



Mid-autumn festival

Have you ever joined a mid-autumn festival? It's a festival for children in Vietnam. Every full moon in August, you might be surprised because the noise produced by many drums, the colorful variety of lanterns and because of the shops along the streets selling dragon or lion heads. Whenever you hear the sound of drums, all children, even adults feel very excited and look forward to the festival. Especially the 29 teenagers at Hoi An Children's Home, who are all from very poor families, that were waiting for the full moon festival and were anxious when it came closer. Do you know why those children felt so excited? It's very easy to answer: on the day of the mid-autumn festival the kids will be lavished with biscuits and candies. They love eating biscuits and candies a lot, they wish they could have it everyday.

Early that day, when the children saw some companies bring boxes of biscuits and candies, and moon cakes as a donation, they were all happy. They asked us everything about the party, about what present they will get, and whether we will have a dragon dancing at the home? And finally, it was late afternoon, when the mid-autumn festival party started. A huge amount of biscuits and candies was shown and the children got crazy with it. They rarely have sweets, therefore this was the time for them to enjoy it. They ate a lot and felt very satisfied. During the party, they also joined some fun activities, and those who won a game got a reward for their encouragement. Luckily, a pagoda sent a dragon dancing group to the home, so that the kids could watch the show for free. It was so amazing! Lots of laughs appeared and the children really had fun during that night, before the party ended, the children were also given a bag full of little presents, so they could remember the night. The children all wished that there would be 2 or 3 mid-autumn festivals every year, instead of one so that they could have more "sweet nights" like that.

CHIA had the opportunity to contribute through organizing Mid- Autumn Festivals for children with the target that all the children have the right to welcome a safe and healthy Mid- Autumn Festival. CHIA delivered 350 gifts for disadvantaged children in 5 remote and rural communes of Quang Nam province. We really experienced a meaningful Mid- Autumn Festival with all the children there. This was the first time that the children had the chance to enjoy such a wonderful festival. They participated in quiz games where they could win a prize, painting games and many other games... as well. The kids were really thrilled when they could watch the performance of the Lion Dance Groups from their commune. They were very happy to receive CHIA gifts. Their parents were really grateful because of CHIA's noble gesture. The representatives of each commune appreciated what we had done for the children and they hope that in the future CHIA will continue to broaden activities & support for children from disadvantaged families in Quang Nam in order to reduce difficulties for their families.

The CHIA staff are very pleased because our work & gifts can bring happiness for children.





News from our education program

A little words to sympathize

We all know that education can completely change a life. Of course if we are from a wealthy family we will wear nice and expensive clothes, eat delicious dishes and have many other nice things. However, many children in Quang Nam province cannot attend school because of the widespread poverty in the region.

When meals are short, how can poor families afford to send their children to school? Even though their children are very clever and keen on school, they cannot provide their children a chance to go to school. Their parents have to work really hard to cover the daily expenses. This is not even regarding the families with parents who are sick or have a serious disease. They really want to change their life, but the truth is that it is so hard to do.

Therefore, they never thought that there will be any change for the next generation. We can not change the life if we do not hold our hands together. the best way to give somebody the chance to have a better life in the future is through education. As of September 2010, CHIA's education sponsorship program has supported 115 children in Quang Nam province. With only 160 USD per year, we can help a child continue school. Education sponsorship includes school fees, school insurance, additional tuition, uniforms, textbooks, stationery and a bicycle if necessary.



The story of a little boy



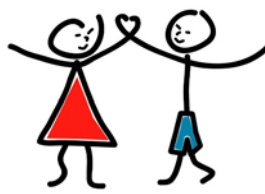
Don is a boy who was born and grew up in the southern city of Phan Thiet. Don has three brothers. The oldest brother has just graduated from high school last year but did not pass the university's examination; so he could not find a job yet. The older one left school in grade 11 and therefore he did not have a good chance to find work either. Don is a very kind and smart boy. The family's situation is so difficult; his parents are fishermen with a low and unstable income. In addition, the family lives in an area where social evils frequently occur. As a result, the family decided to send him to Quang Nam to live and help a relative who manages a seafood restaurant in Hoi An while Don was in the 6th grade. Thanks to the generous support of CHIA's donors, a young boy like Don has been given a chance to go to school.

Accidentally, a CHIA staff member was having dinner in the restaurant and saw him. Through a short conversation with him, his circumstances were understood. The journey to help him go back to school was very difficult. Don and his parents did not want him to go back to school in Phan Thiet because of the social problems there. Therefore, CHIA helped to figure out a way to help little Don to go to school in Hoi An. Unfortunately, the family lost his primary school report.

Meanwhile, his parents did not usually communicate with relevant agencies and did not understand much about the procedure of changing school from there to Hoi An. It took a month until CHIA could offer Don a chance to have sufficient conditions to study in Hoi An because so many different problems had to be solved for him. Being back in school, Don has been very excited and his family has been so happy.

WANTED

Second hand cell phones using GSM technology for the purpose of maintaining communications between CHIA and inpatient children and their families.



News from the health team

Reaching Out

On CHIA's annual study tour to a remote area, Zara Catu Traditional Handicraft workshop in the border district of Nam Giang, we found an ethnic Catu boy with imperforate anus. ATi, born on August 12th 2009, is the youngest child in a family of 3 children. His parents are farmers whose work is to plant corn and rice in the rough hills. They share a house of only 16 square meters surrounded by bamboo.

ATi has had 2 surgeries in one of the best hospitals in central Vietnam one creating the colostomy since birth and one widening his anus 6 after that. It was necessary to close the colostomy but his parents couldn't afford to manage all the expenses during the treatment such as transportation and daily meals. Thus, they kept delaying his surgery till they met CHIA. Our experience is that hospitals in central Vietnam are not so good at dealing with such a problem and therefore we sent ATi to Saigon Pediatric Hospital 2 where we had great success treating some children with similar situations, because the Irish College of Surgeons have an ongoing training program there. ATi had his colostomy closed after spending 40 days of treatment in the hospital including learning how to widen his anus.

Although trying their best the doctors told us that it will take some time for him to be able to empty his bowels without using an enema. Back in his hometown, his mother follows the doctor's suggestions carefully with the hope that her son will control his bowel movement soon and we all have the strong belief that ATi will do it.



Cute ATi and his mother



Loss

Recently we received very sad news that one of the children we work with had died. Min was born in 1999 into a poor but happy family. He was a clever boy and the pride of his parents. When he was 10 years he showed the early signs of a degenerative neuro-muscular condition. He then came to CHIA for physiotherapy and we supported him and his family in many different ways.

Shortly after Min's health problems started, his father suffered from 2 strokes which left his left side paralysed. His pregnant mother then had to become the main income earner for the family. In April 2010, she gave birth to a 3kg boy, named Duy. Unluckily, this little boy has Down's syndrome. Then in October the family tragically lost Min in what was thought to be multiple sclerosis.

CHIA keeps providing financial, disability, medical and social support to the whole family. We will continue to assist them as much as possible. Our hearts and prayers are with them through these tragic times.



An X-ray showing Imperforate

Did you know?

An imperforate anus or anal atresia is a [birth defect](#) in which the [rectum](#) is malformed. Its cause is unknown. When an infant is born with an [anorectal malformation](#), it is usually detected quickly as it is a very obvious defect.

There are two main categories of anorectal malformations: those that require a protective [colostomy](#) and those that do not. The decision to open a colostomy is usually taken within the first 24 hours of birth.

With a high lesion, many children have problems controlling bowel function and most also become [constipated](#). With a low lesion, children generally have good bowel control, but they may still become constipated.

Imperforate anus has an estimated incidence of 1 in 5000 births. It affects boys and girls with similar frequency. However, imperforate anus will present as the low version 90% of the time in females and 50% of the time in males. Imperforate anus is an occasional complication of [sacroccocygeal teratoma](#).



THANK YOU

News from the therapy team

Happiness

How unusual the chill tonight I am feeling! Is this telling me that the winter is coming back? Naturally, the warmly thanking words of Dan's mother come back to mind. "I am greatly grateful to you and CHIA for helping us overcome such a difficulty. Other than us deeply wishing all the best for you and CHIA, How can we return your kindness? We also pray for the development of the organization, so more disadvantaged children and families would be assisted."

Yes, it is the mother's sincere expression that makes me feel warmer. Dan, her 8 year old boy, has Cerebral Palsy without the ability to walk when we first met. The family had really wanted to take him to hospitals to be assessed and rehabilitated but couldn't because of the expenses. In 2009, Dan's father died of cancer and this was a heartbreaking shock to Dan's mother, and put an end to her hope of getting Dan's treatment.

Being emotionally moved by such a terribly difficult circumstance, CHIA began initial supports after a thorough home-visit. Dan was assessed, diagnosed and rehabilitated at Da Nang Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital (DORH). With kind support from donors, CHIA covered all related costs during the treatment such as therapy, orthopedic equipments, food and hospital fees. With the hope of relieving Dan and his mother's sadness and grief, I had been making regular visits to the hospital and their home, just to be there sharing and encouraging.

Almost a year has passed since we met this family. With great effort doing therapy at DORH and at home, Dan is now able to walk up to 7 meters. Dan's mother was crying in happiness to see her child making his very first steps in his life. What used to be impossible for her is now possible. She then wrote us to deeply express her thanks and gratitude to CHIA.

I am very proud to be a member of CHIA's team. Here, together with other colleagues, I can contribute a very small part of mine to help these needy families and children overcome obstacles in life. I am convinced that life always fills us with dreams and hopes, and then we should not give up.

By Ms. Thuy Phuong, Physiotherapist



Please visit us at
www.ChildrensHopeInAction.org

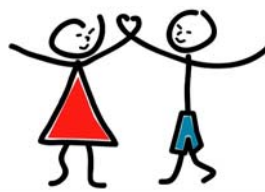


It has been one and a half years since I came to join CHIA's Team as an accountant. Time flew! Thankfully, I have learnt a lot from my fellow staff at CHIA. As an accountant at CHIA, I had to set up an appropriate accounting system with full integrity that could efficiently produce all necessary financial information. It should have taken a much longer time for me to complete this task on my own.

Since CHIA started using a new accounting system, there were a lot of difficulties that I had to struggle with it. Then, early March, 2010 I had a great chance to work with Mr. Vic and his wife Mrs. Wendy, volunteering via Australia Business Volunteer. After examining our accounting system and understanding the way we work, Vic helped me to upgrade the system. Unlike many other staff, my English was very basic at the time so it was very hard for me to communicate with him. However, he was always happy and patient to take time to explain everything to me. He helped me improve not only my accounting skills but also my English.

Apart from their knowledge, one thing I deeply admire volunteers for, Vic and Wendy in particular, is their heart. They are all from places very far way but willing and happy to come to Viet Nam making efforts of helping disadvantaged lives. I would like to thank Mr. Vic and Mrs. Wendy for being here with us and from my heart "Wishing you good health, full of joy in life and I hope to see you both back at CHIA in the near future."

Written by Ms. Chau, Accountant

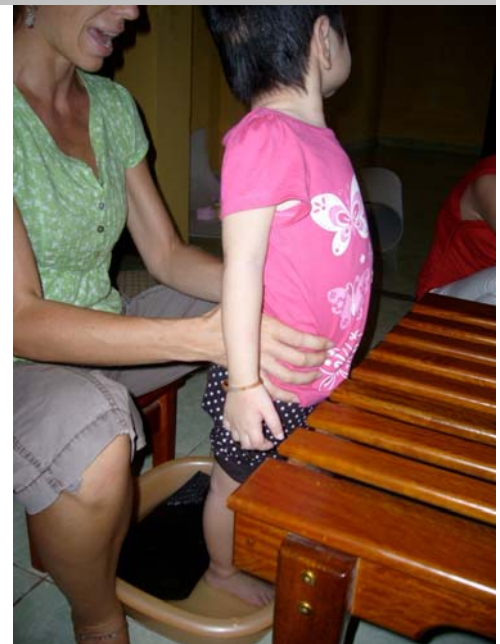


Making progress

Thu is three years old, and has been attending Conductive Education sessions at CHIA since June 2010. She comes twice a week for an hour with her mother, and she has made great progress in such a short time. On only her second session, when Stephanie was showing her mother how to help Thu to sit up from a lying position instead of trying to lift her, she pushed up through one arm all by herself and came to a sitting position! Her mother was so surprised and happy that she burst into tears.

Thu tends to let go of things quickly, and looks at a toy or a person for a second only, so we have been teaching her to look at a toy or book for a longer period of time. As she is non-verbal, we have been teaching her to use this skill to make a choice. We guide her hand to touch the object and ask her to look at it. After a minute or so, Thu would usually glance briefly at the object, and would be praised for her efforts.

To begin with, Thu needed a great deal of help to guide her attention to an object. We have been teaching Thu to make a choice by looking at two objects and then looking at the object she would like. One day, after only a month of coming to CPALS(CHIA Practical and Life Skills), we asked Thu to choose which color ring she would like for 'driving the car'. We asked if she would like the purple ring, held up on her left, and she immediately looked at it for a few seconds. We then put that ring down and asked would she like the yellow ring, and held it up on her right. Again, she looked at the ring immediately and for a few seconds. We then held up both rings and asked which color she would like; Thu turned straight to the yellow ring and reached out her hand to take it!



On another occasion, we used the same method of asking Thu to choose a book to read, and not only did she make a very clear choice, but she held the book all by herself for several minutes while she looked closely at the pictures – another huge achievement for her!

We have been teaching Thu to sit in a side-position when playing with toys, as this will help her to build strength in her arms, neck and shoulder girdle. This will help her with activities such as sitting up from the floor, crawling, and when pushing a chair to provide support when walking. Thu's mother often borrows a toy to take home and has been practicing this with Thu.

Thu's progress is even more special because she is believed to have PKU, which is a progressive condition. Children with PKU develop normally until the age of six months, but then the build up of protein causes developmental delay, mental retardation and frequent seizures. Thu's older brother and cousin also have PKU. Thu's family struggle to take care of her and her brother. Her father is a security guard, and their mother works in a clothes factory, so the children are cared for by both elderly grandmothers. Their mother often has to take unpaid leave to take care of the children in hospital when they have seizures. A kind neighbor rides Thu and her mother to CHIA on her motorbike when her father is working; CHIA makes a contribution to the cost of petrol and for the neighbor's time, in the hope that she will continue to bring Thu to us.

Written by Ms. Nhu Thuy, Life Skills Teacher



Greatest asset

It is thirty six years since my wife Wendy and I first went on a development project. Many different cultures in many different countries are behind us now. So we think we have gained some wisdom and experience that gives us a right to discuss what we believe is CHIA's greatest asset; its staff.

They are young but well qualified, most with university educations and some with double degrees. They are the sons and daughters of determined, tireless and proud people who have survived a history so harsh that no one but them can comprehend. While this new generation has different skills and have had the opportunity of a better education, the determination to overcome and succeed remains in their blood. CHIA is a team that binds itself and when difficulties arise, they get through together while radiating happiness.

They are both young men and young women. Some are about to take wives and husbands, some are already married and some have started their own families. Some are still studying to further their careers.

The family unit is all important in Vietnam but then so is employment in a country where everyone must work. Some CHIA staff members leave their family homes each weekend and travel long distances by bus and motor cycle to undertake their work. Others have moved nearer their workplace to pursue the challenging but fulfilling roles that they perform best.

Their empathy and purpose is with the most disadvantaged where they assist by improving the lives of children with medical, educational, therapy and housing support. In doing so, they provide a service to families and the community the value of which can never be quantified.

So as is assured for the future of Vietnam, CHIA staff will succeed. Their futures and fortunes are guaranteed, their dreams will be realised. They are just the nicest people you are likely to meet.

Written by Mr. Victor Green

Volunteer's Corner

We are the two new volunteers working for CHIA: Berit and Thilo. Both of us just graduated from high school and we are now here to do volunteer work for one year.

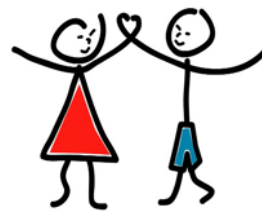
I, Thilo, work at the CHIA office. My main job is to help the staff to improve their English skills. But before I started teaching I had the chance to join some staff members when they did home visits to check the situation of the families. It was nice to see how much those families are appreciating CHIA and within this short time I started to understand so much more about the importance of the different kinds of work done by CHIA.

I, Berit, work at the Hoi An Children's Home, which is run by CHIA. The staff really cares about every child, therefore the atmosphere here is very friendly and loving. The children had a rough time before they were accepted at the home. Their parents have abandoned them or are no longer able to look after them because they are sick or too poor.

Trung for example came to the home because his mother has a mental brain defect and she is not able to look after him anymore. As well his father has a drinking problem and therefore was abusive to him and his mother several times. However, Trung has improved a lot since he came to the home. Now he is able to attend school and have fun in his free time, just like every child should.

I am looking forward to another 10 months of playing, talking, helping with school problems and of simply just being there for the children. In our opinion it is really nice to see how committed all CHIA staff is working.





Water and sanitation system

Duy Tan commune is one of the most remote areas of Duy Xuyen district. Most people here are farmers; many others work as brick-makers. Therefore they encounter many difficulties in their lives. The government does not have enough money to support residents and because of that donations are needed. One typical example is Duy Tan II primary school. Five years ago, another organisation helped them to build a sanitation block, but did not connect water to the buildings and therefore the kids couldn't use the toilet. Nearby is a water source, but if they want to use that resource, they have to invest in nearly 240 meters of water pipes to lead water to the school's sanitation. Because of the school's financial situation, they did not have enough money to install that, so that toilet block has never been used, and during the last 5 years, has slowly disintegrated for want of 240m of water pipe.

After investigation, CHIA has funded the construction of a water piping system and rebuilt the toilet block. So now, for the first time ever, the students and staff can use the toilet when they are at school.

When the new sanitation was given to the school, all the people, not only the students and teachers but also the people around that school were very happy. The children and school staff now have a weather-proof and hygienic bathroom. The residents near school no longer have to worry about the smell and surprise of lots of fertilizer in the woods next to the school. As well the children are happy because after playing with friends, they have a place to wash their hands now.



Before



Now

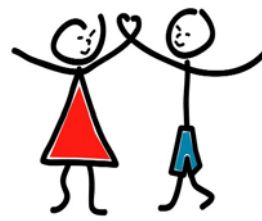
Dream house

Hien- a little girl was born in a very poor family. However she has always overcome all difficulties to become a good student. There is always a strong will in her. She is one of many children that CHIA is supporting in education and training sponsorship program for 3 years. At the moment she is living with her intellectual illness father and an old auntie who has no working capacity.

Hien's family is one of the poorest families in Duy Tan commune of Duy Xuyen province. She live in a narrow dilapidated house which is located in the affected area when the flood and storm season come. Therefore every rainy season comes, all the family has to move to another place to avoid flooding and danger because her house can be collapsed at any time in the floods & typhoons.

Hien's father- the main labor of the family has cognitively impaired. Even though his health is rarely strong, whenever it is a little better, he does his best to put food on the table for the family. The biggest dream of the family is to have a house to shelter from the storm or flood. With the inexpressible joy & boundless happiness when receiving CHIA's support to build a new house for the family, the father was eager and enthusiastic with the construction workers gradually building a new house- the dream house of the whole family.





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 facilitated.....

Awarded **42** students for improvement
Kept **146** children attending school
Provided **12** bicycles for school students
Sponsored kindergarden for **7** toddlers
Helped **7** teenagers access vocational training
Provided glasses for **11** kids
Tet gifts and celebrations for **553** kids
Built **7** new houses, repaired **2** houses, and **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school
Provided **26** wheelchairs
Delivered **2,543** physical therapy sessions
Provided **48** other pieces of disability equipment
69 Cpals training sessions

Health insurance for **282** kids
93 Orthopedic diagnostics
19 Hearing assessments
16 Orthopedic surgeries
Cancer treatment for **9** kids
262 Cardiac assessments
Heart surgeries for **43** kids
24 Cleft lip and palate surgeries
19 Colo-rectal surgeries
559 Flu vaccinations
315 Baseline medical assessments
Helped **22** kids access nutritional support
Provided **52** tins of milk
Community health education about "Infant Nutrition" for **150** mothers
Organized a day trip for **30** kids on the Vietnamese day for PWD

From July to September CHIA has

Conducted **166** home-visits
Provided **96** therapy training sessions
Facilitated **42** children to be seen by international medical experts
3 Cardiac surgeries
Cleft lip/palate assessment for **10** kids
15 Post surgical assessments
Cleft Palate surgery for **3** children
6 Vision assessments
2 Cardiac Post-surgical assessments
Treatment for **2** children waiting for major cardiac surgery
35 Baseline medical assessments
Chemotherapy for **2** kids
3 Colo-rectal surgeries
12 Cardiac assessments
51 Cpals training sessions

Built **5** new houses and **1** water and sanitation system for one primary school
Community health education about "Infant Nutrition" for **90** mothers
3 Wheelchairs and other pieces of disability equipment
Continued sponsoring **73** kids at school
Sponsored **42** new kids at school sponsorships
Awarded **42** students for their improvement
Mid-Autumn gifts and celebrations for **397** kids
Sponsored **11** new university and college students
Managed a residence of **30** kids
4 Orthopedic surgeries
7 Orthopedic diagnostics