



My Big Day Out! By Thuy

I'm Thuy, and I am very happy and lucky to join the camping trip with many friends and the friendly CHIA staff. I believe that life is so marvelous and it can bring many surprises and excitement to all of us, that never fade in our hearts. It is a special day, and we never forget the memories of camping day.

Wow! I'm so excited waiting for the camping trip. And finally that day came. Firstly we all felt shy and nervous with many people around, but then after 15 minutes, it seemed that we were friends from before. The atmosphere became hotter and hotter when CHIA staffs introduced some funny activities, and we all made a big circle holding hands, and it looked like a big CHIA family. After that we sang some traditional songs, and turned into some children funny songs. It was a high tide when we were divided into 4 teams: green, red, purple and yellow team and each team had a CHIA staff leader. Every child had to do their best to be a winner in some games such as: tug of war, boat race on sand, who can eat a banana or drink milk quickest and so on. This brought us more laughter and more fun.

Although after the game, the dust and sweat covered our whole body, we still smiled and felt so happy. It was so exciting when we knew that the score of each team was different by only one point. We promised to ourselves that we will do our best to be the winner, and finally, the luck smiled on my team - the Red team. I was extremely happy and we were crazy with joy. Though the red team was winner, the rest 3 teams were happy also, because actually we were rewarded equally (though present box of the Red team was the biggest). From this incredible day, we learnt that we can be more confident, friendly, independent and cooperative when we are in a team.

Looking at 37 joyful and bright faces playing with the sea waves, I hoped that CHIA will provide more opportunities for us to socialize and communicate with our new friends in the future. I just want to say "thank CHIA so much" and want to send the best regards to the CHIA staff. We promise to study better next school year!

Written by Thuy aged 15, translated by Ms Anh



The week that was



Robyn Morley—Knee deep

On Monday morning I woke to the first mention I had heard of a storm coming. By Tuesday afternoon we were preparing for the blast of Typhoon Ketsana. Most people were busy preparing for high winds and were not too concerned about the possibility of flood, because it was very early in the wet season, and there had not been any prolonged or very heavy rain yet. Wednesday morning dawned on a flooded city. The cause of the 3.5m flash flood varies from (A) tidal surges stopped the rainwater from flowing into the sea (B) a dam in the catchment area broke (C) extreme upstream deforestation. The ceiling in the room where Binh was sleeping at the office as security guard, collapsed onto his bed. Fortunately he was not there at the time. The rate of rainfall on the third floor garden of the office building, exceeded the capacity of the drains, resulting in an impromptu staircase-waterfall feature inside the office. As the flood water was lapping the ground floor of the clinic, each time a truck went by ferrying stranded residents, the wash from the truck came into the clinic. But it's hard to feel sorry for ourselves when we can see so many of our neighbours who lost everything except the clothes they were standing in, and indeed there were reportedly 9 deaths in our province. For the next 2 weeks at least, I can see us diverting most of our resources to disaster relief.

**Robyn Morley,
Founding Director**



Typhoon Ketsana hits Hoi An

The 9th Storm

by Van our physio



27th, September, CHIA organized mid- Autumn festival for children in Duy Thu and Duy Tan ward in Duy Xuyen province. The weather was wonderful. I had a day off on the next day and it was raining heavily and very windy. The next morning, I couldn't go to work because of the heavy rain and wind. The wind blew the trees down across the road. At that time, the weather forecast said at 1-2pm the storm would hit Quang Ngai. We immediately prepared sand bags to protect our house, the gas shop and its roof. But the wind was too strong and the gas shop roof was blown away. The rain water rapidly rose and flooded the fish pond and the fish tank away and our gas tanks were washed away. The flood water rose up rapidly that night and we thought we had to save ourselves first. We sat on chairs and weren't able to do anything to save our property from the rising water. And we could only watch them float away. During the three days of flooding we had only instant noodle to eat. It was the most frightening experience that I have ever had in my life and I will never forget.

We need your help

Many of CHIA's children and families lost everything in the flood. CHIA plans to help our families to rebuild their lives and we need your help.

Emergency relief donations can be made into the following account.

Funds will be used to purchase emergency supplies including food, clean drinking water and medicine. In addition we plan to repair and rebuild homes.

Account name: "Children's Hope In Action"

Account number : 0651370491116

Bank name : Vietcombank Quang Nam, Hoi An Branch

Bank address : 25 Nhi Trung Street, Hoi An, Quang Nam, S.R.Vietnam

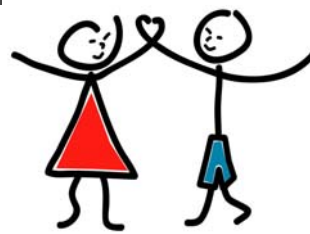
Bank CIF No : 312931

Bank Swift Code : BFTVNVX004

All in a word

The word "typhoon" might come from the Hakka dialect phrase "tai foon", or the Cantonese phrase "dai fung", OR the Mandarin "tai feng," all with the meaning "Big Wind"

Other possible origins of the word include the Greek Typhon , the god of the winds, who personifies storm thunder winds. The Arabic, Persian, and Hindi terms *tufan* may have been borrowed from the Greek. In old Turkic script the word Tufan is also recorded.



CHIA's Big Day Out !

Friday, 7th August was an incredible day for all CHIA staff and in particular for 37 children who are part of our education program. The children chosen for this special event were either already very good students or have shown large improvement in their studies during the last school year. The Big Day Out provides encouragement for all children to do their best during the next school year. Most of our children had never seen the beach before, so they all felt happy and eager when they learnt that they would be rewarded for their hard work with a day at the beach.

We really had a lot of fun and it was a very meaningful day. The children from three districts: Duy Xuyen, Hoi An, Thang Binh had the chance to meet and make new friends. At first they all felt quite shy and they mostly sat and kept silent. After gentle encouragement from the CHIA staff the atmosphere changed and the children became more confident and soon the place was filled with chatting and laughter.

Loc (our IT guru) has a side talent as a game organizer, and he encouraged everyone (including the CHIA staff) to indulge in an endless succession of fun games. The children were divided into 4 teams and the children laughed a lot and were incredibly enthusiastic when joining all activities. There was friendly competition, however they were all doing their best to win.

The CHIA staff did an amazing job preparing for the day and everyone worked together to make sure that the day was a memorable one for each and every child.

Everyone gathered on the beach, had lots of fun, great food, a swim in the ocean and there were prizes for everyone. "I am so happy today, I wish we will have more activities in the future. I will try to study and get a good result next school year" said one of the children from Duy Xuyen. At the end of the trip, each child was given a book to remember the day by.

Thank you to our incredible donors who help keep these young children in school.

Written by Ms Anh, Education co-ordinator





News from our education program

Holidays are over

To sponsor a child's education
please email

info@childrenshopeinaction.org

For \$140 usd

You can help educate
a child for a year

Finally, the summer vacation or the school holiday is over, and every child has to prepare for a new school year. They are all excited to come back to school after 3 months off. Some of them had a meaningful and joyful summer, while the others had to struggle with the difficult life. They had to help family by finding a part time job or working in the rice field to earn some more money. It was proved that there are still many underprivileged children that need help in Viet Nam. However, we can see that those kids are very brave, they really want to improve their quality of life and do not surrender. How admirable our children are!

At the moment, CHIA is supporting 59 children who are from poor families and are very eager to study at school. CHIA children have more difficult circumstances than others, however they receive some wonderful achievements in their studies. In order to encourage and cheer for their improvement, CHIA recently organized a camping trip at the beach for them. Although it was a small gift, they felt so happy about it and hope to be received more encouragements like this in the future. We, CHIA staff, also wish to help more and more children and make their summer an unforgettable and meaningful one.



Being a girl with congenital disability and born into a poor family, Phuong is a brave girl who overcomes these difficulties with ease. Phuong is studying grade 11 now, and performs very well at school. It is difficult to travel from Hoi An to Duy Xuyen everyday to study, so the family has made it more convenient for her by renting a small room in Hoi An. She returns home at weekends. Although it is difficult for her to move, Phuong does her best to walk independently. However, she goes to school and to study some extra classes by a push me-pull me wheelchair. Phuong is really a strong and confident girl, she always smiles and doesn't feel ashamed because of her legs. In Hoi An, she does everything to take care of herself such as going to the market to buy food for cooking, washing her own clothes and cleaning her home.

To treat Phuong's condition, her family spent a lot of money taking her to many hospitals to be assessed, but the doctors couldn't do anything. Phuong's father has disability also, but he does his best to earn money as a building worker. The mother stays at home to make mats and then sells them in the market. Their income can barely cover the family's expenses, but hardly for Phuong's school fee. When you enter her house, you do not see any possessions inside except a bed, and one feels that this house can easily blow away or fall down in a typhoon. Though living under many difficult circumstances, Phuong is still a positive and happy girl. She is pleased with what she has and accepts it comfortably. She is an incredible girl and worthy of an education. CHIA is looking for a sponsor for Phuong to ensure that she can stay in school.

Did you know

Over 110 million of the world's children, two thirds of them girls, are not in school.
Of the world's 875 million illiterate adults, two thirds are women.



News from the health team

It was late Friday afternoon; I received a phone call from Dr.Trieu from Da Nang General Hospital to ask if we can support for surgery's cost for an emergency case. According to him, this child was unconscious when admitting to hospital and after 5 hours attempting to rescue her, her heart started to work again but this little girl must have her heart operated within 3 days; otherwise they all do not know what will happen. CHIA procedures aside, we came up with the answer "yes" to this case after only 5 minutes in discussion with CHIA's founder, Ms. Robyn. Although there are many children who need heart surgeries, we considered this case to be a priority.

Her name is Chuyen and she is a 9 year old girl who lives with her parents and 2 younger sisters in their ethnic minority community of Quang Nam province. I went to visit Chuyen just hours before she had surgery; she has a very cute look with her big eyes. When I first communicated to her father, we hardly understood each other because he could only speak a bit of the Kinh (Vietnamese) language. The whole family's living relies on planting sugar-cane and peanuts. Chuyen was faint sometimes but her parents didn't think the severity of her health condition till she had difficulty in breathing and was admitted to hospital. Luckily, she was cared for by these great doctors and I was informed by Dr. Trieu that she had a very successful surgery. Thanks to doctors of cardiovascular department, Chuyen's life was rescued and is having a speedy recovery.



Thank you Gabi & Roger



Gabi Neave is at retirement age, when many people like to take holidays or a rest after their many years of work.

However, with a big heart, Gabi and her husband Roger travelled a long way from Australia, the land of beautiful Kangaroos to Hoi An, Viet Nam to work as volunteers for CHIA's Health Care Program.

Although this was the first time Gabi had been to Viet Nam and worked with Vietnamese staff, she was very sociable and friendly when working with us. During her time at CHIA, we admired Gabi a lot when we saw her caring for a staff member that was injured after a motorbike accident. The physician's heart was expressed clearly in her way of caring for children who CHIA helps.

Gabi was with us a short time but she did a lot of home visits with CHIA's young nurse. During the visits, she showed our nurse, Ms Ha some new ways to care for children.

After 3 months of working at CHIA in the Health Care program, Gabi left for her hometown. We all thank her for her lovely time at CHIA and hope to see her again one day.

A big thanks to Gabi's husband Roger who helped our staff with English tutoring and helping ad-

Let us celebrate !

The CHIA medical team works incredibly hard to help the children of Hoi An and surrounding areas to access surgeries that they otherwise might not have the chance to have.

Some of these surgeries are simple correction procedures, however many are life saving.

Since January 2009

13 Cardiac surgeries

- + 5 eye surgeries
- 3 cleft lip operations
- 2 anus corrections
- 1 bowel rotation
- 1 leg surgery



News from the therapy team

Although Hoi An is near the beach, many of the community can not swim! The UN estimates that nationwide 40 children die every day from drowning. Many of the CHIA staff can not swim, however recently 3 of our physiotherapy team were invited to participate in the TriBob learn-to-swim program.

Our physiotherapists believe that swimming is very necessary for a good and healthy life, keeping our bodies strong and bringing us good spirit for working. In addition you can save yourself or save others from drowning.

Our physio team are hoping to develop a regular hydrotherapy program for our disabled children. As many of you know, hydrotherapy is a physio treatment which can bring wonderful benefits to children suffering from different disabilities.

Hydrotherapy stimulates these children to do physiotherapy to keep their body stronger and prevent their body from more contractures. With the support from Australian volunteer Donna, the team received basic training in hydrotherapy and after this activity, they were able to identify that hydrotherapy is a good treatment for many children at CHIA. We hope to be able to continue with this program during next summer.

Thanks to the Tribob crew and Donna for kick starting our hydrotherapy plans.

Written by the physio team, Ms Van, Ms Phuong & Mr Vuong (pictured above right)



The weather during the summer in Viet Nam is hot and can make our work difficult, especially when attempting to serial cast some of our disabled children.

Serial casting is a new skill learnt by our physio team and with training and support from Donna we attempted to plaster the feet of two children in the hope that this would reduce contractures and correct the foot position in preparation for further corrective surgery.

After several castings we were able to take these children to Da Nang Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital for assessment by a visiting specialist. We are thrilled to learn that one of the children will receive correction surgery.

Due to other complications one of the children is unable to undergo surgery, however will now be available to use a pair of custom built shoes to support her shorter leg and give her more balance when she is standing and allow her to do more physiotherapy with equipment.

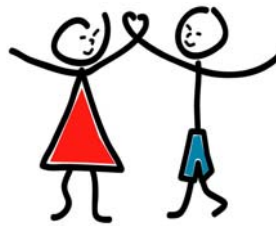
Annually CHIA is blessed with many volunteers who come and work with our team and children. Our most recent physiotherapy volunteer Donna has returned home after nearly three months working with our disability team.

During the 3 months that Donna was with us my colleagues and I were able to improve our skills and knowledge in physiotherapy and we were able to learn new techniques like plastering and using Theratogs to improve children's ability to walk independently.

Written by

Thanks
Donna





What is it worth ?

\$ 30 usd

enables us to undertake a range of health checks for a child whose condition is unknown. .

\$140 usd

pays for a child's education needs including school fees, extra tuition, text books, uniforms and stationery for one year. .

\$550 usd

pays for corrective orthopaedic surgery for a child suffering from congenital bone deformities to maximise their mobility and life opportunities.

\$600 usd

facilitates surgery and long term nutritional supplementation for a baby born with cleft lip and palate, ensuring they are given every chance of leading a normal, healthy life.

\$1,500 usd

provides access for a child with a severe heart condition to medical assessment, treatment and life-saving surgery. The gift of life.

Please consider donating to
CHIA this Christmas
so we can help more children
have a brighter start to the new year.



No matter where in the world you live, you can help CHIA by making a donation by one of the following methods:

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: 633 000

Account number: 1275 43924

BPay biller code: 342 949

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

With
love

Please visit us at

www.childrenshopeinaction.org