

## CHIA's Untold Story

Lanh's story, our most recent arrival at the Hoi An Children's Home, is heartbreaking. Lanh's mother, father and younger brother were killed 4 years ago in a land mine incident. The family was ploughing a field in central Vietnam in search of seeds. Instead of finding seeds that would support them in growing food for their subsistence and earning extra money, the unearthed land mine exploded and killed those closest to her. At the time Lanh was at home, close by, and witnessed the explosion and destruction of her parents and younger brother. Her world fell apart. Yet, Lanh, a strong and resourceful girl, thought only about sparing her younger sister, taking her to visit friends saving her from the visual impact and trauma of seeing her loved ones who had been blown apart.

Her resourcefulness proved successful and her younger sister was spared the destruction. The girls' grandparents, old and poor, took both girls in. Time passed, and the grandparents became unable to continue to support and provide for the girls because of advancing years and severe poverty. Determined to give the girls the best lives they could have, the grandparents decided to relinquish the girls to an orphanage. All the papers were signed, arrangements were made and the orphanage sent its car to collect the girls. Lanh and her sister were sitting in the car ready to go and start their new life, yet felt huge sadness about leaving their grandparents behind. They were fearful that they would never see them again. Equally so, the grandparents struggled to be separated from their granddaughters. In the end, Lanh and her sister remained with their grandparents and the orphanage's car went back alone....

Lanh (pictured right), 15 years old, has been at the Hoi An Children's Home now for about 6 months. She has settled in very well and is a keen athlete and brings an air of confidence and independence unusual for a girl of her age. Her sister remains with their grandparents and Lanh sees them regularly on week-ends and holidays. A very happy solution was found for all concerned.



*A potential catwalk model*



## A Wonderful Working Place



*Vu, at the head of the queue, joined the football league.*

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

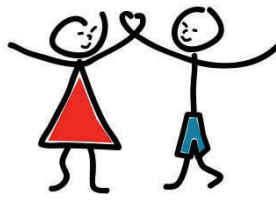
Working in a children's center has been my dream since I was a student at university. It's not only difficult to find your favorite job, but to find a job at all.

I'm really happy and excited to work as a Social Worker at Hoi An Children's Home (HACH). In fact at first I felt a bit anxious about my new colleagues, children and everything else here. The knowledge I learnt from school seems very small compared to the reality. However, I have to admit that I did improve a lot, thanks to the help from other staff.

Although the center always provides chances for me to do my best, it's hard for me to keep up with the general English skills of the staff. All 29 children are cared for and supervised very well. 29 children – 29 different grief and loss stories - they have been suffering a variety of difficulties. They should receive equal rights like any other, more fortunate children. When reading our children's files, I think any one would want to help our children to heal the pain and the loss.

All staffs at HACH are very helpful, cooperative and showing solidarity with each other. Before, I thought I had to pay something if I wanted to have this job, however I was wrong. I'm surprised in a positive way when seeing that everyone is treated fairly and we can share any difficulties with each other if we work on the same shift. I don't know what my future brings but I think working in this place and interacting with such wonderful people is the luckiest thing in my life. This amazing working place will help me to utilize all my abilities and I will continue to do my best in my job and to fulfill my dream.

*Written by Duc Vu, Social Worker*



## Weaving Mats



Like most families in Hoang's village, his family lives by weaving mats. It takes a lot of work and time and there must be two people to weave one mat. However, the profit of selling a mat is just 25 cents about \$2 per day. Consequently, it is difficult for Hoang's parents to cover all expenses, while the education costs of the children are higher and higher. Hoang's oldest sister is now studying at a medical university; his second sister is at tenth grade, his third sister is at eighth grade and Hoang is at sixth grade. Obviously, the risk of leaving school early is very high because they face much debt. Hoang's parents do not want any of their children to leave school due to the lack of money because they all are good students. His parents have borrowed \$ 400 to support Hoang's oldest sister at university. Every day, Hoang and his older sisters spend all their free time weaving mats to reduce financial pressures for their family. Although Hoang is small for his age, he was ranked the second best student at his class in the last semester. Sympathizing with his circumstances, CHIA has committed to support him since he started grade 6. We are now looking for a sponsor so that we can stabilize Hoang's bright education future.

Children need good conditions in material and spiritual matters to develop and light up their future. Still, nowadays there are many disadvantaged children who receive neither of those. Quan is a typical example for this case.

We met Quan on a winter-day in 2011 when he was helping his mother to prepare their plain lunch of vegetable and duck eggs. When visiting him we noticed that the house of his family was very small, unstable and likely to be blown by the next storm.

However, his living conditions are not the only difficulty in Quan's life. He was born into a poor family with 4 children. Quan's father suffered from inflammatory bowel disease and, despite his illness, went far away for work to cover his family's living costs. Quan's mother suffers from vestibular disorder and goiter, and cannot work anymore. Quan is the oldest son in that poor family so he always faces the greatest disadvantages. Although still young, Quan must do everything in his family from household chores to taking care of his 3 siblings without complaint.

Looking at Quan, it's hard to believe that Quan is already 11 years old. He had suffered from Japanese encephalitis which is the reason for his thin appearance. Due to this sickness he looks much younger than his real age. Even though living in a difficult situation, Quan always wears a broad smile. He supports his parents as much as possible in order to make it easier for them to concentrate on work. Quan's dream is that his family would be able to make enough money to repair their house. The dream is quite simple but actually it's really hard for a poor family to fulfill it, because there are many other expenses to cover such as the money for his mother's treatment, the school fees for all children or the start-up capital for his father to set up a small business close to home.

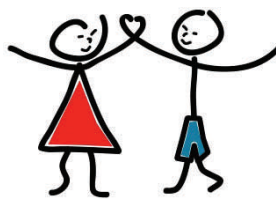
Hopefully, there are some kind-hearted people who can help improve the life of Quan's family and help to make his dream come true.

## Need a hand



*Quan, on the left, and his whole family.*





### Misfortune and Poverty

Nothing is more precious than health. Perhaps some of you won't agree with me because you might think that health is not enough. However, I am sure you will change your mind after reading the story about Khoa.

It took nearly 2 hours for us to get to Khoa's house. It is small, dark and very hot. In the house, there is nothing of value apart from the old motorbike which is used to regularly take Khoa to hospital for treatment.

Khoa was born in a poor family with 3 siblings. Since birth, she has suffered from Thalassemia which is a kind of blood disorder. Therefore, Khoa needs blood transfusions every month. This disease led Khoa and her family to an unfortunate life. As the mother couldn't stand the hardship, she went away without providing any support for her children. Since then, the burden of bringing up 3 children and a cardiac grandmother laid on the shoulders of Khoa's father. However, the income of a builder is not enough for the whole family, Khoa's sister had to leave school in order to work as a dish washer in a restaurant to help the family. Then, the sickness of Khoa's grandmother became worse so her father has to stay at home to take care of the whole family. To cover the costs for Khoa's blood transfusion, he has to loan money from his neighbours and sometimes even begs at the market. We really admire her father for his efforts.

CHIA is going to help Khoa to get surgery to remove her spleen. As it is too big, it makes her very tired and in need of a lot of blood transfusions. We hope that there will be benefactors who will help Khoa and her family so they have the chance for a brighter future.

### Thanks to All



We don't know how to express our happiness that Linh was taken to the UK for the treatment of his facial deformity. It has been two years since the birth of Linh. During this time his family has suffered great misery, hardness and anxiety about his severe congenital abnormality. When she first saw Linh, his mother was petrified. She couldn't believe her baby was born with such a terrible deformity. Looking at their blood red baby, the whole family broke into tears. However, thanks to the timely intervention and sincere encouragement from CHIA's staff, the family gradually accepted the misfortune of their baby and began to overcome the difficulties.

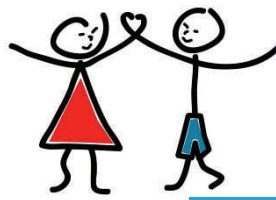
Luckily, after a lot of effort from CHIA and the cooperation between CHIA, "Facing the World" and "Children of Vietnam", Linh had major facial reconstruction surgery in the UK. Linh and his mother will soon return to Vietnam.

### Khoa and her family in their tattered house



**Written by Ms Doan Thu Thao,  
Health Service coordinator**





## Disability News

It was easy to find Bi's house because when our group came to carry out the first assessment, I immediately caught the image of her through the window of her house. She sat there seeming to dream of one beautiful day, where she could get up from the chair and go out to explore the outside world. Entering the house, Bi's private corner appeared clearly. The reason I mention it is that everyday, every hour she just stays around her bed. The day we came to visit, there were only Bi and her grandfather at home. Her parents were busy doing farm work to earn for their family's living. Her grandpa is too old to help her parents to take care of her (including carrying her and taking care of her daily life activities e.g. feeding, hygiene...) therefore she always stays in bed. When her parents come back from work, they really want to take her out so she can have a little time outside of her bed and see some of the outside. Unfortunately they can rarely do that because she is growing up and they have no equipment that suits her. When I clarified this for the family, I suggested providing a wheelchair for Bi. Bi is very happy about that. Hopefully this wheelchair can help her to reach out to the community and the outside world. *By Ms Phuong—Physiotherapist*



## CHIA Supporter's Corner

I first came across Children's Hope in Action (CHIA) while browsing online. I read about the organisation and could see the benefits it provided and wanted to be a part of the cause. As I was unable to volunteer with the organisation due to my own personal commitments, I decided I could still help by fundraising for the charity, but how was I going to do it.....I had started running recently as a way to keep fit and had always wanted to enter into a marathon and I thought this was as good a time as any, and there would be an added motivation that I was doing it for something special. I went online and found a half marathon race that was running in 3 weeks time and set that as my target (I would love to say I could have done a full marathon but I don't think I

was a quick and easy process. I created sponsorship cards and started distributing them to family and friends. I explained to everyone the work CHIA does and they were all eager to lend a helpful hand. It was now time for the hard part; the training to see if I could successfully complete a half marathon. With such a short time available for me I trained as often as I could and before I knew it the big day had arrived. I ran the best I could and when I crossed the finish line with a smile I was thrilled about what I had accomplished and in knowing that we had successfully raised \$395. I will continue to help CHIA in any way I can from where I am and would encourage others to do the same.

*Written by Ms Katelyn Crean*



*Ms Katelyn Crean with CHIA Logo in her back joined the marathon.*



## ***Dream house***



*Believed or not, It was a kitchen.*



*The new house was under construction*

Quang lived with his parents and a younger sister in this squalid hut. It's about 20 square meters beneath a cliff in the countryside. The hut is made from old slabs of damaged wood and the roof is covered by old torn metal. There is nothing valuable in the house. Whenever the rainy season comes the family is afraid their home will break. They meet quite a lot of difficulties in their life. The small plot of farming land that they own cannot possibly be enough for the whole family's living. However, their life is more difficult because Quang's father - the breadwinner of the family, has heart disease.

CHIA's objective is to help disadvantaged children and families to overcome and improve their living conditions and environment. Operating in Quang Nam province, CHIA is happy to help the families of children who are at high risk. In corporation with our government partner DOLISA, CHIA visited and assessed this family's circumstances and decided to support them to build a brick and concrete 1.5 storey house.



*The tattered and dilapidated bamboo hut of Quang and his family.*



Thanks to CHIA's support, after two months building, the dream house of the family was finally completed. It's hard to describe the happiness and relief of this family which now on has a safe and secure home to live. "Seeing this new, beautiful and spacious house seems like a dream" - said the father.

## **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**

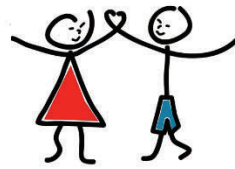
You can donate to CHIA from anywhere in the World using details provided in the "From Australia" section. While we will provide you with an official record of your donation, at this time we are unable to offer tax-deductible receipts outside of Australia and the USA. Alternatively you can donate through PayPal.

#### **Donate through PayPal:**

[www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)

to [info@ChildrensHopeInAction.org](mailto:info@ChildrensHopeInAction.org)





## Since the beginning CHIA has

Health insurance for **362** 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, **84** Hepatitis B, **48** Rubella and **24** chicken-pox vaccinations

**426** Baseline medical assessments

Helped **50** children access nutritional support

Provided **582** tins of milk

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **480** 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 **698** children

Built **17** new houses, repaired **3** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery and **8** piglets as livelihood support

Provided **140** wheelchairs

Delivered **2,925** 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 January to March CHIA has

Conducted **187** home visits

Facilitated **9** children to be seen by international medical specialists

**4** Baseline medical assessments

Hepatitis B vaccination for **1** children

**52** Therapy sessions

Sponsored kindergarten for **5** children

Maintained **104** children in Education sponsorship program

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

Adjust **11** wheelchairs

Delivered wheelchairs for **11** children with disabilities

Built **4** houses

Tet gifts for **145** children

Nutrition support for **7** children

Please visit us at

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