



# Improving the standards of health care in Vietnam

## OUR PROJECTS



### Improving quality of life for those with disability in provinces affected by Agent Orange

- 575 people with disabilities were screened and identified as having a need for intervention
- 156 disabled people received home rehabilitation by 18 highly qualified technicians
- 50 people with disabilities receive rehabilitation services at provincial hospitals
- 189 people with disabilities are cared for at home by local nurses and health workers
- 66 commune and village health workers and 175 family members trained in skills to take care of people with disabilities
- 44 family members trained as community counselors to assist people with disabilities



### Inclusion education for children with disability (CWD)

- 8 inclusive education support rooms established
- 63 teachers were trained in inclusive education
- 31 teachers were trained in reproductive health education and protecting children with disabilities from sexual abuse
- 27 teachers of 7 pre-schools were trained on safety in schools and child injury prevention
- 2000 students (including 47 CWDs) and 195 teachers participated in special events for CWDs such as "We Ring The Bell"
- 1300 teachers and children participated in the contest "Happy School - Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities" and 26 works received awards
- 12 deaf teenagers were trained in reproductive health and sexual abuse prevention
- 54 parents were trained in supporting children with disabilities at home



### HIV care saves lives

- 295 HIV infected/affected children (HIV-IAC) and their caregivers participated the outdoor activities on the Lunar New Year, International Children's Day, Outdoor trip, the Mid-Autumn festival
- 60 HIV-IAC received financial support for schooling and basic needs
- 23 HIV-IAC received monthly financial support for nutrition
- 10 HIV-IAC received financial support for their university tuition fee
- 30 HIV-IAC joined life skills training courses

## Our Office

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# HIV CARE SAVES LIVES



**"I just want to go to school and have a normal life like other children," said Truc, a 13-year-old girl with HIV.**

Truc's father was infected with HIV and passed it on to his wife. Unfortunately, Truc's mother didn't know and then became pregnant. Unfortunately, Truc contracted HIV from her mother. Since learning that Truc was sick at birth, Truc's mother was depressed for her daughter. She soon realized she needed to be strong to take care of her daughter. The couple had another child and fortunately with treatment, Truc's younger brother did not contract HIV from his mother. The family lives in a small house about 20 square meters in the suburbs of Da Nang city. Truc's father is currently working as a mason which is seasonal work with an unstable income. Truc's mother generally stays at home to take care of her children but does seek work outside the house in order to earn extra income for the family. They struggle to earn enough income to feed the family and send their children to school.

Truc's challenges with school started right when she first attended grade school. Most of her classmates found out she was infected with HIV and feared getting close to her and shunned her. Truc got used to playing alone everyday. Neighbors near the house are not friendly because of the stigma of HIV as well. Truc longs for a friend, however still loves going to school and studying literature.

VNHIP met Truc in 2019. Since then, we have accompanied Truc in a number of activities to support children infected/affected by HIV in Da Nang. We have encouraged Truc to participate in events for children such as Children's Day, Mid-Autumn Festival and have given her a scholarship to go to school. However, Truc needs additional support such as life skills training to protect herself and her community. She also needs financial assistance for feeding the family and tuition and books to go to school.

After everything Truc has been through, we are asking for additional assistance to help her live a normal life with the same opportunities as other children have.

## WE CURRENTLY HAVE:

- 30 children are in need of monthly nutrition support
- 15 children are in need of school fees and books to continue going to school
- 20 teenagers who need to learn life skills to protect themselves and their communities
- Dozens of children wish to participate in social events like other children: Mid-Autumn Festival, Children's Day and summer picnic.

## YOU CAN HELP!

- \$50 Monthly/\$600 yearly sponsorship for 1 child infected/affected by HIV
- Contributing to social events for children infected/affected by HIV
- \$250 Scholarships for 1 young person infected/affected by HIV





**9 out of 10 children with disability are not welcome in school !**

## ***Inclusion education for children with disability (CWD)***

All children are welcome to school, including children with disabilities". This is the core content in the declaration of Lillian Fong – an organization dedicated to supporting Children With Disabilities (CWDs), in education for CWDs.

According to the statistics, by 2020, there are more than 1,400 CWDs receiving inclusive education in mainstream primary schools in Quang Nam province. Inclusive education is an educational method where CWDs study with abled children in regular schools. So how do CWDs have a truly inclusive educational environment? This is a challenge for the education discipline and the community.

"In terms of education for children with disabilities, our school faces many difficulties. Firstly, the number of students is large, and teachers have to teach and take care of too many children, so it is extremely difficult to support each individual with disabilities.

Secondly, the school does not have enough facilities and teaching equipment for children with disabilities. Third, each type of disability has its own needs and requires specific teaching skills, while teachers lack the skills and knowledge to support all of them. Next, many parents are not interested in inclusive education for children with disabilities, so we must encourage them to send children with disabilities to school", shared Ms. Sen, vice principal of a primary school in Dien Ban.

Thai, a disabled boy in 3rd grade shared with us 2 years ago, "I don't have many friends. At recess, I just sit alone. The teacher doesn't have time to care about me. I'm very sad because I can't keep up with my classmates."

Thai has made remarkable progress since joining the project. He keeps up with his friends in most subjects. He has become more confident and more sociable with others. That timid, sad boy is unrecognizable now as he talks a lot more, he is happier and more active.

In 2018, Le Hong Phong school, where Thai has been studying, was chosen as it is a school located in the project area of VNHIP. Therefore, Thai, also receives benefits from the project. He received scholarships and learning aids and participated in extracurricular activities and outdoor tours. Thai was also awarded a wheelchair and VNHIP helped Le Hong Phong school to repair and build wheelchair accessible ramps into the facilities of the school. With the help of his friends at recess, Thai is able to come out to the playground to play with his friends. Lastly, we were able to help build an inclusive education support room where Thai's teacher spends extra hours helping him succeed.



**YOU CAN HELP!**

- \$800 per month to maintain 8 inclusive education support rooms for 150 children with disabilities
- Teaching aids and equipment for the inclusive education support room





**Improved quality of life for those with disabilities  
due to Agent Orange.**

**A family with 3 with disabilities!**

### *Difficult situation!*

Tuan is 25 years old and lives with his parents and brother in the Tam Xuan commune of Quang Nam province. He was born with birth defects and was underdeveloped both physically and mentally. Tuan's father was disabled from a leg injury due to a traffic accident. Tuan's brother is schizophrenic. Tuan often falls due to weak legs and ongoing epileptic seizures and always has many lumps on his head! Tuan has difficulties with pronunciation and is afraid to communicate with others. He is always at home and needs a lot of support from his family for daily activities.

Hau is Tuan's brother with schizophrenia. He often had insomnia and seizures. Hau loves his parents and younger brother very much and helps take care of Tuan. Because of his weak leg, the father can only help his wife with light farm work.

All the burdens in the family fall on the shoulders of Tuan's mother, a woman over 60 years old. She was a brave young volunteer on many battlefields during the Vietnam War. Her son's mental and physical defects are perhaps because of her exposure to Agent Orange.

### *Revival!*

Because of participating in Project Inclusion 1, Tuan's whole family has been revived. Tuan was rehabilitated by a technician at home. Hau and his father were consulted on and cared for by nurses and village health workers. The mother and brother were instructed to help Tuan practice more at home. Furthermore, to ensure Tuan's safety, our project installed handrails in the toilet and bathroom.

After 5 months of receiving the intervention, we are happy to see amazing changes in three members of Tuan's family. Tuan has improved mobility and is walking more stably. He doesn't fall as much as before. Tuan has become more outgoing. When we visited, he was so happy and even remembered all of our names!

Tuan's brother Hau has become happier, is able to take good care of himself, and went to work as a hired hand and farm to help his parents. He feels happy that he can contribute to the family. The happiest one is the mother. With the project supporting her, the burden on her shoulders has been lifted. "I can only say thank you so much," she said through happy tears.





## WHO WE ARE?

The Viet Nam Health Improvement Project (VNHIP) was started in 2008 by Joshua Solomon to bring medical knowledge and skills to disadvantaged people in Central Viet Nam. The organization started a free clinic to treat various ailments. As the clinic grew, it became apparent that it would be better to focus on specific areas of need and to work to improve the systems in place to facilitate sustainable change.

## YOU CAN HELP!

- Monthly/yearly sponsorship for children infected/affected by HIV
- Contributing to social events for children infected/affected by HIV
- Scholarships for young people infected/affected by HIV
- Contribute to maintaining inclusive education support rooms for children with disabilities



## VISION

Our vision is for the people in Vietnam, regardless of social standing or ethnicity, to have access to lifesaving, contemporary treatments and rehabilitation for health conditions in an effort to promote healing and alleviate suffering.



## MISSION

VNHIP's mission is to improve the health and well-being of the disadvantaged people in Viet Nam through direct patient care as well as improvements in health awareness and the standards of the health services.



## TARGET GROUPS

VNHIP's target groups are the most vulnerable and marginalized people, especially the children living with HIV, people with disabilities, ethnic minority females and older people in the Central Vietnam.

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