



Hoang was born into a poor family in Duy Hai, a remote coastal village about 20 kilometers away from Hoi An. He is 16 years old now. Hoang's mother first married when she was very young and has one daughter from her first husband. Hoang's mother later remarried a kind hearted fisherman, and she had three more children including Hoang.

The situation was happy and she was always smiling, but bad luck struck the family when Hoang's youngest brother was born with the disease Meningitis. His parents tried their best, working hard and selling all the valuable things in their house in order to get enough money for their son's treatment. Hoang's brother was very lucky; he was promptly cured and recovered later but the financial strain on the family left lasting difficulties. In 2006, bad luck struck a second time and Hoang's father was killed during a terrible storm while he was fishing on the beach. Hoang's mother was devastated when she heard the news. Only her children gave her the strength to continue living.

Hoang is a clever and helpful boy. His study results are always from good to excellent. After school he always helped his mother doing housework and looked after his younger sister and brother. This school year he began grade 10, and his mother was very worried whether she could afford to continue to send all three of her children to school. Her burden was resolved when Hoang was accepted at the Residence. Since coming to the Residence, he feels very happy. He has become familiar with the other children and the environment very quickly.

A Lucky Boy



Little Loan



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Loan is raised by a single mom. She does not know anything about her father. Life was very difficult for Loan and her family because her mother did not have a stable job. Loan's mother had to send her daughter to live with her granny when she went out to work. Her mother remarried and she thought that life would be less strenuous when she had a new toehold. In Vietnam, single mothers do not receive any financial support from the government, except for some small health care subsidies, and then only to the poorest families. It is usually too difficult for a single mother with children to survive on her own. There is also lasting social stigma about these situations.

Loan's mother remarried and has one daughter with her new husband. When Loan's sister was one year old, her mother was sent to the hospital for gallstone surgery. There was not enough money to foster her health after the surgery. Loan's mother's health has deteriorated so much that she cannot work as hard as she used to.

Loan and her sister are good girls; outside of school time they help their mother with the housework and they are very independent. This school year, Loan is in grade 9 and her sister in grade 1. Both of them are good students. Her mother used to say very often that she must make Loan quit school. She could not afford to pay for Loan's high school education because the distance from home to school in addition to study costs and lodging made this very expensive. Loan was very sad and she cried often because she did not want to stop school. It was wonderful news for her when she was admitted to the Residence. Loan said that she feels very happy to live at the Residence, it is her second family. She will try her best to study well to make the most of this opportunity. Loan is grateful to everyone who helped her remain at school and continue her education.



Ill health does not stop these twins from receiving a good education

Khang and Truong are twins. They are both studying well in grade six. They are very active and social young boys. At school, they have many friends and attend all school activities. Khang and Truong live with their parents and one older sister. Their family home has walls made of bamboo, and there are only a few possessions. Khang and Truong's parents are hard workers with a low monthly income, but they have to cover all family expenses, especially the nutrition for the twins.

Khang and Truong were born with congenital heart disease. Their parents and older sister spend much of their time taking good care of the boys. Khang, the older twin, has already had one cardiac surgery, and his health is improving. Khang also has some speech difficulties, but he is progressing well. Truong, the younger twin, is also ill, but fortunately his cardiac disease is less serious than his brother's.

In order for Khang and Truong to continue their education, they must have good health. To have good health, they must have continued medical treatment. CHIA is proud and grateful that through the contribution of our donors, the twins are currently receiving all the medical treatment they need. The future is looking brighter every day for these two strong and determined young boys.



Where education has led to an amazing out



Nhi and her grandmother



Nhi and her older brother Trung are living with their grandparents in a brick house built many years ago. They have no father and their mother left them when Nhi was two years old. Their mother cannot be located. The grandparents have reared Nhi and her brother on a low monthly income. They are farmers who live on 1000 m² of rice land. As the grandparents are old, the uncles who live beside their house help them to grow and harvest the crops. Nhi's grandmother stays at home to prepare the meals and raise some pigs to earn extra income. The family is listed as "poor" in the commune by the local government.

Wanting their two grandchildren to be successful in the future, the grannies tried to work to help them go to school to have stable jobs. Nhi and Trung study very hard and long hours to make their grannies happy. Trung has just graduated from Da Nang College of Transport. This is an amazing achievement and a wonderful testament to the grannies' dedication and to Trung's commitment to study. The family has to repay the huge amount of VND 8 million to the bank every year to cover his college fees. He also works at a part time job to cover the expenses of daily living. This is a family effort against such adversity to better the lives of Nhi and Trung to enable them to obtain good jobs and break the poverty cycle their ancestors have experienced.

We hope you applaud the hard work and efforts made by this family. In doing so, we hope you would then like to contribute to CHIA's education program. There are many families like this one, and a small amount of financial assistance can have dramatic positive outcomes. You will know you have MADE A DIFFERENCE to many lives.



Luu is a bright girl but she has suffered from malnutrition and arthritis so her development has been affected. Luu's parents try their best to provide her with a good nutritional diet, but sometimes they can't due to a lack of money. Luu's parents are fishermen so their incomes depends on the weather and sea conditions. Luu's father has a spinal disease, and the mother suffers from kidney disease, so their situation has become more and more difficult because the treatment for their medical conditions is a considerable drain on their income. In addition, the island where they live is a two hour boat trip from the coast. These are the reasons why the family is finding life more and more difficult.

All family members have to live in a very basic house with few possessions: only a bed and a wardrobe. The house has corrugated iron walls and a roof of coconut leaves; a structure likely to be blown down by a typhoon. Luu's parents wish for a stable house, so that they don't have to worry when the rainy season comes.

CHIA has supported Luu by inviting her to attend a clinic with a foreign doctor to assess her problems and provide medical treatment. We are so happy that Luu's health condition is getting much better after three months of pain management strategies for arthritis. Hopefully Luu and her family can overcome the difficulties in their life to find a new bright future.



Little girl with strong will

Ngoc has suffered from PDA (Patent Ductus Ateriosus) and cataracts since she was born because her mother was infected by the Rubella virus in her pregnancy. Her mother does not work, but stays home to look after the family. Ngoc's father works hard as a stone mason, but his low income coming isn't enough to cover both living costs of all family members and treatment fees for Ngoc.



When CHIA's medical team first met Ngoc at Danang General Hospital, she had severe malnutrition. Even though she was 22 months old, she weighed only 5.5kg at the time of her PDA surgery. The cataracts have seriously affected Ngoc's eyesight but at this stage she can't have surgery. Treatment at the moment is daily use of eye drops. Although cataracts can have serious affects on people's vision, Ngoc's family have never let go of the desire that one day their little girl can see the beauty of life around her.

Fortunately, Ngoc's health condition is much better six months after PDA surgery supported by CHIA. We are happy to report that when we saw Ngoc recently, her improved condition was obvious. She weighs 7kg now and much stronger. Ngoc has shown a strong will even at such a young age. We wish Ngoc and her family well for the future.

In February, Therapy project received a new class member. His name is Quynh. He is 6 years old and has cerebral palsy. He lives quite far away from CHIA and he is going to kindergarten in his village. His parents bring him to CHIA three times per week to do exercises. His fine motor skills are not very well developed, so improvement in this area is our current goal during therapy sessions. When he first came to CHIA, he was intimidated by the number of new people around. He always stayed next to his mother.

Quynh has made big progress. He isn't scared any more. He can control his hands much better now. He can hold a pencil to write or draw or pick up small toys. He is much more confident since he joined our class. His family is delighted with his progress. Although he has Cerebral palsy, his mental development is normal and he likes to play challenging games. His parents are planning to send him to school at grade 1 at the same age as his peers. At CHIA, we are doing everything we can to make this dream a reality.





Volunteer's corner



Ms. Jules hands her donated rice to the children

To a certain extent I am sure they were of some help, but Vietnam is a country that is growing at a very rapid pace and it is possible to buy nearly everything that is needed once you are here. However, a lot of these items are expensive for local people to buy.

If you really want to help this amazing country and some of it's more unfortunate but beautiful people to continue to develop, I encourage you to contact these charities and not for profit organizations and find out what is needed most. Then spend your dollars within the local community to help everyone.

The only things that you need to bring from your own countries are your big open hearts and a friendly smile and a few dollars... Everything else you can find locally....

As a first time visitor to Vietnam one thing is plainly obvious. For a large proportion of the population here there is a distinct difference in lifestyle between them and those of us from more affluent western countries.

More often than not in our own countries we are by large within the average scale of wealth on a monetary level, sometimes less, sometimes more. However as a visitor to a country such as Vietnam we can appear to the local population to be very wealthy. The majority of us can generally afford a very comfortable holiday or stay here, which for a lot of local people is merely a dream.

There are millions of Vietnamese people living on or below the poverty line, and many children in homes due to varying factors such as becoming orphaned, or even that their families for one reason or another are unable to continue to provide for them. Some come from very poor families in rural areas, and often the only possibility they have to receive an education is for them to move to a larger province where education is available. They come alone, and for most it is their first time away from their family homes and towns. CHIA is a home for them in Hoi An that provides shelter, education and the basic necessities of life.

Over the last 10 years I have been visiting Hoi An and whilst I am here I try to do what I can to help some families and children in need. When I first started visiting I would fill my suitcases with books, pens, and clothes etc from home hoping that they would be of assistance. I spent mountains of money on excessive luggage fees.

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

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

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



Since the beginning CHIA has

Provided Health insurance for **363** children

Supported **117**

Orthopedic diagnostics,

30 Orthopedic surgery

19 Hearing assessments

Cancer treatment for **9** children

283 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

483 Baseline medical assessments

Helped **64** children access nutritional support

Provided **617** tins of milk

Completed community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **1185** mothers

Managed a Residence of **30** children

Awarded **132** students for improvement

Kept **104** children attending school

Provided **38** bicycles for school students

Sponsored kindergarten for **14** toddlers

Helped **19** teenagers access vocational training

Provided glasses for **11** children

Tet gifts and celebrations for **876** children

Built **21** new houses, repaired **3** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery and **8** piglets as livelihood support

Provided **155** wheelchairs

Delivered **3,708** 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 Person with disability

Mid autumn festival for **712** children

In the last three months, CHIA has

Conducted **102** home visits

1 Baseline medical assessments

145 Therapy sessions

Delivered **2** disabilities equipment

Review **3** wheelchairs

Sponsored kindergarten for **3** children

Maintained **71** children in Education sponsorship program

Tertiary sponsorship for **9** children

Helped **4** teenagers access vocational training

Nutrition support for **9** children

Delivered **50** gift bags in Lunar New Year Tet