

## News from Hoi An Children's Home (HACH)

### Little Superman

Quan was born into different circumstances. His mother has mental health issues and his father is addicted to alcohol. The father's violent outbreaks may have contributed to health problems of the boy. Before being accepted in Hoi An children's Home, you could see Quan **wandering the streets**. Then, in 2009, Hoi An was hit by a strong typhoon and Quan's house was totally destroyed by the storm. The family had nowhere to go. Quan's parents separated, the father left the family and nobody knows where he is at the moment. Quan's mother asked her sister for help and began staying with the sister's family. But there was no space for Quan. Even though Quan was several years younger than the other children, we made an exception for Quan to **stay at** the Children's Home.

Since Quan became a member of the Home, we had to face some **difficulties** when helping him to go to school for the first time at 8 years of age and to adapt to the new living environment. All children here feel for him and really want to help him. Quan finds it hard to study. He **couldn't remember** the alphabet or math exercises so we asked a tutor to help him but it didn't work. So we thought maybe he had a learning disability. We tried to find many ways to help Quan in studying such as installing math and spelling software on the computer closely and supervising his homework. Surprisingly Quan has just got **two Ten out of Ten marks** at school which is a **huge improvement** in his studying. We all feel very happy for Quan as a reward for his **worthy effort**, Quan will be taken out to eat in town and will be given a cartoon DVD.

Quan was so excited to receive a prize when his team won the game



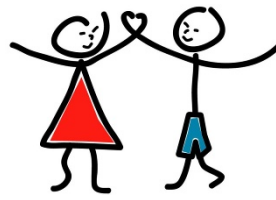
## New comers



Around July each year, the children who finished grade 12 will leave the Home. After they left, we will receive new children to fill those empty places. The staff will prepare to receive the new children. It is quite a big job for us to complete the home visits as we received a list with **hundreds of children** who wish to stay at HACH.

This year HACH has just **seven spaces** for new children, so it is very difficult to choose which ones most need to stay at HACH. Most of the listed children are from very poor backgrounds and all are **keen to go to school**. We first have to cross a river by boat and then take the motorbike to reach each family. Sometimes the path that leads to the children's family is so full of mud or sand that we even have to walk to get through.

We have finally visited all the children after nearly 2 months and chosen 5 girls and 2 boys to stay at HACH. You may wonder why there are more girls than boys. In fact in Viet Nam, girls are **less respected** and therefore usually **treated worse** than boys. That's why girls have **higher priority**. We introduced these 7 new children to all of the old-timers and asked them to help the new ones to adapt to the new environment. Luckily some of them come from the same areas, so the new children quickly get to know each other. When coming to the Home for the first time, the new children always feel quite surprised about several things, such as using hot and cold running water when taking a bath or the interesting articles for making craft in the free time. They know that they are very lucky and **feel happy** to be accepted to stay at HACH.



*Nam prepared for his first ever work in community*

## EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

Let me start the news of CHIA's Education and Training Sponsorship program by telling a story of little Ly who lives with her father and her younger brother only. They do not even have a **shelter** to live as their small bamboo house was unfortunately **blown** by a typhoon in 2008. Fate once again came to their small family when Ly's mother suddenly died of an unknown sickness in early 2009. Ly's father has brought up Ly and her brother who is 4 now by his job as a barber. Since 2009 up to now, they have spent their life at their grandmother's house.

As they are living in the countryside, the income that Ly's father earns is so **unstable and low** that it is very difficult to cover all the expenses. This year, Ly has started school at **grade 1** while her brother also starts **kindergarten**; but their father is not able to afford these costs. He has to spend much time preparing the meals and take the children to school every day, which also affected his work. Ly's family is facing many difficulties at the moment...



Ly is one of 40 children who **are waiting** to get education sponsorship this school year 2011-2012. Helping a child like Ly, you will be building a **bright future** for this little girl. Additionally your donation helps to reduce the financial pressure for the child's family. The sponsorship includes school fees, school insurance, additional tuition, uniforms, textbooks and stationery.



## Feelings

On Friday, August 5, 2011 I walked into the CHIA office for the first time. I was filled with mixed feelings (of an employee's **first day of work**) and curious about my future work and colleagues. The only thing I knew so far was that there would be a meeting about the last week where I would be introduced to the staff. I was very excited ...

As my appointment was first at 1:30 I was much too early, afraid of coming too late on my first day. The meeting began with a game and everybody was involved. This was something **new and very different** compared to where I worked before. When the staff were ready to report about their week, the HR officer asked me to introduce myself. During the meeting I had noticed that the staff were speaking English **very well** which made me worry more and more about my turn. Finally I just started with the sentence: "Sorry, I do not speak English. May I speak Vietnamese? ". Ms. Robyn, the Australian founding director was okay with that, which made me regain some confidence.

One week, two weeks, three weeks and by now already two months have passed since then. There is not much else to say apart from that I was **very lucky**: lucky to be in CHIA working with such friendly colleagues, lucky to work with a person like Robyn, who is always in a good mood, listening and encouraging staff, giving them the opportunity to improve their skills. It might take some time until I'll be as successful as my colleagues but I'll try my best. I hope I will be able to work at CHIA **as long as possible**.

FRAG is CHIA's Fun Raising Actions Group that operates out of Brisbane in Australia.

FRAG have networked widely and continue to do so with the goal in mind to **attain funds** for CHIA so the continued support of the children and families who access the service is **sustainable**.

FRAG are in the preliminary phase of setting up the following fundraising forms groups to kick off in 2012

**EDUCATION SPONSORSHIPS SCHOOL / TEEN / YOUTH INVOLVEMENT  
AUCTION SOCIAL EVENTS SPEED DATING EVENTS  
BRISBANE BASED ENGLISH CONVERSATIONAL CLASSES**

With the support of FRAG, CHIA's **facebook** following has grown and continues to grow on a daily basis. In the coming months you will see FRAG launch a new web page with access to donate easily online via a merchant facility.

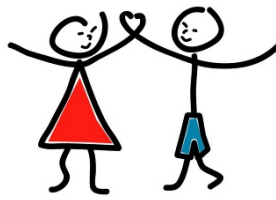
FRAG are committed to raising the awareness of the needs of children and families who access support from CHIA. By "**Like**"-ing CHIA's **facebook page** and encouraging friends and family to do so, you are assisting with this process. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/CHIA-Childrens-Hope-In-Action/256496161030224>

If you would like to get **involved**, **set up** a FRAG in your own city, have an idea or would like to find out more information about FRAG please get in touch with Michelle and Marcelle at [chiafriends1@gmail.com](mailto:chiafriends1@gmail.com)

Find us on

**facebook**

*For regular updates on our work*



## Medical News



My Ly was discovered to have **Thalassaemia** - a genetic defect in the production of haemoglobin - at the age of 6 months. Since then, a succession of hospital treatments started, which caused her family lots of problems. As a child who gets Thalassaemia needs **regular blood transfusions**, her family has to take her to hospital 2 to 3 times every month. Each time it costs a lot of money making it a **big burden** for My Ly's family. Her father - a builder, has to travel far and wide looking work

to earn enough money for the living costs and the hospital fees of his daughter, as the mother has to stay at home to take care of the child.

When My Ly first came to CHIA, her spleen was very swollen. The doctors recommended removal of her spleen as her **swollen spleen** made it very hard for her to breath. However, before having this surgery, My Ly had to go to Saigon to have some treatment to help her immune system to recover after the spleen removal. Understanding these difficult circumstance, CHIA supported her treatment by **paying** for the costs of the surgery and other costs during the time she was in hospital. My Ly still has to have regular blood transfusions but thanks to the spleen removal, the time between transfusions is now **longer than before**. We know that there are still many children who have blood problems waiting for our support. Hopefully, CHIA will receive more help from a lot of donors who care for these poor children so we can help them to overcome their unhappy lives.

Hepatitis B (referred as HBV) is one of the **largest threats** for Vietnamese and other Asian groups. Worldwide, 2 billion people (1 out of 3 people) have been infected with HBV and 400 million people have become "chronic carriers" of the virus. Among the 250 million chronic HBV infections in Asia - Pacific, Vietnam accounts for **10 to 14%**. Chronic hepatitis B is a serious liver infection that affects millions of Vietnamese around the world. It can lead to **liver failure and liver cancer**. Hepatitis B is considered a "**silent infection**" because it often does not cause any symptoms. Most people feel healthy and do not know they have been infected, which means they can unknowingly pass the virus on to others. HBV is the only type of virus whose DNA

## Hepatitis B



structure can be transmitted mainly through blood, sexual contact and from mother to child. The contagiousness of HBV is 100 times stronger than HIV virus. Just a small scrape on the skin, or mucous membrane contact with infected blood can also be ways for the pathogen.

## Volunteers corner

### CHIA'S KEY TO SUCCESS

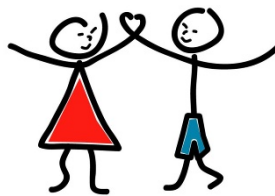
After volunteering at CHIA for one year I am very sure that CHIA's **key success** is the staff. Many of them went through **hardships** in their youth. Therefore, they can understand the situation of the children well, and they always want to **do everything** possible to help.

CHIA's team members love to spend their free time **together**, and they are very happy to let volunteers join. I really enjoyed working and going out with them. They are always eager to find solutions to upcoming difficulties at work through working together as a **team**.



*Written by Mr. Thilo Schultes*

In Vietnam, however, the **awareness** about this virus is too low especially in the countryside where people have never heard about Hepatitis B. Therefore, the rate of HBV infection is increasing causing a bigger burden to the Health ministry and to families who have relatives with HBV. Knowing about this hot issue, the CHIA medical program made a plan to deliver **knowledge, to test and vaccinate** our children against HBV. Nevertheless, because of the limited budget, we have only started this program at Hoi An Children's Home. Thirty tests and thirty sets of five **vaccinations** were given to protect these children from HBV. Hopefully, CHIA can get more support to have HBV vaccination available to more of our children so that they can have better health in future.



As a matter of fact many people with disabilities need to use a wheelchair. However there are still a lot of people with disabilities (PWD) who **have not received** this support yet. That's why it's necessary to make more wheelchairs available. At CHIA, unlike other organizations, we don't just deliver the wheelchair but also **maintain** it. Six months after the delivery we visit the people who received the wheelchair to check if it still fits them. As the area of Quang Nam province is very large it's quite difficult for us to go to the house of every PWD to adjust the wheelchair. But for **their safety** when using the wheelchair that CHIA has provided, we try our best to arrange the time to adjust the wheelchair for them. When we go to see the people, we can see **their appreciation** for the wheelchair, which makes their lives much easier. They are **very happy** about receiving the enthusiasm and attention of CHIA staff. Besides providing the wheelchair we also do home visits and guide the best way to adjust, maintain and use the wheelchairs.

People with disabilities usually have a lot of problems with their physical development, often **changing** day by day. Therefore an appropriately adjusted wheelchair is very important for the PWD to make him or her feel **comfortable and safe**. If the wheelchair is the incorrect sized (smaller or bigger than the person who is using it), it will affect their sitting posture (such as spinal column), which might make their physical condition worse.

So the job of not just providing but also adjusting the wheelchair is **critical**. Hopefully, there will be many **more wheelchairs** to provide to the people with disabilities as they are very much needed

## Disability News



*CHIA physiotherapist adjusts the wheelchair for a child with disability*



In the last days of summer, when we could no longer hear the there singing of the cicadae, children and teachers were excitedly preparing for the start of the new school year.

Together with a water and engineer from **SMEC** (<http://www.smec.com/contact-us/asia-pacific/vietnam>), a Professional Engineering and Development Consultants based in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh city, we did some site visits to survey **water and sanitation systems** at primary schools and impoverished households in the central province of Quang Nam to **propose ways** to help these beneficiaries. From the visit, we realise that:

- Most of the impoverished families live in the remote areas and **cannot reach** the government water supply. They have to use ground water from 20 -30 meter wells for daily use. The quality of the ground water varies. Some lucky families find a clean water source that they can use for cooking and drinking. Otherwise they have to build a simple manual water filtration pool but the water quality is still not good. **Only 60%** of the households in the survey region have latrines.

- In addition, many schools **don't have** toilets or **cannot use** them because of their poor condition. Thus the teachers and children have to use some nearby vacant land which causes pollution, bad smell and disease.

- For drinking water at schools, some schools buy 20 litre drinking water bottles for the children to use at their school time. Due to the limited budget, the schools can only buy the cheapest one of **poor quality** and often contain some **harmful bacteria**.

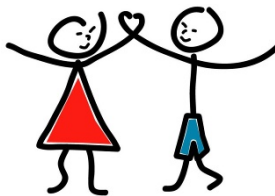
It is really **urgent** to help the children as well as many poor families to get access to clean water and sanitation. CHIA would like to call on supports to help these people to meet this basic need.



*This tiny toilet block is for 50 primary children and their teachers*

Please visit us at

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



# Mid-Autumn Festival



## 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:

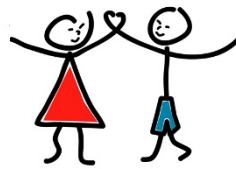
Global Development Group USA  
1314 Longwood Oaks Boulevard  
Lakeland, Florida 33811  
United States of America

### 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 **282** children

**107** 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

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

**410** Baseline medical assessments

Helped **22** children access nutritional support

Provided **540** tins of milk

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **300** mothers

Hepatitis B test for **48** children

**16** cleft-lip assessment

Awarded **122** students for improvement

Kept **146** children attending school

Provided **28** 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 **13** 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 **2,801** 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 July to September CHIA has

Conducted **82** home visits

Facilitated **27** children to be seen by international medical specialists

Helped **4** children have heart surgery

**27** Baseline medical assessments

**1** Colo-rectal surgery

Hepatitis B test for **28** children

**67** Hepatitis B and **16** chicken-pox vaccinations

**5** Orthopedic assessments

**1** Orthopedic surgery

**52** Therapy sessions

Sponsored kindergarten for **3** children

Maintained **115** children in Education sponsorship program

Awarded **80** students for their consistently good performance

**12** bicycles for school students

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **60** mothers

Adjust **24** wheelchairs

Mid autumn festival for **130** children