

## Summer Time



Every year when the school ends we try to arrange for a summer trip for the children at The Residence. This summer we went to Dalat. All the children felt so happy and counted down the time because none had ever been there before. One early morning, the children were ready and set off on the bus for the long trip. They admitted that they had not slept well the night before because they felt so excited.

Singing along the way they just wanted to reach Dalat as soon as possible. Late in the afternoon, the bus arrived near Dalat and the children had their first sight of the mountains. They were really happy and admired the marvellous scenery. Arriving at the hotel at nearly 8pm, we thought the children would feel tired and want to sleep after dinner. However, they surprised us by asking if we could take them on a tour around Dalat's market. The market is a typical Vietnamese market. It has a section in which they just sell second-hand clothes and warm clothing at a very cheap price. It was really hard for us to supervise all children as the market is quite big and each child had their own way to go shopping. They ran everywhere and we also needed to chase after them. After shopping, at least there was a small bag in each child's hand.

The weather in Dalat was so strange and crazy when it changed from cold to hot. It made us feel tired and gave some a headache, however nothing could stop the children from travelling to "Golden valley", Camly waterfall and the central flower garden of Dalat. They loved to take photos any where and at any time. They all said that they would love to stay there and may be when they decide to study after grade 12, Dalat University will be one of their choices.

Every day is children's day in the Residence, but once a year on the 1st of June, we have a little party to celebrate International Children's Day.

In the early morning the social workers started preparing games and snacks for the day. Then our yard became a playground, where 4 teams of jumping and yelling children competed against each other in different fun games and team building activities. The motivation was high, because sweets and candy were waiting for the winners. After everybody was exhausted we changed location and came together in the TV-Room for the official part of the day.

Since the children had just received their school results, it was a good opportunity to award the best students. We were proud that this year we could award 9 children for good and one child for very good performance at school. Each received a certificate and a cash prize.

But we did not only award the best students. The children who showed a strong improvement compared to their last examination results and those who put high effort in their studying were awarded, too. Some children were even surprised when they were awarded, but it is very important for us to show the children that we value good results as much as improvement, effort and giving one's best.

And finally two of our oldest children in the home, were honored. Over the years they consistently acted in a responsible way, so they became idols and mentors for the other children. Ms. Robyn Morley especially praised these two children for their excellent behavior and pointed out how important such role models are for the Residence community.

Afterwards Ms. Diep, the founder of the Residence, congratulated all the awarded children in her speech and reminded everybody to focus on their education and to value the chance they have by living in the Residence. Two students responded to her words and thanked Co Diep and CHIA management and staff, speaking for all the residents.

The celebration ended with a lunch, snacks and fruit and, for dessert, chocolate pudding prepared by our German volunteer.

## Children's Day





# Special News



## CHIA Big Day Out

The children helped by CHIA, like probably all children in the world, really love their summer vacation.



From the 110 children in CHIA's Education Sponsorship program (for children who are struggling to keep attending school, but are living with their families) 43 children with the best results or the best improvement in this school year, were invited to CHIA BIG DAY OUT 2012. To be on time, some of the children had to get up very early as their houses are far from Hoi An.



To help the children both to learn and to relax, the first place visited

in the old town was the Japanese bridge and an ancient house. After listening to the stories, the children were eager to take photos. They looked quite happy and mischievous.



After that the children had lunch in a restaurant near Cua Dai beach. For many of them, it was the first time they enjoyed delicious sea food. Although the sun was still burning hot the children were highly enthusiastic to enjoy time on the beach with many interesting games. The beautiful and long beach seemed to be perfect for all the funny games the staff had prepared for them. A few children were quite shy because they hadn't met before but after the first games they felt closer and quickly gained confidence in making new friends.



In a big competition everybody tried their best in all games, hoping their team would end up winning. Even though sometimes they looked tired, there were always smiles on their faces. Finally, who won or lost didn't matter. The good things the children learned from the games were solidarity and co-operation which might be useful and necessary for their future, too.

After eating some fruit, the children went swimming, supervised by CHIA staff. The cool water was relaxing and comfortable after the hot games on the beach. Each child received a gift and some encouraging words for their good work. Hopefully they will maintain or even improve their good school results in the future as this is also one of CHIA's aims when organizing the yearly "Big Day Out".

On behalf of all four members of my family and myself, I want to thank you for helping us to have a dream house.

Because our little income cannot cover the living costs of the whole family, we had to live in a thatched, leaking and dilapidated house. We found our life became very difficult in the rainy seasons. Whenever there was a flood, we were evacuated from our unstable home to a safe shelter in my village. A nearby bridge was also a secure place to reside during the typhoons.

Fortunately, thanks to your financial support, our dream house is now completed. We are very happy to have a stable concrete house to live in and we no longer worry when the next flood comes. Thank you very much.

Finally, on behalf of my whole family, I want to give you our best wishes.

*Translated from Vietnamese*

*A thanks letter from a family that was helped by CHIA*





Can You Help Minh?

Minh is living with his parents and his elder brother. They are very poor. His house is very simple and there is nothing valuable inside. Some years ago Minh's mother suffered from Lupus so they invested a lot of money in her medical treatment. They had to borrow money from the local government to pay for hospital fees and medication. Unluckily, she became blind because of her disease and can't support her family anymore. Minh's father works very hard trying to gain enough money to cover all the family expenses. However, it seems impossible. Minh's father works as a hired laborer so his income is low and unstable. When he can find work, he works far from home so Minh's elder brother, who is just studying in grade 5 has to take over the role of the father. He is very diligent and a good brother, always taking care of his mother and Minh. He even takes Minh to school and back home. Due to his mother's blindness he also does all household chores without complaint, while still being a good student at school.

Minh is 6 years old and has just finished kindergarten, where he was known to be a good child. His teacher said that he is quite clever and an agile student. His family is facing many difficulties so he has no chance to develop his writing and reading skills. At home, Minh always helps his brother and his mother as much as possible. Your kind donations can help Minh, and other children in similarly difficult circumstances, to go to school like their peers and develop their unfound talents.



Minh holds his school certificate



Before and Now

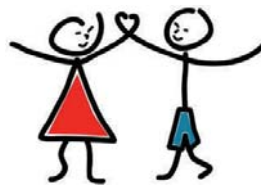


If any of you felt touched when reading the story about Linh in CHIA's March newsletter, now let's share the happiness with Linh and his family because he now has a new looking face, a reflection of the enormous amount of work which has been carried out internally to reconstruct Linh's face. The long and difficult journey of Linh and his small mother was rewarded deservedly.

CHIA has followed Linh since his birth and we were very surprised and happy on seeing him for the first time after his return from England. He is now a happy and more confident toddler. Big thanks to the benefactors, doctors Children of Vietnam, Facing The World and those who have helped Linh during recent years. Linh will need more surgery to continue his facial construction and will face a lot of challenges in his future as he is blind. However, let's all continue to help Linh and wish him and his family the very best, that they will always keep their beliefs, sanguine and spirit to overcome all their difficulties.

Written by Ms Doan Thu Thao, Health Service Coordinator





Find us on  
**facebook**

([www.facebook.com/CHIA.VN](http://www.facebook.com/CHIA.VN))

*to keep up-to-date with our daily activities.*

## Disability News

CHIA is conducting a pilot Program of Development (POD) to give children with disabilities and their families the opportunity to receive care services within a sharing environment. Emphasizing the community within the model, we include the families as much as possible. We provide advice and services to the families, so they can both, focus on their job and actively support their child. One of the parents always assists the CHIA physiotherapist by providing therapy and care for the group of children. Each parent also provides self-cooked food every lunch and helps his or her child to eat. This model has been implemented for nearly one month now, with initial participation of three young children so far. The CHIA physiotherapist acts as facilitator, shares techniques and provides skills for the parental assistants to apply to each child in this program. CHIA has just started the program and we know that this journey might face some difficulties but we are quite enthusiastic and optimistic. It is our hope that this model can be used to provide developmental services for children with disabilities, in remote communities.



## 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](http://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.

Please visit us at

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



## Since the beginning CHIA has

Health insurance for **362** children

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

**19** Hearing assessments

Cancer treatment for **9** children

**263** Cardiac assessments  
Heart surgery for **54** 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, **87** Hepatitis B, **49** Rubella and **24** chicken-pox vaccinations

Hepatitis B test for **53** children

**434** Baseline medical assessments

Helped **50** children access nutritional support

Provided **587** tins of milk

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **660** mothers

Managed a Residence of **30** children

Awarded **122** students for improvement

Kept **137** 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 **698** children

Built **18** new houses, repaired **3** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery and **8** piglets as livelihood support

Provided **141** wheelchairs

Delivered **2,965** 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 March to June CHIA has

Conducted **119** home visits

Facilitated **19** children to be seen by international medical specialists

**8** Baseline medical assessments

**1** Cardiac assessment

Hepatitis B and Rubella vaccination for **4** children

**40** Therapy sessions

Orthopedic assessment for **4** children

Sponsored kindergarten for **5** children

Maintained **108** children in Education sponsorship program

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **180** mothers

Built **1** house

Sexual Health Education for **29** children

Nutrition support for **7** children

CHIA Big Day Out for **70** children

Provided **1** wheelchair