



Long now has a strong will to live

People living in the old town of Hoi An are familiar with Long who comes to the pagoda with his walking frame every day for praying. He has been living with cerebral palsy since he was born. Because of his disability, Long is unable to walk normally and it is also hard for him to use his wheelchair to move. When first using a walking frame, Long found it very difficult. That was one of the most difficulty periods in his life as he often fell down when trying to move. Many people thought that Long would give up after falling down over and over. However, Long proved them wrong, he did not care about how often he fell down and how it made him look like. He learned to be content with his disability. His confidence and optimistic spirit has surprised many people.

In 2010, Long attended a class for children with disabilities held by CHIA. The staff at CHIA immediately recognized that Long was very intelligent, had good communication skills and extraordinary energy, and knew that he could become a productive member of society. Unfortunately CHIA had to discontinue this class after 18 months. Long's biggest dream is to walk on his own feet without using the walking frame, go to school every day just like other children his age and earn a living without depending on support from his parents.

In 2012, his illness became more severe because of uncontrolled epilepsy and other health issues. After being treated for a long time with sedatives, Long's legs became very weak. As a result, he could not walk as well as he did before. This really damaged Long's confidence. At times Long considered ending his life as he felt useless not being able to help his parents. Since CHIA staff learned of this recently, CHIA staff have counseled him twice a week in order to help him recover his spirit and confidence and have worked with his family to better balance his medications. Long is improving daily. Everyday Long spends 2 hours walking and engaging in other forms of rehabilitation. He also spends one and a half hours praying at the pagoda. Long looks after his body, hygiene and his meals without any help.

CHIA hopes that in the future, those with disabilities will have a better opportunity to study and work so that they have the chance to contribute to society and improve their health.



Long proudly presented his work



Long is again confident to go out with his walking frame



A call for help

This is Thuy. She was born into a very poor family in Hoi An with 6 members- her grandma, her mother and father, her sister and brother and herself. Her grandma passed away 8 years ago from a brain condition. Tragically, her father died five months later from hepatitis B, which her brother also contracted.

Thuy's family fell into difficult circumstances and her mother had to work very hard to earn money not only to care for and provide food for the family but also to pay for her son's hepatitis B treatments and to support her daughter's vocational training.

After her father died, Thuy moved into The Residence and has lived there for nearly 7 years now. She is now in 11th grade. Since Thuy has been living at The Residence, she has studied very hard and her results range from very good to excellent, especially in English. She wishes to be a tour guide in the future.

Thuy is a lovely girl who actively participates in The Residences activities and helps out the younger children. She likes singing and dancing and recently performed in The Residence's Tet concert, The Residence's *Got Talent* with her group winning the first prize. Thuy also helps to show visitors around The Residence and communicates with them in English.

In January, Thuy performed very well in the Secondary Level English Proficiency Test (SLEP Test) and to her credit, she was invited to apply for a full year scholarship in the American - German Public High School Program.

The Residence plans to invite support to raise a loan of around \$US11,000 to assist Thuy to complete the procedures and requirements to study in the U.S. as well as the airline ticket, interviews, health checks etc. Thuy said that she will study very hard and to also find a part-time job there to earn money to repay the loan.



Tram and her sister

Tram was born into a poor family with 4 members. Unfortunately, her father died from an electric shock when she was just 2 years old. Three years later, her mother remarried and left her children behind. Tram and her sister moved to live with their old grandparents. Because of difficult circumstances, their old grandparents couldn't afford to send the 2 girls to school.

Outside of school hours, Tram and her sister had to sell lottery tickets and do some odd jobs to earn some money for the family. Luckily Tram's sister was allowed to stay at the Residence from 2008. As their grandparents are getting older and cannot take care of Tram, Tram was also came to live at The Residence last year when she was in grade 10.

Tram feels very happy and lucky to live at The Residence as she can pursue her education. Tram is the only girl at the Residence attending advanced history class. Tram wishes to be a police officer in the future.



Thuy and her mates at The Residence



Vietnamese Traditional Tet is a chance for children in Viet Nam to wear new clothes, receive gifts and to enjoy special sweets and cakes. Children are also traditionally given lucky money "Lixi" along with their relatives' best wishes in the coming year. Normally children receive wishes that they can improve their study, continue to be strong and healthy and continue to develop into good and polite people. However, not all children have the opportunity to enjoy that small amount of joy in the New Year, as there are many poor families that are not able to afford normal Tet celebrations or give away lucky money and gifts to their children. CHIA wishes that all children are able to celebrate and be happy around this joyous time. In Jan 2013, CHIA delivered gifts to a small number of the poorest children in Hoi An and nearby districts. CHIA hopes to increase the number of Tet gifts given out next year for Tet 2014.

With every donation that we received, we were able to give a small gift to a thankful child. Although the gifts seemed small, they meant a lot to the children and really brought

CHIA was really proud to see the happiness on the children's faces when they received their Tet gifts, from our generous donors.

When everybody else was enjoying the wonderful moment of New Year's Eve, Hau's family was crying and bringing her back home for burial. Hau had stayed at hospital for half a month because of vomiting blood before she died. She was born with a liver problem and later on she was diagnosed with cirrhosis. Though the family tried to help by seeing many good doctors, all of their effort became useless. Hau was a very smart student and active monitor at her school. She did very well in class despite of her bad health. It's so sad to start a year with a lost life. However, it also showed us how important CHIA's work is in the community for helping disadvantaged Vietnamese families. We hope you will accompany us during this long and difficult journey.

Tet gifts and disadvantaged children



Smiling faces with their Lixi



I started volunteering at CHIA in November 2012. I am a pediatric Registered Nurse from Australia, volunteering through Australian Volunteers International until 2014. My role at CHIA is to offer technical medical advice to the medical team regarding individual patients and assist in the development of community health programs. At the moment, Viet Nam is lacking critical skills in community health nursing, which can make an important difference to the lives of many children. So far working at CHIA has been a very valuable experience for me. The team here is excellent, and very passionate about helping children overcome significant health and financial obstacles. Since starting work at CHIA six months ago I have witnessed the very real benefits of CHIA's health programs, including sexual health and infant nutrition education, and assisting with individual children's medical needs. I am very excited by the programs we are currently working on, including a community dental program for primary school children and expanded sexual health education for adolescent boys. I hope that my time volunteering at CHIA can be a useful experience and that my work can improve the health of Vietnamese children and adolescents.

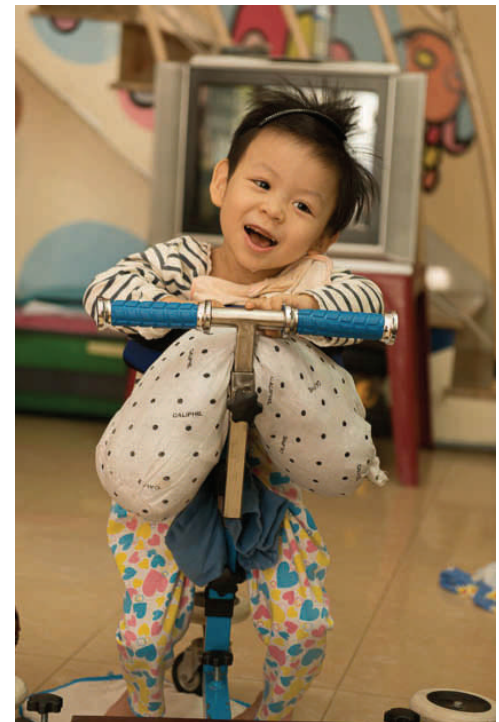


Written by Ms Sagen Wilks



Disability News

After Tet, our POD (Program of Development) program continues with four children, most of whom have cerebral palsy. We were happy to received 2 new children into this class. During the first week after Tet, the new children felt very uncomfortable and you could see that they were not used to other children so the carers had difficulties looking after the kids and doing therapy with them. Especially Tom had a hard time adjusting. She cried a lot and her muscles were so stiff that we had trouble calming her down to do therapy. The first times the children joined the class, their parents were always with them to help them become more confident and familiar with the class. Also by attending, the parents were able to develop more skills and learn new exercises to help their children. The class has stabilised again, with the new children familiar with the new children familiar with the class and confident and showing interest in attending the POD class. The parents of the children said that: if they tell their child that he or she is going to school (POD), they get very excited and laugh a lot. This is what brings us joy and keeps us motivated to continue on this journey. We hope that these children will achieve much progress when they join the POD program at CHIA. We will continue to work towards providing the best service to the children in the POD program and the children in the community.



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

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



Since the beginning CHIA has

Health insurance for **362** children

114 Orthopedic diagnostics, **27** Orthopedic surgery

19 Hearing assessments

Cancer treatment for **9** children

269 Cardiac assessments
Heart surgery for **54** 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

457 Baseline medical assessments

Helped **50** children access nutritional support

Provided **587** tins of milk

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **714** mothers

Managed a Residence of **30** children

Awarded **122** students for improvement

Kept **137** children attending school

Provided **32** 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 **826** children

Built **18** new houses, repaired **3** houses, **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school, and **1** piggery and **8** piglets as livelihood support

Provided **141** wheelchairs

Delivered **3,239** 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 **64** home visits

6 cardiac assessments

Facilitated **24** children to be seen by international medical specialists

12 Baseline medical assessments

32 Therapy sessions

Sponsored kindergarten for **5** children

Provided **1** bicycle

Maintained **108** children in Education sponsorship program

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **54** mothers

Provided **1** bicycle

Nutrition support for **7** children

Delivered **128** Tet gifts for disadvantaged children in communities