

News from Hoi An Children's Home

Birthday party

Every month at Hoi An Children's Home we have a birthday party for the children who were born in that month. As with children anywhere in the world, birthday parties are always a happy event. They are an important part of our **childhood memories**. As well, they are a lovely excuse for all of us to spend some great time together.

Most of the children at the Home come from poor families, some of them **never had a birthday party** ever before until they came to the Home. Now they can eat cake with their friends who want to wish them all the best for a new year in their life.



For some of these children this is the first birthday party in their life!

Graduation

Don is a great example of the success of the Children's Home.

Don's family is from Cham Island, a very beautiful but poor place near Hoi An. He grew up with 3 siblings and without a father. His mother always had to work extremely hard to pay for her children's education. But there is **no high school on Cham Island**. That's why Don came to the Home in 2003. When he first came to the Home he said: "This is an opportunity for me to make my life better"

He really used that chance. When he was in 10th grade he didn't want to continue studying because he wanted to become a cook. So in 2009 he entered the program of Streets International - a vocational training school in Hoi An that helps young adults in need. There he studied very hard to become a **good cook** and his work paid off. With his excellent certificate from Streets International, he found a good job at the Nam Hai Resort - a very big luxury resort in Hoi An.

This is what the Children's Home is about. It's about allowing children to continue their education even though there is no high school near their family's home. It is the goal to help them to become **successful, independent adults** - just like Don.

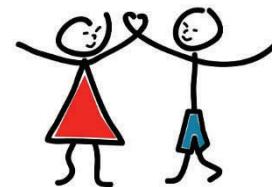


Don is working as a commis chef at the 5-star Nam Hai resort.



WANTED

Second hand cell phones using GSM technology for the purpose of maintaining communications between CHIA and children who are waiting for treatment.



Just for thinking

NEWS FROM OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Since its founding until now, CHIA has helped many children in disadvantaged circumstances, including families that could not afford their children's education. One joy we would like to share is that of the **115 children** who are receiving CHIA's education support, 5 wish to start university this year. They all want to have jobs that will give them the ability to improve their and their family's life in the future.

- The girl Hanh always has been an excellent student since she started school. Her father has mental health problems, so she chose to go to university in order to become a **doctor**.
- Another special case is the girl Huong who has a leg disability (*pictured below right*). Huong is only about 1.3 meters tall. She has some difficulties to walk, but she always tries her best to overcome her situation. She always is a good student, and her dream is to become a **computer technician**.
- Thien has no mother; therefore, she lives with her father and her auntie. Her father and auntie often get sick. Because of that Thien wants to become a good **nurse** in order to also be able to take care of sick people in the future.
- Anh is another child who lives in a family facing many difficulties. For the last ten years her father has suffered with a severe heart condition and her mother has a goitre. Because of that, Anh wants to be a good **businesswoman** in order to help her parents.
- Trinh (*pictured below left*), the oldest child of a family with 5 children. The whole family expenses lie on her father's shoulder because her mother has a heart problem. Trinh studies so well and she wants to become a **hotel manager**. Therefore she is studying English very hard.

The children's education achievements to date have only been **possible because of the kind contribution from CHIA's donors**. CHIA highly appreciates all your donations and is very pleased to see that all children are preparing themselves for a bright future.



**Donations for
the next school year are
needed now!**



The name of the children has been changed to protect their identity.



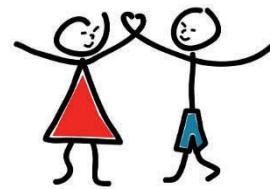
The house is simply roofed by old iron sheets, its ground is as rough as the road's surface and there is no valuable furniture except an old bicycle which Tin (in the yellow T-shirt) uses to ride to school every day. That is Tin's shelter where he is living with his younger brother and his seventy-five year old grandmother.

Tin's parents separated 4 years ago. His mother moved to Ho Chi Minh city and got married there. She rarely visits them because of her financial situation. Tin's father is an unskilled labour. After the divorce, he started working as a bricklayer in Da Nang city but his income is just enough to cover his daily life.

Tin's grandmother is aware of all the difficulties. " I don't know whether their father will get married again and then whether their step mother will take care of them or not; or who will bring them up if one day I die unfortunately"; the old woman said while the tears flowed down her cheek...

Due to the generous donations of CHIA's donors, Tin is able to continue his schooling. He loves to go to school and knows that this is a **great chance** for him to improve his future.

Many of the children who are supported by CHIA have a similar background to Tin. With a donation of USD\$360 you can make sure that a child can go to school for one year. This makes a **huge difference** for the children and their families.



Medical - Proudly sponsored by NOKIA



Medical News

Hanh is one of the children who **needs support urgently**. Let us tell you the story of his family...

The family's first child, named Dung, was born in 1991. Unfortunately, he died aged 4 because of Haemophilia after a long time of treatment in Da Nang hospital. In 1994, Hanh's mother had a second baby. This child is very healthy, and she brings great happiness to her parents.

Thinking that no more children in the family would get a disease like Dung, it was a shock when the third child, Hanh, got Haemophilia. The family was already exhausted after the treatment of Dung. Paying for the treatment of Hanh also became a big problem. They have to take Hanh to Danang hospital often several times per month, for treatment costing \$150 each time. It is a huge amount of money for the family who earn their income mostly from farming.

Because Hanh's condition is quite severe, he is very weak and has to use a wheelchair so Hanh's parents help him to go to school by carrying him on their back everyday. Luckily, Hanh is very clever. He studies very well and wins many prizes in Chinese chess. While being treated in Danang, hearing the noise from the neighbouring school, Hanh said "**I want to survive and go to school**". In his pale face, his eyes shine with a great joy in life.

Knowing the difficult situation of Hanh, CHIA helps him to get Factor 8 injections which helps to manage the bleeding. Factor 8 is very expensive because it is not covered by health insurance but it is the only medication that makes Hanh feel much better. We hope you can help us to continue helping Hanh.

CHIA is the only organization helping children with blood problems in Quang Nam.

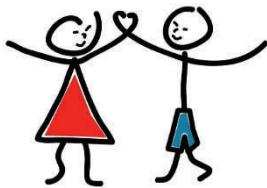
Understanding more about the children's medical situation—Blood disorders

Thalassemia is a group of inherited blood disorders characterized by reduced amounts of hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein inside the red blood cells. Thalassemia is most common in Mediterranean, Asian and North African races. Any child who has severe Thalassemia needs blood transfusion every month or sometimes he even needs to have his spleen removed. But usually, families can't follow the hospital's instruction because they can't afford to cover all the expense for that regular treatment. Though, if the kids do not have regular blood transfusions there lifespan will be reduced significantly.

Haemophilia is also an inherited bleeding disorder in which blood doesn't clot normally, it usually occurs in males. Children who have Haemophilia are usually treated by Factor 8 injection but because Factor 8 is not always available in every hospital, and this it is an expensive treatment, these children are always at high risk.

CHIA has been working together with Hoi An foundation doctors very successfully. By intervening and monitoring as early as possible, the situation of a lot of children has improved. This program needs a lot of funding because the greatly needed treatments and medication are very expensive.





Wheelchairs for Children With Disability

In January CHIA and WHEELS FOR HUMANITY organized the delivery of **25 wheelchairs, 25 pairs of crutches, 5 walkers** and **10 commodes** to children with disability in Quang Nam province. Wheels for Humanity is a non-profit organization that provides wheelchairs for people with disability around the world. What makes them different from many other organizations is that they have staff with very detailed technical knowledge on wheelchairs. Therefore, all children receive equipment that is exactly fitted to their needs.

Recognising the urgent need of people with disability, we evaluated the situation of the children with disability living in Quang Nam – including their family's financial situation. After doing so, we selected the children who needed a wheelchair **most urgently**.

They are poor people overcoming a lot of challenges every day and they wish to have equipment that allows them to move by themselves. It is important for those children to be able to go outside by themselves and integrate into the community. The children are very happy to have some independence.

There are many other people with disability who need to receive wheelchairs.



Day out

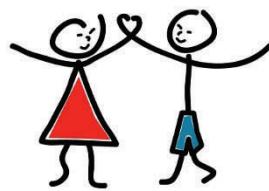
We visited Nam Quang Tu pagoda last month. The children with disability who are in the school group of CHIA Practical and Life Skills (CPALS) were very excited. We visited the Pagoda, so that the children could get a better understanding about religion, just like other children their age.

First of all, we met the head monk and asked him to show our children around. The monk walked with us and explained how they built the pagoda and how Buddhists live. The children were listening and asked him questions about the history of Buddhism. Han's family is Buddhist, he knew a lot already, and he really wanted to know more about meditation.



The important thing is that the children had a chance to go out and **socialize** with other people. The children had never before had any opportunity to have such a discussion with a monk. Nga's parents told us that Nga kept telling them about what she saw in the pagoda. They feel very happy because their daughter is getting more **self-confident** and social.

CHIA always does our best to help the children learn not only movement practice but also academic lessons. **Your generous donations** can help CHIA to carry out such useful lessons for children with disabilities.



Huge thanks to Fiona Harris and her dedicated staff at **Daylesford Aromatherapy**, who have created a refreshing perfume, which will invigorate and make you feel good on two levels! All proceeds from the sale of this product will help CHIA to continue delivering our services. At just over 8cm long, this little roll-on makes an ideal gift, and can fit nicely in your handbag to give you a big lift when you need it.

This product is all natural and made in Daylesford, using certified organic jojoba oil, lemongrass and lemon myrtle essential oils as well as certified organic lemongrass botanica. For further information please visit <http://www.daylesfordaromatherapy.com.au/chia>

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: Corrima, 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 donated through PayPal.

Donate through PayPal:

www.paypal.com
to info@ChildrensHopeInAction.org

Fundraising Ideas

Thanks to fantastic ideas, great supporters and generous donations from friends, CHIA can extend its services to many disadvantaged children in rural and remote regions of Quang Nam province.

Erica raised \$2,300 by running a movie night

Kim and John raised \$2,000 by arranging a country-side bicycle ride which included lunch

Annette raised \$500 from a book-stall

Kate raised \$3,303 by people sponsoring her to run a marathon

Pam and friends raised \$10,895 by hosting a gala dinner evening

Linda and Fiona raised \$1,129 from a day of massage and refreshments

Cathy and friends raised \$5,970 by hosting a BBQ dinner and silent auction

Sandra raised \$2,910 by hosting a High Tea and auction

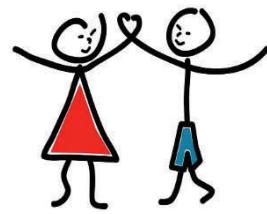
Darlene and Rick raised \$556 by organizing a band event

Alison raised \$1,330 from offering a free massage to people who donated to CHIA on particular days

Jackie raised \$408 by running two dinner evenings

Ty raised \$680 from a fundraiser

Together, these supporters of CHIA raised a massive \$31,981 to help CHIA to continue delivering much needed health, disability, education and housing services in central Vietnam. If you've been thinking about organizing a fund-raiser to help CHIA's children, **now's the time** to put that plan into action. Please contact us if you need further information.



Since the beginning CHIA has

Health insurance for **282** children
104 Orthopedic diagnostics
19 Hearing assessments
21 Orthopedic surgeries
Cancer treatment for **9** children
262 Cardiac assessments
Heart surgeries for **47** children
24 Cleft lip and palate surgeries
19 Colo-rectal surgeries
881 Flu vaccinations
363 Baseline medical assessments
Helped **22** children access nutritional support
Provided **470** tins of milk
Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **240** mothers
Maintained **115** children Education sponsorship program
Mid autumn festival for **507** children
Managed a residence of **30** children

Awarded **42** students for improvement
Kept **146** children attending school
Provided **16** bicycles for school students
Sponsored kindergarten for **7** toddlers
Helped **9** teenagers access vocational training
Provided glasses for **11** children
Tet gifts and celebrations for **553** children
Built **12** new houses, repaired **2** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery and **8** piglets as livelihood support
Provided **129** wheelchairs
Delivered **2,657** physical therapy sessions
Provided **48** other pieces of disability equipment
89 Cpals training sessions
Organized a day trip for **77** children on the day for Person with disability

From October to December CHIA has

Conducted **155** home visits
Facilitated **35** children to be seen by international medical specialists
Helped **4** children have heart surgery
Cancer treatment for **1** child
48 Baseline medical assessments
Cardiac assessment for **2** children
2 Orthopedic assessments
5 Orthopedic surgery
114 Therapy sessions
25 Wheelchairs, **25** pairs of Crutches, **10** Walkers, **5** Commodes and other pieces of disability equipments
Sponsored kindergarten for **3** children
20 Sessions of CPALS (CHIA Practical and Life Skills)
Organized a special day for **22** children and their parents on the Vietnamese day for PWD
Provided bicycles to **1** child
Tet gifts for **200** disadvantaged children
Provided **4** pigs as livelihood support
Maintained **115** children Education sponsorship program