



## Disabilities News



*Bin is happy playing with his new toys*



*Playing with his new friends*

Bin is 3 years old and the first child of a poor family. He has a younger brother who is 1 year old. Bin suffered a traumatic condition as a result of witnessing his father's severe accident. His mother left following this disastrous event as she had difficulty accepting and dealing with the situation. Bin's father was left to care for Bin on his own. He found out about CHIA's program for children with disabilities and brought him to CHIA with the hope that Bin will have opportunities to develop and interact with other children.

On the first day at CHIA, Bin appeared malnourished and unkempt. His father was too sick to work and properly care for him. Bin was a very withdrawn child when he came. He did not want to play or communicate with other kids or others. Before coming to CHIA, Bin uses gestures and grunting sounds to communicate with his father. It was recently discovered that Bin had a hearing loss and the family is not able to afford purchasing a hearing aid for him.

After 2 months since Bin has attended CHIA POD, the boy has progressed in many ways. He is a lot healthier and happier playing with other classmates. He is much more sociable than before. He can communicate with other person with simple gestures, eyes contacts and verbal sounds. Bin is still not able to vocalize words as he currently does not have hearing aid device.

Fortunately Bin is a very clever boy with good memory. He can do matching shapes and other simple puzzles very well. We believe he has the capacity and potential to go to kindergarten like other kids his age. However, his family is too poor and does not have enough money to buy the hearing aids and send him to school.

At present, a few philanthropists are providing the much needed support such as donating milk and yogurt for him for the next few months. Bin will need hearing aid to help him develop his communication skills and support to eventually attend regular school. We hope there will be many other philanthropists out there interested in continuing to support him and his family.

Please help him and help bring Bin a bright future. Thank you for your reading.

*Written by Dinh Thi Thuy Phuong  
Physiotherapist of POD*



## Education News

Tu is a friendly girl who lives in a poor family with her parents & 3 sisters. They are living in a new house which was built on March 2012 thanks to the support from the local government. Before, the family had lived in a wooden house which was quite small and unstable.

Because of the difficult circumstances, Tu's oldest sister left school to reduce the financial pressure on the family. She is now working in a textile factory in Ho Chi Minh City to help support the family. The family's 500 square metres of rice field is not enough to feed & support 6 people. As a result, they have to spend additional money to buy more rice. In order to earn the extra income, her parents also catch fish from about 4 A.M every morning. The family has other difficulties to worry about such as extra expenses on their children's education.

In Vietnam, due to the education system structure, children must attend extra classes during the school year and the summer holidays. These classes are 'optional' however for the majority of cases this is the only way they will learn all the information required to pass examinations. This again puts children like Tu, from poorer families at a disadvantage and increases financial pressure on the family.

Tu is now in grade 9. Due to the family financial difficulties, she has no money to attend extra private class. Despite her circumstances, she has performed well since she started school. Last school year, she ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in her class. At home, Tu also spends her free time helping her parents to do house chores and look after her younger sister. Tu also has a medical condition which requires her to travel over 24 km to the local hospital every 15 days. Fortunately, the local government has provided free health insurances for Tu and her family in sympathizing with their circumstances.

With generous donation, CHIA has been able to support Tu in her education sponsorship. Children just like Tu are now waiting for your education sponsorship. You can help ensure one child's education needs are met and we collectively provide them with the best chance of a bright future. Sponsorship includes school fees, school insurance, additional tuition, uniforms, textbooks and stationery.



*Tu receiving sponsorship*



*Tu with her shy smile*

**To Support CHIA  
Please visit us at**

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



## Free Medical Checkup & Medication for Children in Quang Nam

## Medical Project

Mid-Autumn Festival (Tet Trung Thu) is the most important time for all children in Vietnam. Unfortunately many disadvantaged families cannot provide goods or gifts for their children to celebrate this special occasion.

CHIA understands the situation and decided to cooperate with Quang Nam Child Protection Fund to organize a special event for the children. On September 25<sup>th</sup> CHIA staff Dung, Hieu, Vu & volunteer Peter traveled to Duy Thu Commune in Duy Xuyen District to be part of this important event.

CHIA sponsored Free Health Checks and Medication for 1,100 children by medical staff from Quang Nam Province. Each child also received a parcel of gift for Mid-Autumn Festival. The CHIA staff and the local children had a lot of fun interacting with each other.



*Dr. Van at CHIA*

Another medical activity also occurred within the same month. Dr. Van, a local pediatrician and her support team visited CHIA POD to provide free checkup as well as vitamins and other medications to the children.



Son is a very active 8 year old boy who gets a severe cardiac problem since birth. He is unable to receive surgery for this condition as it may threaten his life. As his health is not as good as other kids, his mother has to stay with him most of the time to keep him from too much exercising. At times it is hard for him to breath and his skin becomes pale.

CHIA has been supporting him with special medicine which is preventing him from getting worst of pulmonary hypertension for 3 years. Since the time he started to use this special medication, his cardiac problem has improved a lot. He looks less pale and feels better with his breathing.

We are happy that we could do something to help Son with his chronic sickness as this medication is expensive and not many families could afford to buy for their children.



## The Residence

This is Vu who comes from Que Son district. Vu is a 15 year old boy who is an excellent student and a very active member of the Youth Union at his high school.

Vu was introduced to us last year by the government because his family's situation. His mother has suffered from cancer for 5 years and his father has had to care for her at the hospital which is 947km from home. He has to spend most of the year looking after her. Vu and his younger brother have to care for themselves with the support from the relatives who are also poor. As the treatment cost for cancer is very expensive, his father had to sell all their valuable. Therefore, his family's circumstance has become worse.

The first time Vu came to live at the Residence is also the first chance of traveling ever in his life. For him, Hoi An is very nice and everything is so strange and beautiful. With the support from the staff as well as the children who are living at the Residence, Vu is very happy as he can feel the warmth of a family here. He socializes with the children at the Residence, new school and new schoolmates. His family is also very happy because this has eased some of the burden of life.

Vu told us that he will try to study well to become a doctor in the future so he can help his family and poor patients.



***Proudly sponsored by Jochnick Foundation***

### 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: Corrimall, 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  
Project J156 - Children's Hope in Action  
120 Hiwassee Circle  
Reliance, TN 37369  
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)





## Life As a Volunteer

Following forty years of paid employment as a teacher, life as a volunteer has offered me many rewards and personal challenges. Firstly, I have enjoyed the real freedom of choosing where and when I work. Obviously, you need to feel that you have the energy, enthusiasm, good health and financial backing required to operate effectively in your new chosen role. In order to function successfully you need to be flexible and willing to learn new skills and to perform some tasks that may be foreign to you.



*Peter engaging the children while they wait for free Medicare*

Secondly, as a volunteer you have to be self disciplined and willing to work alongside other professionals. You must be a team player who respects the views of others. Working for CHIA is an ideal opportunity to help others in a cross cultural setting. As CHIA is a charity totally dependant on sponsors and donations for its operational existence, you need to realize what is humanly possible to achieve on a limited budget.

I thoroughly enjoy working with Physiotherapists and O.T. s from a number of counties as well as the dedicated local support staff. As a volunteer in an overseas country you require a lot of support for your day to day living and other personal well being issues. Basic requirements such as accommodation, food and travel require a deal of prior research and investigation.

The rewards of working for a charity such as CHIA which deals with disadvantaged and disabled children are many and difficult to measure. Hopefully we are making a difference in their lives and providing them with the opportunity for a better and fulfilling life. I enjoy giving it my best effort!

Cheers

Peter Quinn CHIA



*Peter with Nam at a Seating Clinic & Enjoying spending time with the children*



## Since the beginning CHIA has

*Since the last Newsletter,  
CHIA has*

Provided Health insurance  
for **363** children

Supported **117**  
Orthopedic diagnostics, **30**  
Orthopedic surgery

**19** Hearing assessments

Cancer treatment for **9** chil-  
dren

**287** Cardiac assessments  
Heart surgery for **55**  
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, **97** Hepatitis B,  
**49** Rubella and **24** chicken-  
pox vaccinations

Hepatitis B test for **53**  
children

**1,609** Baseline medical  
assessment & treatment  
**1,104** Medicine support

Helped **74** children  
access nutritional support

Provided **685** tins of milk  
powder & **1,680** boxes of  
fresh milk

Completed community  
health education about " In-  
fant Nutrition" for **1,185**  
mothers

Managed a Residence of **30**  
children

Awarded **177** students for  
improvement

Kept **104** children  
attending school

Provided **55** bicycles for  
school students

Sponsored kindergarten for  
**14** toddlers

Helped **19** teenagers  
access vocational training

Provided glasses for **11** chil-  
dren

Tet gifts and celebrations for  
**876** children

Built **22** new houses,  
repaired **3** houses, **7**  
water and sanitation  
system for **1** primary school  
and **6** families, **1** piggery  
and **8** piglets as livelihood  
support

Provided **165** wheelchairs

Delivered **5,185** physical  
therapy sessions

Provided **54** 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 Per-  
son with disability

Mid autumn festival for  
**1,842** children

Conducted **259** home  
visits

Medicine support for **1,104**  
children

**1,116** Baseline assessment  
& treatment

**1,083** Therapy sessions

Provided **2,000**  
dental services to **500** chil-  
dren

Maintained **69**  
children in Education  
sponsorship program

Tertiary sponsorship for  
**8** children

Nutrition support for **9** chil-  
dren

Built **6** new toilet blocks

Provided **10** wheelchairs  
Provided **15** bicycles

Gifts for **45** Gifted students  
in the province

Mid Autumn festival gifts for  
**1,130** children

Provided **60** tins of milk  
powder & **1,680** boxes of  
fresh milk