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Phung Linh at the orphanage



Loc in his new wheelchair



Visiting the nuns at Kim



HIV awareness in Hue

Orphanage

The children at the orphanage are doing well. Our only outstanding medical issues include 2 new children with hydrocephalus who need shunt placement. We are awaiting news about visiting neurosurgeons and donated shunts for these treatments. We now have complete medical records on the disabled children.

We recently had 7 wheelchairs donated by Wheels for Humanity. Now children like Loc

and Cuong can sit up most of the day and Thuy is now independently mobile.

Nutrition continues to be a problem with the disabled children and for the last few years we have tried to come up with a durable solution. Now with the help of Stop Hunger Now we may have an answer. They provide fortified prepackaged meals that we can use to balance the diet of the children. We

hope to see a sustainable improvement in the nutrition and overall health of the kids. In the meantime, we are using individualized programs for our more severely malnourished children. Phung Linh entered the orphanage weighing 6 kilograms at the age of 4. With an individualized diet plan she now weighs 10 kg and no longer suffers from monthly bouts of pneumonia. Erica Reeve, a nutritionist from Australia, has been a great help in this.

HIV in Hue

From our experience with Nam, we have been interested in making HIV medications available in central Viet Nam. They are currently available for children only in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh.

We recently met with Dr. Troy Martin with The Clinton Foundation. They are working to make HIV meds available

throughout most of Viet Nam in the next few years. In order to get the training and medications early in Hue we needed to reveal an acute need. After months of meetings and emailing we were finally able to locate 25 children infected with HIV and not receiving treatment. Most live at home and several are cared for by the Catholic

nuns at the Kim Long Charity Clinic in Hue City. With this information we will work with the Clinton Foundation and doctors at Hue University to bring the medications to central Viet Nam in the coming months so infected children in the region may begin receiving proper treatment.



Greg, Tom, David and Karl at Bach Mai in Ha Noi



Presenting donated ventilators



Nancy working on an elderly patient with arthritis



Nancy and Nam in the hospital in Ho Chi Minh

Bach Mai

In October we took part in the Emergency Medicine Symposium arranged by Dr. Carl Bartecchi at Bach Mai Hospital in Ha Noi. It featured talks by physicians Thomas Meloy and David Klocke and was attended by over 300 physicians from the surrounding areas. We were also joined by Karl Ohaus, an emergency room consultant, Robert Joyce, Administrative Head for the Mayo Clinic Emergency Department, Brian Wilson, a biomedical engineer from St

Anthony's, and John Covert, President of the St Anthony's Health Foundation. It was a busy couple of days. Karl and Robert worked on the structure and administration of the emergency department. Brian taught the maintenance of medical equipment and is working to fix seven of the broken ventilators. We were also joined by Gregory and Sandra Burfitt. Greg is the former CEO of Centura Hospitals. The group brought over medical

equipment including 3 new ventilators and a bronchoscope.

The symposium went extremely well and the visitors were all well received. We are planning an ICU symposium in April 2008 and will invite doctors from the Mayo Clinic and the University of Colorado. In the meantime, we will go back to Ha Noi in a few weeks to help train doctors at Bach Mai hospital on use of the bronchoscope and some advanced ventilator techniques.

Nancy Nguyen

Our foundation was joined in July by Nancy Nguyen. Nancy is a Vietnamese American born and raised in the United States. She is a licensed massage therapist and acupuncturist and completed a master's of science degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Nancy has stayed with us for the last 6 months and has been crucial in getting our clinic up and running as well as the progress on the HIV project in Hue

and reorganizing the structure of the foundation.

With her skills in Eastern Medicine she has been a huge asset to our treatment of chronic diseases in Quang Nam. She currently has many patients she cares for daily here in the town. A lot of them are incapable of getting to the clinic, either because of physical immobility or because of lack of transportation, so she makes frequent house visits throughout Hoi An.

Nancy has also helped immensely in the care of Nam. She has accompanied Nam and I on our monthly trips to Hoi An. When his conditioned worsened, Nancy was a source of comfort for him. When we bought him a phone for emergencies, he used it to call Nancy daily to talk!

Nancy is leaving in January to go back home to Denver, Colorado. She helped advance our work here and we hope she remains a part of our foundation for years to come.

Palliative Care

Janet Newbury, an experienced child bereavement specialist and Robin Morley, head of the CHIA foundation have been working towards establishing an end-of-life program in Hoi An for children with terminal diseases. This would be the first program of its type in

central Vietnam. Janet and I attended a hospice training program in Ho Chi Minh City in November and worked with experts in the field from Australia and Singapore. Since then we have been working to train the CHIA staff in the management of terminally ill children.

This involves on site visits to the homes of children at the end of their lives. The staff is quickly developing the skills necessary to work with the children and their families. Nancy and I will help with the dosing and administration of the palliative drugs.



Home visit in Sai Gon



Janet training CHIA staff

Flood

Our town recently experienced the worst flooding it had seen in many years. The orphanage was spared any damage but many businesses were lost in town. However, Vietnam never ceases to amaze,

because within 2 days of the disastrous floods, businesses that were seemingly damaged beyond repair were open and ready for business. People were not so lucky though. There were an estimated 40 fatalities in

the Da Nang and Hoi An area. Shortly after the flood, cases of dengue fever and cholera were reported. Vi, a child at the orphanage, suffered a bout of dengue fever and spent 5 days in the hospital.



Hoi An under water

Nam and Thuy

Our monthly trips to Ho Chi Minh with Nam continue. His response to medications was initially very good with weight gain and improvement in his daily symptoms. This was short lived as his virus quickly developed resistance. His care was also complicated by new onset seizures and what appears to be a stroke. We are continuing to

work closely with the doctors in Ho Chi Minh to find the appropriate regimen for his HIV. He now has become a regular in Ho Chi Minh City and has his favorite spots to visit (the toy stores at the market being his #1 request!)

Thuy is enjoying the school for the deaf in Da Nang. We recently found

another 15 year old deaf lady in the outskirts of Hoi An. Her family is very poor and she attends regular school in the countryside (her friend interprets and helps with her homework). We would like to support her in attending the school in Da Nang and working in one of the surrounding shops that employs people with hearing



Thuy and her family



Nam and Grandma waiting to be seen in Sai Gon



Visiting Trung in Sai Gon



Nancy teaching Hanh to check her blood sugar



Seeing a young boy with congenital heart disease



A baby with congenital cataracts

Hoi An Foundation Clinic

We finally got the charity clinic started in Hoi An. Though we intended to see adults with chronic health problems, a variety of different patients visited us. We established a medical record system and have collected and distributed a significant number of patient education materials in Vietnamese. We approach problems by utilizing both Eastern and Western medicine. Some of our long term patients include:

Trung

Trung is a 25 year old from outside Hoi An who was diagnosed with a "neck cancer" 3 years ago. He was

sent home from the hospital and told there was nothing more to be done. We initially worked locally in central Viet Nam to get more information about the type of cancer has and his treatment options. After a month of dead ends we finally sent him to the Ho Chi Minh cancer hospital. There we got a diagnosis of an aggressive type of thyroid cancer. Through recent donations we are funding his stay there for palliative radiotherapy as well as pain management. He feels significantly better after treatment and will be returning home to his family soon.

Hanh

We met Hanh through a local restaurant in town. She told us she has had high sugar in the blood for many years. When we checked her sugar it was 410! (4 times normal). It took us 2 months to locate a supply of insulin. We taught her about diabetes and how to check her sugars at home. With the help of endocrinologist Dr Jennifer Janssen from Colorado we started her on insulin and got her sugars in the normal range. She feels much better and we are now using her to educate other diabetics in town on the benefits of aggressive therapy for diabetes.

CHIA Clinic

Working with the CHIA Foundation, the Hoi An Foundation has been helping provide medical care for poor children in Quang Nam with congenital deformities and chronic illnesses. CHIA's mission is to provide support to disadvantaged children in central Viet Nam focusing on health, disability, poverty and education. We are able to

help them with the medical program. They have a weekly clinic where we see children with various illnesses ranging from infections (like hepatitis B) to malignancies (like retinoblastoma) and congenital cardiac defects. In caring for these kids we have had a lot of help from specialists overseas. We would especially like

to thank pediatrician Laura Rusch, neurologist Patrick Bosque, radiologist Brant Wommack and cardiologist Tom Maddox. These children are complex and we couldn't care for them without all the help. For more information on other programs in CHIA, please visit their website.

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Fundraiser

There will be an event in Colorado to raise money for our work here in Viet Nam. With the help of Jessica Cromie, an ICU nurse in Denver and Mary

Nguyen, executive chef and co-owner of Parallel 17, we will be having a fundraising event in Denver, Colorado on Sunday, April 13th. The event will include food,

drinks and an auction of local merchandise from Viet Nam. We will send out details early next year. Don't forget to save the date!

Holiday Gifts and Donations

With the holiday season approaching, consider a gift of a donation to the Hoi An Foundation in the name of a friend or a loved one. We will send

them a personalized thank you letter with a holiday wish and information about the use of the donated money. All of our work is made possible

through tax deductible private donations. Visit us at www.hoianfoundation.org/donate. Thank you for your support.

Plans for 2008

With your support we will work on the following projects for the next year:

1. Start construction on the rehab center in Hoi An
2. Establish regular outreach clinics in outside provinces.
3. Improve health education and prevention in the province
4. Expand treatment for diabetes and hypertension to areas outside of Hoi An
5. Help improve the awareness, detection and treatment of HIV in children in central Viet Nam

