

News from Hoi An Children's Home

We all come from villages near Hoi An. In our hometowns there are a lot of children like us whose families do not have enough money to send them to school and the high school is too far away. Many children **have to stop studying** and go to work. We were very lucky that we were supported by the Hoi An Children's Home, a place that all of us tenderly call "our home".

When we first came to "the Home", we were a bit scared because it was the first time that we lived far away from our families. But after a short time, all other children at the Home helped us a lot to feel happy at "the Home". The boys always asked us to join when they played football in the afternoon, and the girls invited us to make handicrafts with them. Later we were happy when we could help other children that were new at "the Home" in the same way.

Time goes by so fast, now we are just about to finish grade 12. All of us have dreams: some of us want to get a job; some of us want to continue to study at university. But whatever we do, we will always remember that we had a great time at the Hoi An Children's Home. Other children are going to come to the Home. They are also going to have a **huge chance** to improve their lives.

Letter from the 12th graders



From the bottom of our heart, we want to thank the staff and **all people who support CHIA**. You made it possible for us to have a home to **continue our education**.

Children's day



The children were so eager to join the trip

Do you remember exactly what you did on 1st June? Well, the Children at the Hoi An Children's Home do.

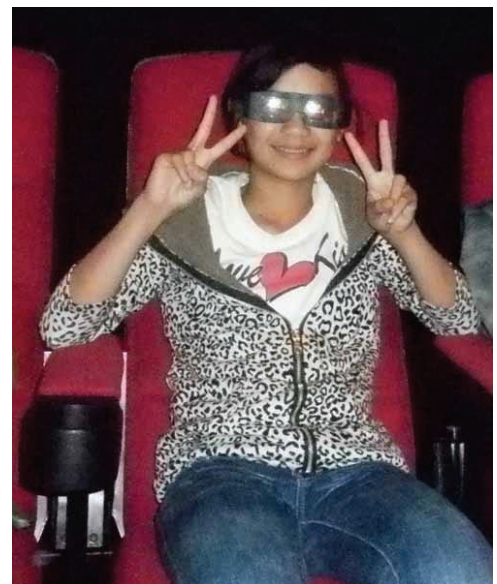
The 1st of June is International Children's Day. On this occasion we organized a very special day for all children at the Hoi An Children's Home. We started in the morning with a small celebration and gifts for the best students, of whom, we can proudly say, we had a lot this year.

We went to a mall in Da Nang where the children could play some games. There we had lunch together, and then we went to see a movie in 3D. This was certainly unforgettable for the children because seeing a 3D movie is something that most Vietnamese people have not done yet.

This trip was only possible thanks to CHIA's partner GIZ, who also supports us with two volunteers. For many children in western countries days like this are something very normal but for disadvantaged children in Vietnam this is something very special.

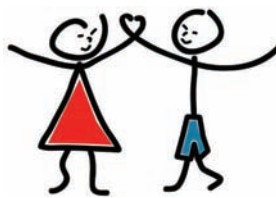


We went shopping



Please visit us at
www.ChildrensHopeInAction.org





Making a huge difference

- Helping children to go to kindergarten

HOME VISITS...

Coming to listen to their stories, coming to understand about their circumstance, coming to encourage them and letting them know that there is someone on the earth helping them...

Going on home-visits is my favourite task as CHIA's education sponsorship program coordinator. Home visits are very important because we can find the most needy cases to help and update information about our beneficiaries. We need this information to make sure that our help is benefitting the children in the best possible way.

Through these home visits, I have had many different experiences. Sometimes I wish I would be Bill Gates or another billionaire so that I have money to help all the poor people that I met. The longer I work for CHIA, the more I think that there are so many **people in need**.

Maybe it is hard for you to imagine how many children can not go to school because their parents don't have enough money to pay their studying fees. This is why CHIA offers donors to join us during a home-visit, if possible. When you **meet the children** that need your support you will be surprised about the **difference** that your donation makes.



CHIA staff visited twins Thanh and Thoi at their kindergarten class



"Today you start going to school; I went to work but all day I felt very anxious. I was so worried that I had to leave my phone at home in order to not just call your teacher to only ask how you were. My baby, a new phase in your life has started. Mom and dad hope that you will enjoy going to kindergarten; we hope that your teacher will passionately take care of you."

This is what a happy and excited mother wrote in her diary when her child first went to kindergarten. But how about the **children who have no mother**?

As mentioned in our last newsletters, we have been supporting several children who have to live without a mother.

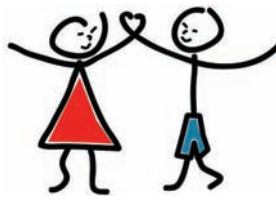
- * The twin boys, Duy and Dang, who were born in 2007 have already spent one year in kindergarten now. Their mother died after giving birth. They grow up with the care and love from their father.
- * Thanh and Thoi are twins who were born in 2008. This year they went to pre-kindergarten. Their mother is mentally ill so she can not take care of them.
- * Han and Anh already live without a mother for four years. Their family is very poor, and they all have to live in their grandmother's small house. It's hard for their father to take care of them. But they are doing very well in kindergarten.

It is so difficult for a child to live without a mother. If there weren't any hands which helped them to reduce their difficulties, their families could not bring them up as well as they can do now. Through **your donations** it becomes possible for these disadvantaged children to go to kindergarten. This makes a big difference for the father who have to take care of them and it is a huge chance for the children.

The name of the children has been changed to protect their identity.

Children's Hope in Action

Medical - Proudly sponsored by NOKIA



Change

Baby Huong is a very small girl with **several deformities** since birth. When seeing their infant for the first time, Huong's mother cried all day because she thought that her child couldn't survive. Luckily, knowing the special condition of the child, someone introduced CHIA to the family.

Huong's father is a worker who worked on the construction of the new Ho Chi Minh highway. That's how he got **affected by Agent Orange**, a very toxic chemical that was used by the American army during the Vietnam war.

CHIA helped Huong to be seen by many plastic surgery teams like American InterPlast, Facing The World or Operation Smile. She still wasn't selected for surgery because of her heart problem. However, the third time that Operation Smile team came to Hoi An, Huong was selected to have surgery to fix some of her facial deformities.

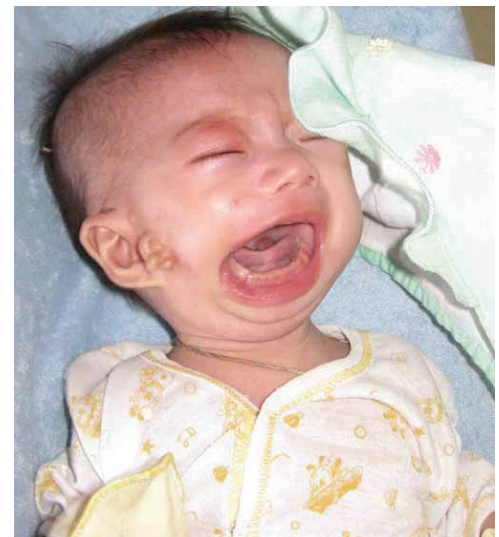
Huong **underwent a very successful surgery**. We have just visited Huong some days ago and saw her very active and vivacious. Her parents told us that they still don't believe what happened.



Huong after the surgery



Huong had a right ear, a right jaw, a left foot deformities and a cardiac problem.



Huong still needs to undergo a surgery for her left foot deformity and a long term cardiac treatment.

Medical News

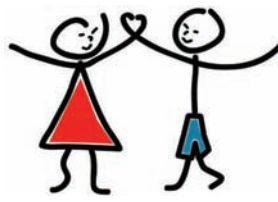


In Vietnam, **sex still is a sensitive topic** that shouldn't be mentioned in public. Therefore, most Vietnamese youngsters aren't aware of problems related to sex. This also is an explanation for many problems such as a very high abortion rate in our society .

That's why, CHIA created the Sexual health program with the aim to **provide necessary knowledge** so that teenagers become more active in solving problems related to bodily and physical changes.

According to scientific surveys, 90% of Vietnamese women who got Rubella in the first 3 months of pregnancy will give birth to a baby with symptoms like deafness, cataracts, encephalitis or developmental delay. In Vietnam, people seem to have no knowledge about this virus. As a result, there are still many cases of infants with disabilities caused by Rubella. Therefore, CHIA provided **free Sexual Health Education, Rubella vaccinations** to female adolescents and **Hepatitis B vaccinations**.

Hoi An is the first place where we started this successful program. We felt the excitement of the 60 girls in the seminar because it was the first time they received clear information which they were longing for. Hopefully, we can bring this program to **more places** in Quang Nam in order to limit problems caused by lacking knowledge about sexual health and Rubella.



DAYS OUT

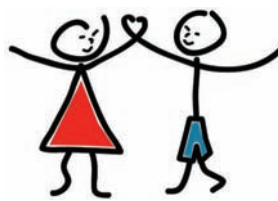
Going to other cities is something very special for children that live in disadvantaged families in Vietnam. Every year CHIA organizes a Summer Trip for all children at the Hoi An Children's Home and CHIA's Education Sponsorship program who maintained their studying result within the last school year. This year we took 68 children to visit Hue, the old imperial city. We had two days there and a very lovely time.

We went to see the famous Thien Mu Pagoda, the Citadel and Minh Mang Tomb. For the children it was great to learn more about Vietnamese culture and to see important places of Vietnam's past. We all really enjoyed the sightseeing. In the evening we enjoyed a boat tour on the Perfume River. As well, the children hugely enjoyed some fun games, group activities and making friends with each other.

The children were amazed about all the sights that they saw because many of them had never left their hometown before. Many children told CHIA staff that they will study very hard in order to be able to join another trip next year.



Snapshots of children at Hue Imperial Citadel



During CPALS sessions, the conductor Stephanie Driver taught the mother how to help her daughter to transfer her weight.



Amazing progress

Han is a six-year-old girl. She already had about two years of therapy when she was first diagnosed with **Cerebral Palsy**. She especially has a cognitive problem. The family took her to an Acupuncture Hospital, they hoped she would make a lot of progress there. Her condition has not been much better because many people do not believe that she could not understand anything. So how could she learn and make progress?

Han has come to Cpals sessions for 3 months now. She has made a lot of progress. Firstly, we taught her how to **socialize** with other people.

Now she can clap hands with others to say hello or goodbye. Secondly, we helped her to improve her mobility. She was getting heavy for her mother when she had to change clothes. Han did not know how to transfer her weight on one leg. The mother also learnt how to give her child a chance to do more by herself. This way Han can have a chance to **increase her abilities**.

All this is a **big motivation** for the mother to keep trying. She always gets Han to practice the activities which she learned in the previous sessions.

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
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
to info@ChildrensHopeInAction.org



Since the beginning CHIA has

Health insurance for **282** children

107 Orthopedic diagnostics

19 Hearing assessments

26 Orthopedic surgeries

Cancer treatment for **9** children

262 Cardiac assessments

Heart surgeries for **50** children

34 Cleft lip and palate surgeries

8 Facial deformity surgeries

23 facial deformity assessments

19 Colo-rectal surgeries

881 Flu, **19** Hepatitis B, **48** Rubella and **8** chicken-pox vaccinations

383 Baseline medical assessments

Helped **22** children access nutritional support

Provided **490** tins of milk

Community health education about " Infant Nutrition" for **240** mothers

Hepatitis B test for **20** children

16 cleft-lip assessment

Awarded **122** students for improvement

Kept **146** children attending school

Provided **16** 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 **2,749** 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 **507** children

From October to December CHIA has

Conducted **227** home visits

Facilitated **13** children to be seen by international medical specialists

Helped **3** children have heart surgery

20 Baseline medical assessments

8 Facial deformity surgery

23 Facial deformity assessment

Hepatitis B test for **20** children

19 Hepatitis B, **48** Rubella and **8** chicken-pox vaccinations

3 Orthopedic assessments

5 Orthopedic surgery

92 Therapy sessions

Sponsored kindergarten for **3** children

61 Sessions of CPALS

6 Aqua therapy sessions for children with disabilities

2-days summer trip for **68** children in Hue

Maintained **115** children in Education sponsorship program

Children's day event for **32** children

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

Built **1** house

10 cleft-lip surgeries

16 cleft-lip assessment