

CHRISTMAS TIME



Christmas time at the Children's Home! Although Christmas is not a typical Vietnamese festival, the children were looking forward to it and had great fun decorating the Christmas tree and creating cards. But for the children this also means that they have to study even harder than before, because December is exam time, too.

In order to give a little pleasure to them in this busy time, the HACH staff and some German volunteers organised a Christmas party for them. On the 26th of December Santa Clause and his German helpers finally found the way to the Children's Home, bringing a gift for every child. After listening to some Christmas songs, performed by the German volunteers, Santa Clause shared out the presents. With happy faces they opened their parcels and found a Christmas card with personal wishes for every single child, some sweets and an invitation for a trip together to the Hoi An 3D cinema. It was the first activity together with the children in the New Year and so the film title "year 2012" was quite suitable.

After some photos and another song, Santa Clause had to leave, but the party continued. With loud Christmas music, a lot of sweets and some funny games, the children had a very nice Christmas celebration.



Facing with the flood is always a hard and memorable time for everyone, and our children and staffs at Hoi An Children's Home (HACH) feel the same too. This year the weather was so strange as the autumn and then winter was coming, but it was still very hot and with a bit raining. We all thought that we would be very lucky to not welcome the flood for this year. By the way, I want to share some local ideas from Vietnamese, in our mind if until 23rd of Oct in Lunar calendar, the flood does not come, then we can assume that there will not be any floods anymore.

Flooding!!!

However, 2 days before the 23rd of Oct, it was raining for couples of day and then we were informed that we may have a flood. We were in rush to prepare everything for the children in case flood came. In the morning, the children went to school and we, staffs went to work as usually. It was raining heavily at that time, and at lunch time the water reached to the front gate of HACH. Then the water came up very quickly, all children had to stay at the Home at that time for their secure. After one night, can you imagine that the flood could up over one meter height? All activities had to hold in the upstairs of the Home such as: cooking, washing, sleeping, etc. It was great that during flood time we can see children's solidarity, friendship and helping each other. Because of the high flood, so the cook could not come at that time, and we had another female staff was there to guide the children for cooking, and they did really well. Although there were many difficulties during flood: no power, have to save fresh water, save food..., it was absolutely ridiculous time for all children.

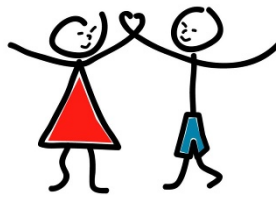
After 2 days, the flood subsided, and it left a big job for all children and staff to do. We had to face with the smell, rubbish and mud. But we cleaned everything well in the end. We all hope that the flood will not come to Hoi An, to the Home anymore in the future. So flood, please keep away from us!!



A simple lunch during flood



The flood rose to half of the door



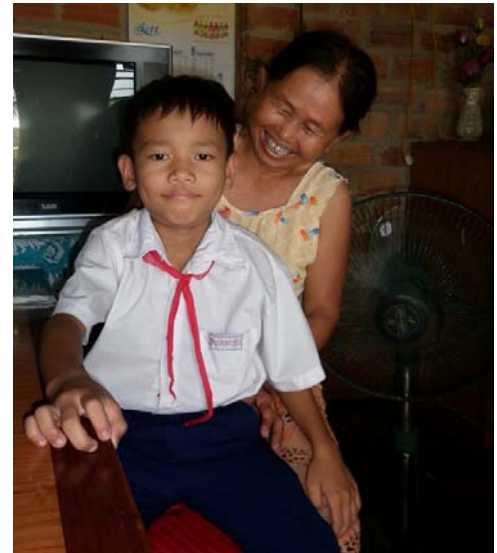
Response to World AIDS Day 2011

Every year thousands of people are infected with or die of **HIV/AIDS**. In Viet Nam, the HIV epidemic is concentrated in high risk populations, predominantly with people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, and female sex workers. As of December 2011, **Viet Nam** has 274,500 people who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Among them, 98,400 people have AIDS and 51,200 people died due to AIDS. 57.8% of HIV/AIDS-infected adolescences and **42% of children** who live in families with HIV/AIDS infected people must earn a living by themselves, or work to help their families. 49.5% of **HIV/AIDS-infected children** are living in poor households and 2.1% in extremely poor families. Viet Nam has approximately 4,405 HIV/AIDS-infected children. Of the total, 2,553 are being treated with ARVs medicines. However, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), this is just an estimated number.

The real number of children infected with HIV may be even much higher, about 16,000 children. On the 2011 World AIDS Day, a campaign sponsored by The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) focused on "Getting to Zero New HIV Infections". This is part of the larger Getting to Zero campaign that will run between now and 2015. It calls upon leaders, communities, parents, people living with HIV and young people to look forward and work towards a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Particularly in Quang Nam province, a report from the provincial health department found there are 687 people affected by HIV/AIDS. Among them, 320 people have AIDS and 276 people died of AIDS. Since early 2011, CHIA has started working with the children who are affected by HIV/AIDS in Quang Nam. So far, we have begun to sponsor the first 4 children in need. These children are from **poor families** and they are orphans. The boy Nhat (pictured above) is in grade 4. His mother died of AIDS in 2009 and his father died in 2010. Now, he is well with his grandparents and being treated with **ARV medicines**. He does not look like a sick person at all.

Not lucky as Nhat, Ha and Duong are sisters and their mother also died of this disease about 4 months ago. Their mother was a sex worker, and their father is unknown. Ha is 5 years old and her sister is 14 months old. They live with their grandmother and uncle's family which has 3 children. However, the family is so poor that they cannot provide enough nutrition for Ha and Duong while they are sick and need a really good diet. Sometimes they forget to give the children their medicine, which needs to be taken punctually. Without proper hygiene, the other family members are also at risk of infection. Ha is at the **age of school** but the family cannot afford the costs. We highly appreciate **the help** that will allow us to continue supporting these children. They all have the right to go to school like all other children.



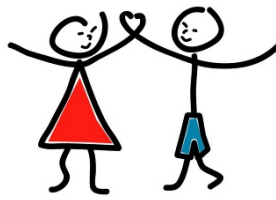
Innocent and lovely Ha and Duong

Anyhow, I Just Study



This is the saying of a girl who is in grade 12. Her family is so poor, and she has two younger brothers who are just in grade 1 and kindergarten. Her father is not a part of her family and she is the oldest child; therefore, she must do the household chores, take care of her siblings, and do the farming work with her mother. Even so, her studying performance is really good. When she was asked about her plan after high school graduation, she said that she would go to work to earn money. I continued with another question, "Have you ever thought about joining some training at vocational training school or college?". After silence for a while she replied, "*My family is so poor, I don't think I can have any chance to do that. I just study for grade 12.*"

The girl's fate is not just like that. I believe she will be successful because she has power and a dream. It will be much easier if she can receive a secondary and a tertiary sponsorship. **Written by Mr. Quan, Education & Training Sponsorship**



Medical News



My in her school uniform and her little baby



Children always need to grow up in a good and safe environment to ensure a stable and bright future. However, some children have to experience a very hard childhood or terrible events. My is a typical case.

My was born in a poor but happy house in the countryside with 3 sisters. My's parents worked very hard to bring up the **4 children** and manage all living costs as well. Yet despite their best efforts, her 3 sisters had to leave school very early to work and reduce the financial burden for their parents. My's mother then decided to work far away to earn more money for the family. This led to a very **terrible event** which is more than flesh and blood can bear. My was **sexually abused** by 2 "granddads" and gave birth to a baby girl at the **age of 14**. The reason we put the word granddad into quotes is that the 2 men who abused My live very close to My's house and My often called them granddad as they were friends of her parents. The 2 men **seduced** My and **took turns** abusing her for a year. She couldn't tell anyone in her family about it because these 2 men threatened to kill My if she shared the secret with anyone. My was too young to understand the result of sexual abuse and too scared to call for help. Therefore, it was too late for her family to save her when they discovered My was 5 months pregnant. My had to **give birth** to her baby, Nu, in a far away hospital. Her grandmother now brings up the baby, while her parents run a bicycle repair shop. The family does not receive support from the 2 men even though they sued for damage.

CHIA is now involved with My, who has returned to school at **grade 9**, and her baby. They are really poor and need our help so we have started to **provide milk** for the baby and are also looking for an **education sponsorship donor** for My. We hope that we will soon receive support from you, our kind donors. This will help My, her baby, and her family to **overcome** their hard and unlucky life.

Thao is the second child of a poor couple in community. At the age of 2, Thao should have **crawled and walked** by herself but she couldn't as she was **too weak** to do it. Thao was diagnosed as being **malnourished**, because she hasn't got enough vitamins and nutrients to develop well. Thao's mother has to stay at home to take care of Thao and her younger brother, so the **family of 5** people depend mainly on the work of her father who is a hired driver. Therefore, their lives are difficult and tough.

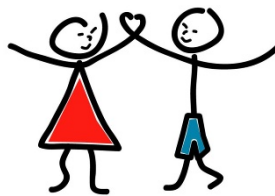
When visiting this family, we could see they live in a very **bad environment**. The house is very humid, dark and full of smell from children's urine. And her family couldn't pay for the rent which is a few dollars a month. So we can understand that why Thao is malnourished. As a priority case, our medical team immediately sorted out a **special menu** and **support money** for Thao to help improve her weight. We also referred her to our therapy team to practice **moving exercise**, as her muscles are very weak.

It has been 2 months since we first met Thao. She **has gained** 1 more kilogram and can now **hold** a bar and **walk** by herself. The family as well as CHIA are very **happy** as Thao is improving now. We hope that Thao will soon be completely well and can move normally like other healthy children.



A light of hope





Thu at his working place



Thu is an **unlucky boy**, born with a disease called Osteogenesis Imperfect (commonly known as "brittle bone" disease). He spent his childhood in very difficult situations. He **left school** at grade 3 because his family was poor and his legs **often broke**, which made it difficult to go to school. CHIA met him when he **sold lottery tickets** in the street to earn money. CHIA provided him with **therapy services** and supported **bone healing operations**. CHIA also worked with a vocational training school to **train** him about computer application software. However, the continuous problem was to find **suitable employment** for him. We had tried to contact with the places that Thu can **apply** but the answer we received is "I will contact with you soon".

Fortune began to smile on Thu when we talked to Mr. Vu – the owner of a printing and advertising company.

"Don't just stand and look at them. **Let's talk and work** with them to feel that they are our human beings, just like everyone else", said he. We had a very good impression about Mr. Vu from our first time meeting him. Despite being a manager of one of the outstanding printing and advertising companies in Hoi An the way of his talking is very simple and friendly.

Disability News



When Thu was 15

"I do not think I am working as charity, it is quite simple to understand that Thu is working for my company and I of course pay him". With a kind heart, Mr. Vu has helped to change beliefs and open the coming path for people with disabilities and community workers like CHIA as well.

There are so many disadvantaged situations needing our help. The community worker associations, including NGOs such as CHIA, **highly appreciate** people like Mr. Vu being a **bridge to help** the people with disability. Reaching out to the community now gives them a **leg up in life**.

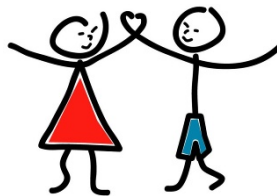
As a physiotherapist of CHIA, I really want to join with others and contribute a small part of my effort to help people with disabilities (PWDs). Hopefully, all PWDs will receive care as much as possible.

Wishing to actually visit some places to explore, get information from the model, and draw the lessons for myself, I decided to visit a health center in Da Nang. That's right, people always say that if we go to somewhere, we will learn a lot of new things from life. I discovered a method of operation at the center that was very professional. The service seems to be taken to PWDs. In our opinion, because of their geographic location and small scope of activities, this health center can provide and manage services more easily than us. In fact, our recent challenge is to share benefits across the large geographic width of Quang Nam province. This reason made me think very much - what should I do to have a model to adapt to areas where we will operate? That big question is posed, how do we develop a suitable model to provide the most effective and sustainable service to remote areas.

Experience



Written by Ms. Phuong, Physiotherapy



A Snapshot of Tet Gifts Delivery in Community



CHIA was lucky to be visited by Margaret, Natalie, Jerry, Raffi, and twins Solomon and Dante. This lovely family was introduced to CHIA by our long-time Canadian friend Janet Newbury. After the family visited CHIA, they had a family discussion to agree on how much they would donate to support CHIA's work in the community. During that discussion, seven-year old Raffi took \$10 out of his own savings, that I'm sure he must have already earmarked for some special Xmas treat for himself, and insisted on donating that \$10 to CHIA. Raffi is very likely the youngest ever donor to CHIA.



Raffi and his family

When I asked Raffi if it would be okay for us to write a short story about his donation, he specifically asked me to include in the story, the many injuries he has sustained on his travels, each of which he chronicled for me. I wonder if he was saying, in his own way, that each time he hurts himself, it really hurts, but he knows that mum or dad or Grandma Margaret is always there to make it feel better. And he wants to do his bit to help all of those other children whose parents don't always have what is needed to make their kids feel better. Congratulations to Raffi. And congratulations to Margaret, Natalie and Jerry for raising such an aware young man.

A Special

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

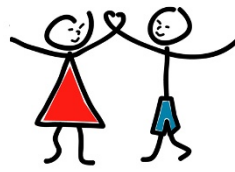
From Anywhere in the World

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

Please visit us at
www.ChildrensHopeInAction.org



Since the beginning CHIA has

Health insurance for **361** children

110 Orthopedic diagnostics

19 Hearing assessments

27 Orthopedic surgeries

Cancer treatment for **9** children

262 Cardiac assessments

Heart surgeries for **54** children

34 Cleft lip and palate surgeries

8 Facial deformity surgeries

23 facial deformity assessments

20 Colo-rectal surgeries

1064 Flu, **83** Hepatitis B, **48** Rubella and **24** chicken-pox vaccinations

422 Baseline medical assessments

Helped **50** children access nutritional support

Provided **582** tins of milk

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **390** mothers

Hepatitis B test for **50** children

16 cleft-lip assessment

Awarded **122** students for improvement

Kept **134** children attending school

Provided **30** bicycles for school students

Sponsored kindergarten for **5** toddlers

Helped **9** teenagers access vocational training

Provided glasses for **11** children

Tet gifts and celebrations for **553** children

Built **13** new houses, repaired **3** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery and **8** piglets as livelihood support

Provided **129** wheelchairs

Delivered **2,873** physical therapy sessions

Provided **51** 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 **630** children

From October to January CHIA has

Conducted **26** home visits

Facilitated **30** children to be seen by international medical specialists

12 Baseline medical assessments

Hepatitis B test for **2** children

183 Flu vaccinations

3 Orthopedic assessments

72 Therapy sessions

Sponsored kindergarten for **5** children

Maintained **104** children in Education sponsorship program

Awarded **41** students for their consistently good performance

2 bicycles for school students

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

Adjust **15** wheelchairs

Health insurance for **79** children

Repaired **1** house

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Hope
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