
NEWSLETTER 11/05

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Last month we said goodbye to Robyn Morley who worked with us for the last two years. She remains in Hoi An and is working to support disabled children living at home with their families. You can contact Robyn on roboz888@hotmail.com

We were joined in June by Nick Keegan, an experienced manager from Scotland. Nick spent a month working with Robyn and Jackie in February/March this year, during which time he began developing ideas for improving the charity's work. He returned to the UK and prepared a detailed plan designed to identify, prioritize and implement the processes essential to the charity's continued success. Nick plans to be in Hoi An supporting and helping us for the foreseeable future. He is directing and overseeing all business activities and is providing strategic direction, developing the charity's financial stability and long-term growth.



THIRD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Our Special Education Classroom is now running extremely well. Thanks to training from Australian Special Ed teacher, Roe Schroeder, and German physiotherapist Kalli Heinneman, (both of whom come to the orphanage for several months each year to assist our special education teachers and physios) are probably the most equipped specialists working with disabled children in Central Vietnam. However, there have been a handful of children who, due to their physical disabilities, have found it difficult to join the general special education class,



which is now pretty packed. They all require one-on-one teaching, which we have only been able to give them sporadically. This month, we were very happy when the family of long-term volunteer, Kerry Lynch, agreed to pay a year's salary for a third teacher to work with these children. Mrs. Lai was formerly the Head Caregiver, but has received a lot of training in teaching children with disabilities over the last few years, which she has been eager to put into use. Mrs. Lai's own son is also disabled and she is a gentle, patient and capable woman who we are pleased to have join the Special Ed. team. Luu Mai, Van May, Tuan and – until recently – Hai, have all been relishing the opportunity to learn. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Tan has been employed as our fourth caregiver, replacing Lai in the Disabled Room.

Kerry and Luu Mai

PLAYROOM

For a very long time we have been eager to have a stimulating and pleasant space to take the most disabled children into, reducing the time they spend lying on their beds. Last year we got permission to renovate a room, but the administration wanted it used mainly for English classes. In July, we were finally allowed to create a playroom. Many thanks to volunteers Zoe Reid, Anna Moreton, Anna Westcott and Jeremy Hall, who put time, effort and money into making the room a place which the children adore. During the week it is used by the very disabled kids, and Mrs. Lai for her one-on-one lessons. On the weekends, it's pushed to its limits by the other children who have no school on these days.

Anna Westcott decorating



MR NHAN - "SUPERDAD"

Anh and Trang are sixteen and nineteen year old boys with immense physical disabilities but no mental or intellectual disability. The Government recently decided to allow them to live at the orphanage with their father, Mr. Nhan, so that they could continue their education in Hoi An (there is no high school in their small village).

Mr. Nhan has left his wife at home with their youngest son and their adopted son. He is tireless in his efforts for his sons; he takes them to and from school, carries them to the toilet, showers and dresses them etc. Because he must always be on hand to help his sons, Mr Nhan is not able to have a regular job and is extremely poor. Despite their circumstances, the family remains positive, are always friendly, chatty and interested in other people. The boys have been immediately adopted into the orphanage family, and the children here spend hours in their room, talking to them, helping them and pushing them around in their wheelchairs.

THE TWO HIENS

Five year old Van Hien and three year old Minh Hien went to Ho Chi Minh City to have cleft palate surgery. Van Hien's jaw is already taking on more structure since the surgery and he is beginning to speak more clearly; Minh Hien has also started to speak (with quite a surprisingly deep voice for such a little girl!) In December, we hope to be able to take them back to HCMC for their second operation.



Van Hien (left) with his twin brother Hau



HAI

Two weeks ago, seven year old Hai had a seizure for over two hours in the middle of the night. This may have resulted in brain injury. Hai has cerebral palsy but only a mild intellectual deficit. Despite his severe physical disabilities, he had been making good progress, and was able to sit up, feed himself and indicate all of his basic needs; he had recently joined the Mrs Lai's Special Ed class. Hai spent some time in hospital after going into a coma, and returned to the orphanage a different child. However, in the last few days, Jackie started to see traits of the old sprightly and happy child. We will not know the full extent of the damage for another couple of weeks. Our fingers are crossed that his extremely determined spirit, which has seen him this far, will pull him through.

Jackie with Hai (before his seizure)

LOW FINANCES

Nick has reviewed our finances and developed accurate accounting records. We are now faced with the harsh reality that we only have sufficient funds to meet our commitments here for the next **four** months (or six months on the basis of money promised but not yet received).

The Kianh and Hoi An Foundation do not receive any government grants, loans or funding support. Our money comes from two sources; donations (regular or occasional) from you, and donations from Orphanage visitors. Our fixed source of income comes from three places; the Hoi An Foundation (www.hoianfoundation.org), Marcel Verhaag and his team at the Dutch charity Color4Kids (www.color4kids.org) and ten people paying scheduled donations to the Kianh Foundation (www.kianh.org.uk).

We have achieved so much in the last three years and we are worried that our funds have become so dangerously low. We are therefore focusing our efforts on improving the financial position. Our primary objective is to preserve the high levels of care we have established, and secure the futures of our eleven skilled staff. We are also stabilizing the Kianh Foundation's position in Vietnam by registering with the national and provincial authorities as an INGO (International Non-Governmental Organization). We hope to hear the results of our applications shortly.

Here in the United States, we plan to have a fund raiser in Denver, Colorado and possibly in Los Angeles. If you are interested in helping us financially or through manpower, please contact the foundation at info@hoianfoundation.org.

THANK YOU

In the last three years, conditions at Hoi An Orphanage have improved enormously. Education and physiotherapy are available for all children and quality of life is at an all-time high. The Orphanage is fast becoming a center of excellence; it would be devastating to see these achievements come to an end.

Thank you in advance for your support.

With best wishes, Jackie and Josh