



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
DECEMBER 2018  
NEWSLETTER



I would like to thank you for your support over the years. Through your generosity and our talented and passionate staff on the ground, we have expanded our coverage to over 75,000 people in Vietnam. We continue to grow. Our current projects cover non-communicable disease, disability in adults and children, HIV infection in children and health and hygiene for the ethnic minorities in Nam Giang. We plan to continue growing in 2019 and couldn't do so without your generous support.

Thanks again for allowing us to care for those in need.  
Happy Holidays and New Year!

VNHIP founder and director,  
Josh Solomon

## Inclusive education for children with disabilities (CWDs)

In partnership with Quang Nam Department of Education and Training and funded by NLR Mekong, VNHIP has implemented inclusive education for CWDs in Dien Ban and Nam Giang District. This project aims to improve learning disabilities, health care service accessibility and life-skills development for CWDs in mainstream schools. Before we became involved, these communities did not have specially trained teachers for CWDs and they also lacked tools/materials needed in the classroom. The schools' infrastructure was also difficult for CWDs to access. CWDs themselves had problems with health, stigma and discrimination, and lack community support.

These factors discouraged them to go to schools. And in school, their poor performance was unavoidable due to the lack of support. VNHIP attempts to address these issues in order to ensure CWDs equal opportunity for success.

### **A joyful Mid-Autumn Festival for CWDs in Nam Giang**

This event aims to create a playground for children in order to stimulate their creativity and encourage them to become involved in and integrate well into school and outdoor activities. Through this event, CWDs have the opportunity to participate in the entertainment such as solving puzzles, playing traditional games, receiving gifts,



and breaking moon cakes. Particularly, this was the first time that they experienced professional and beautiful unicorn dances. The children were very happy and excited participating this joyful event. Minh Chien, one of CWDs said that he was so happy to be able to join the festival as he could play many games and touched the dragon which he had never been able to before.



### **Bicycles and Wheel chairs for CWDs**

Trang and Thai are paralyzed in the 4th grade at Le Hong Phong Primary School. The teachers and classmates helped them get through the school day by physically carrying them. Their main activity in school was "sit and see" especially if no one was able to help while other students were out for a break. Their lives at school were uneventful and didn't seem much better than just staying home. Fortunately, life has improved with 2 wheelchairs given to them by VNHIP.

Their classmates can help them to move around, to access the restroom and to go to the playground for breaks. They are very happy because they can join in more outdoor activities with their peers.



In addition, VNHIP has donated 10 bicycles to poor students with disabilities in Nam Giang so children can get to school.

### **Teacher training for CWDs at mainstream schools**



To enable more CWDs to access inclusive education, VNHIP in partnership with Kianh Center provides capacity development for the teachers and leaders of 10 schools in Nam Giang and Dien Ban districts of Quang Nam province. .



Through these workshops/trainings, teachers share and learn from each other's skills and knowledge to better teach students with disabilities.

### Becoming more inclusive as a proactive planning strategy: Students are finally able to experience local day tours.



VNHIP organized a tour for CWDs in Hoi An ancient town. They were taken to visit a pottery village, a vegetable village, city tour, then to the entertainment and ending at a restaurant. For the first time, they went to a new place, ate different food, took pictures themselves! They were also able to make their own potteries to bring back home to souvenir their parents and friends. This tour was such an excellent experience



and memorable for these underprivileged children. A teacher from Nguyen Trong Nghia School, "That was the first time I saw her talking and laughing, and being so active. I had no idea she could make such cute pottery. "

Thank to **NLR Mekong** and **Liliane Fond** for their support of this meaningful project.

## HIV Care Saves Lives

### Improving the healthcare service accessibility for children infected with HIV/AIDS

Thuan was born in 2008 HIV positive. She lives with her widowed mother and three brothers in a small village in a mountainous area. Her mother and older brothers are also HIV positive. Her mom struggles to provide for her four children through raising chickens, growing vegetables and doing casual work when it is available. When we first met Thuan, she was skinny and pale. Thuan's mother is nimble, harmonious and hardworking. Her responsibilities increased when her husband died when Thuan one year old due

In spite of these hardships, Thuan excelled in school. Thuan receives monthly sponsorship to cover basic needs such as food and health care services. She is incredibly grateful and and is still overachieving in school. She's received the highest marks and was awarded a certificate of excellence! By continuing sponsorship for Thuan, we help to ensure she will have a bright future! Thank you **Betula Aid Foundation** and **Ms. Sagen Wilks** for making this happen.

to HIV/AIDS. At that time, sorrow overwhelmed the family and they didn't know how to move forward. All family expenses were dependent on the mother's monthly income.



## Fighting against social stigma through raising public awareness

HIV/AIDS-related stigma is a major contributor to the health and psychosocial well-being of children affected by AIDS. Whilst it is emotional and may also impact other family members affected by the disease, there has been no specific programs or campaigns to alleviate stigma and discrimination. VNHIP, in coordination with Danang and Quang Nam HIV/AIDS Prevention Center, respond and provide all necessary support for the children in an attempt to allay these issues. We provide life-skills training for the children so they can cope with the demands of every day life and live a healthy life. As a result, twenty eight (28) children with HIV/AIDS in Danang have received benefits from this program. We will have a life skills refresher training session and will also expand this program for the children in Quang Nam next year.

VNHIP also promote reduction of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination at the community-level through social events



During the Mid-Autumn Festival, we organize parties and events for more than 270 children living with AIDS and their care givers in Danang and Quang Nam Provinces. The events' activities include hiking, team competitions, and more.



These events provide an outlet for children and their families and offer emotional support and up-to-date information on disease process.

Thank to **Help for Hope** and **Betula Asian Aid Foundation** for providing us funding for these events.

## Improving accessibility to education and developing the social and life skills of children affected by HIV/AIDS

We provide school stipends for 20 children to ensure none of them stop attending due to family financial difficulties. Nine E-bikes/bikes and one motor scooter were given to the children to commute to school daily, allowing their parents/caregivers to work and earn a living. VNHIP and partners visit the families, conduct assessments, and prioritize the needs of the family. As a result, 15 families in Danang have received grants to help improve their earnings through vocations such as becoming a street vendor, a motorbike driver, raising cattle/poultry and other small businesses.

VNHIP staff conduct home visits regularly to ensure compliance with medication regimens, ensure child progress in schooling, share in their suffering and offer condolences when family members are lost. With all the aforementioned support and other health programs, VNHIP was acknowledged by local authorities and The Vietnam Ministry of Health for its contributions to improving health care delivery in Vietnam



## Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

### Strengthening local capacity on NCD detection and management

NCDs prevention is a flagship project for VNHIP. For more than ten years, VNHIP has made significant efforts to improve the capacity of local health staff for the early detection, intervention and management of NCDs. We have provided commune health stations (CHSs) with basic medical equipment such as blood pressure monitors, blood glucose testing equipment and scale to record weight. Finally, we have raised community awareness and increased the accessibility to health services for the people in communities.



In partnership with the Nam Giang District Department of Health, the NCD program has been focused on the ethnic minority groups in the mountainous area of central Vietnam. There are currently 282 people that have been screened for hypertension and diabetes..



There have been a total of 306 patients with hypertension and 21 patients with type 2 diabetes managed at the CHSs.

VNHIP continues its support for the Hoi An Homeless Shelter. There are currently 64 patients with hypertension and 5 with diabetes in the shelter that are supported with medicine daily. We also provide physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) to patients suffering from stroke. This is the 6th year



VNHIP has provided funding for the facility and commits to extend its funding for the shelter until 2020.

## NCDs research and a Self Help Guide: Fruits of labor from a wonderful volunteer

VNHIP receives international volunteers for its projects on community and health development.

International volunteers/students work with VNHIP for specific projects to earn experience in community development and cultural exchange.

Caroline Bec, a volunteer from University of Edinburg- School of Social and Political Science, conducted research on the perspectives of locals suffering from diabetes as well as the understanding of the village health workers and doctors in the commune of the disease. This research aims to provide more depth to local understanding of diabetes and serves to help VNHIP and partners target their diabetes management programs.

Caroline helped to conduct formative/qualitative research to grasp local understandings of personal health, disease and health service delivery. This led to the creation of a cross-cultural diabetes management booklet for locals. The artwork contained in the booklet was made by a Da Nang artist who met the patients and stayed in the community in order to grasp a tangible understanding of their needs.

### Vietnam Health Improvement Project

This booklet has been independently designed by Caroline Bec for VNHIP distribution for the local commune of TaBhing (in the Nam Giang district).

Gillian and Chris produced the artwork for this booklet.

X and X reviewed this material for accuracy.

Language translation provided by X and reviewed by X.

If you need need moral support, family and friends can help you to live better with diabetes.



Your monthly community meeting can provide you information and help you meet other diabetes patients.

You can help eradicate diabetes in TaBhing. Talk about it. Share stories.

You can change your life.

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Created In October 2018

## WASH

Dac Pring- Dac Pre Secondary School has 139 students and 16 teachers. The school is located 70 km from the main town of Thanh My.

Although school facilities have been upgraded recently, the water system was in very poor condition. A 500 liter brick water tank was located far from the school and didn't have the necessary capacity for the teachers and students.



Students would often go down to a stream behind the school to wash their hands and get water which was unsafe. Because of this, VNHIP provided a 1000 liter stainless steel tank and a water pump for this school. Now it is much easier for students and teachers to get water for their daily activities.



## Other

A fundraising event was organized by VNHIP and the Hoi An Social Club in Hoi An. This aims to raise funds to support children living with HIV/AIDS. With a total about 10 million VND raised from this activity, children living with HIV in Danang and Quang Nam will get more support for health care and schooling. Thank to all contributors and The Hoi An Social Club Team for holding this event!



**Thank you!**

**We couldn't do our work without your generous support**

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