

The **Hoi An Foundation** was founded by Dr. Josh Solomon, a pulmonologist from Denver, Colo. in 2003. Upon a visit to Vietnam, Dr. Solomon was taken back by the lack of basic health care to the general population. Related to western standards, the health care delivery and health education was many years behind. He felt that applying some of the evaluation and treatment options that are standard in America could greatly improve the lives of many people at a very low cost.

He worked with orphaned children, disabled adults, adults with specialized diseases, children infected with HIV and at risk young teens. In many instances, there was interaction with other charitable organizations that needed medical expertise.

After four years of first hand experience, his foundation was ready to expand this health care improvement to multiple locations within the Quang Nam province of Vietnam.

Quang Nam is a province of Vietnam located in the central region of the country. It consists of two towns, 12 districts, and a population of 1.4 million. Health care in the province centers around the Department of Health (DOH) in Tam Ky.

Due to the degree of poverty in Quang Nam Province, chronic health problems are prevalent, with the three most significant being high blood pressure, diabetes and respiratory disease (reports from the World Health Organization). Proper control of these diseases requires patient education, lifestyle modifications, chronic daily medications and close physician follow-up.

Similar to other countries, many of the physicians are centered around the towns and not in the countryside. Due to this lack of physicians, a number of the government clinics are operated by nurses or nurse-physicians. This hinders the delivery of the level of care that is needed to control these diseases.

A number of the identified illnesses require long-term medications. Though a significant number of quality medications are available in large towns, the pharmacies in the countryside are limited in the medications they carry. Also, some of the newer and more effective medications are expensive and therefore unattainable for the poor.

For proper management of a chronic disease, patient understanding and participation is paramount. Patients must understand the disease and its impact in order to work with the physician to manage the illness. Due to the physician shortage and lack of time with patients, this education is often not given and patients have a misunder-



Hoi An Foundation: Health Care Aid in Vietnam



Hoi An Foundation Mid-Autumn Moon Dinner

Featuring a Five-Course Colorado Harvest Dinner by Mary Nguyen, Executive Chef at Parallel Seventeen

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Colorado Harvest Dinner: 5:00pm

Cocktail Reception, Auction & Live Entertainment: 6:30-9:00pm
Space Gallery | 765 Santa Fe Dr. | Denver, CO 80204

Join us for a Colorado harvest dinner to celebrate the Asian Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. The five-course meal prepared and presented by Parallel Seventeen executive chef Mary Nguyen will feature a local, sustainable menu, a cocktail reception, silent and live auction, featuring live entertainment.

Tickets: Dinner and Reception: \$125 | Reception: \$40

For tickets, contact james@hoianfoundation.org or (720) 327-1994, or visit www.hoianfoundation.org.

Raise funds for the Hoi An Foundation, which works to improve healthcare for children in Central Vietnam

standing as to the causes of disease as well as established treatments.

Chronic diseases are a major cause of death and disability worldwide. In 2002, the World Health Organization published data on the impact of chronic diseases in the world. They estimated that of the 516,000 deaths in Vietnam in 2002, 341,000 were from chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes as well as cancer. This represents 66% of all deaths that year.

The estimate by the World Health Organization is that 80% of deaths from heart disease, stroke and diabetes and 40% of deaths from cancer could be prevented with proper healthcare.

There are a number of children infected with HIV in Quang Nam province. Their ability to get any treatment is severely limited by their poverty, the social isolation that greets them in rural areas and the current lack of HIV treatment in Central Vietnam.

The three projects are as follows:

Chronic Illnesses: The objective is to educate and train the local medical personnel to evaluate and treat these illnesses.

Heart Disease: Patients with congenital or acquired heart disease will be examined by foundation personnel and a treatment plan will be developed after consultation with western and Vietnamese doctors. In many cases this will involve a corrective surgical procedure.

Pediatric HIV: Children with HIV will be evaluated and a treatment plan will be implemented. This will involve obtaining the medication and monitoring the treatment.

Currently, the medication and treatment comes from Ho Chi Minh City. The plan is to recruit two doctors per month to spend five days in the clinic. The recruitment of these doctors and their scheduling will be the responsibility of the doctor recruitment manager. The doctors will perform these services gratis to the foundation.

It is a hope that an arrangement can be initiated with American universities to provide doctors on a continual basis.

Mary Nguyen, Proprietor and Executive Chef at Denver's Parallel Seventeen said, "Because their work has been very successful in improving medical treatment in Central Vietnam, they are hoping to expand their services to remote areas through-out the country with the hope of also providing services in Laos and Cambodia in the future."

Nguyen has been a long-time supporter of Dr. Solomon's work and the Hoi An Foundation. She will be preparing the five-course Colorado Harvest Dinner on September 26. The event will include a reception, dinner, auction and live entertainment, with a purpose to raise funds for the foundation.