family to celebrate Christmas, so I was very keen on celebrating Christmas with the kids of the Hoi An Children's Home, where I volunteer. A few weeks before Christmas I started to do Christmas handicraft work with the kids so they could get in the spirit of the holiday. We had a lot of fun together and I found it very touching to see how many Christmas cards the children made for their families; that showed me how much these kids need their family, so I think it is a good thing that a close contact between family and child is encouraged in the Home. On Christmas Eve a local student association organized a big party for the kids and I was very happy to help them. We decorated the Home a lot; we even had a Christmas tree! In the evening around 30 students came to celebrate with the kids. Everyone was wearing Christmas caps and we all were very excited and felt like a big family. We had a very cheerful party with a lot of games, Christmas music, candies and a gift for every child. For the children and for me this night really was a happy night to remember. Sure, this Christmas was different, but it was great as well.

Here's to family in Vietnam (or wherever you may find them) !



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: 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
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
to info@ChildrensHopeInAction.org



Since the beginning CHIA has

*From October to December
CHIA has*

Health insurance for **282** kids

102 Orthopedic diagnostics

19 Hearing assessments

21 Orthopedic surgeries

Cancer treatment for **9** kids

262 Cardiac assessments

Heart surgeries for **43** kids

24 Cleft lip and palate surgeries

19 Colo-rectal surgeries

881 Flu vaccinations

315 Baseline medical assessments

Helped **22** kids access nutritional support

Provided **450** tins of milk

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **240** mothers

Maintained **115** children Education sponsorship program

Mid autumn festival for **507** kids

Managed a residence of **30** kids

Awarded **42** students for improvement

Kept **146** children attending school

Provided **15** bicycles for school students

Sponsored kindergarten for **7** toddlers

Helped **9** teenagers access vocational training

Provided glasses for **11** kids

Tet gifts and celebrations for **553** kids

Built **12** new houses, repaired **2** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery as livelihood support

Provided **124** wheelchairs

Delivered **2,543** physical therapy sessions

Provided **48** other pieces of disability equipment

69 Cpals training sessions

Organized a day trip for **55** kids on the day for Person with disability

Conducted **203** home visits

Facilitated **14** kids to be seen by international medical specialists

Helped **6** kids have heart surgery

Treatment for **3** children waiting for major cardiac surgery

8 Cleft lip & palate surgeries

51 Baseline medical assessments

242 flu vaccinations

Community health education about "Infant Nutrition" for **90** mothers

Built **5** house, repaired **1** house and **1** piggery as livelihood support

9 Orthopedic assessments

5 Orthopedic surgery

122 Therapy sessions

14 Wheelchairs and other pieces of disability equipments

Sponsored kindergarten for **3** kids

35 Sessions of CPALS (CHIA Practical and Life Skills)

Organized a day trip for **25** kids on the World Day for PWD

Provided bicycles to **3** children



Thanks to the continuing support from volunteers, health and disability professionals, and our financial supporters, we should all feel proud that we were all part of delivering in excess of 2,500 significant services to children in need in 2010 (plus 340 medical assessments and 509 home visits).

Particular thanks are due to NOKIA, our major funder for the 3 years 2009-2011. Even this support would not have produced such a successful outcome without the professional and compassionate implementation carried out by CHIA's dedicated staff.

The worldwide economic crisis is having its effect, and as I write this welcome to the New Year, devastating floods have hit our major supporter base in South East Queensland, Australia, with disastrous consequences. This year will be quite a financial challenge as we attempt to maintain our level and quality of service while coming up with increasingly creative ways to secure sufficient funding under these trying conditions. It will also remain a priority to improve our communications with existing supporters, our life-blood. Do **you** know of any philanthropic corporate or individuals, to whom you could introduce CHIA ?

It has been sad to experience, during 2010, the deaths of a number of our children. Some of these children would have had a significantly better prognosis if their condition had been detected earlier, making us even more aware of the need for early detection and early treatment as a priority. Sadly, for others, even international standards of treatment, had they been available, would not have improved the child's situation. We also welcomed the births of children to two CHIA staff members, boosting the CHIA Family, and the wedding of our Accountant, Ms.Chau.

We look forward to an even more successful year in 2011, through the growth facilitated by adversity.

Thank you

Nokia

Ripple Massage

GDG

*Paradise Lakes Care Centre
(Sandra & Gary Kuppe)*

Wheels for Humanity (UCP)

Unilever Viet Nam

The Intrepid Foundation

Montgomerie Links

Spring Valley Rotary

*Blue Dragon Children's
Foundation*

*Patiente Hilfe Vietnam
(Dirk & Leo)*