

# VNHIP 2024 NEWSLETTER

Vietnam Health Improvement Projects

[vnhip.org](http://vnhip.org)

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Dear our beloved supporters, 2024 is almost over to welcome the new year, with your support and companionship, VNHIP has had a year with many memorable marks on the journey to support improving the quality of education and health for disadvantaged communities in Vietnam.



Let's look back on the past year, and pray for a new year full of prosperity ahead.

## Focus programs in 2024



- 1 Improving quality life of people with disability in provinces affected by Agent Orange
- 2 Improving the capacity of staffs working in health and education relates to PWDs
- 3 Improving possibility access to education and healthcare for CWDs in public schools
- 4 HIV Care Saves Lives - Improving comprehensive health and education for HIV - infected children

# Project Inclusion 1

"Project to support improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in provinces heavily sprayed with Agent Orange" has been implemented in the provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam (Inclusion Project 1) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This program is under the management of the Project Owner of the National Action Centre for Toxic Chemicals and Environmental Treatment (NACCET) under the Ministry of Defense. Funding is managed by the Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP).

## Highlight Results

967

PWDs were screened and identified as having a need for intervention

385

PWDs received rehabilitation intervention at home and at the hospital by 30 physical therapists and 5 speech therapists

455

PWDs are cared for at home by 30 nurses, doctors and local medical staffs

35

Commune officers were trained on knowledge and skills working with PWDs and supporting and monitoring the provision of community-based rehabilitation

460

Family members/caregivers trained in home care skills for PWDs

35

Rehabilitation technicians, 30 nurses and doctors from the Centers/Health Facilities/Hospitals were trained on updated rehabilitation and home care knowledge.



*In the third quarters of 2024, VNHIP organized screening for about 967 PWDs in 03 districts in the province of Quang Nam. The activity involved a team of nearly 40 rehabilitation doctors, nurses, and technicians specializing in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. PWDs were fully examined and their needs assessed to make intervention decisions. After this screening, we selected more than 850 PWDs who need home care/rehabilitation or assistive devices*



# NON-BARRIER CLASS TRAINING FOR CAREGIVERS

15 training classes for caregivers have been held in communes under the Inclusion 1 project, with the participation of more than 460 caregivers/family members of PWDs of different ages, genders, and occupations. We call it Classes with No Barrier, with the youngest student being 15 years old and the oldest student being 82 years old.

"This is the first time I have gone to class in my life," Ms. Cuu, an 80-year-old student in Tam An commune, shyly shared with the project staff. She cannot read or write, so other members of the support group read to her so that she could complete the tests. She was very happy and surprised because she got all the answers right. The classes were always filled with laughter and received many compliments from the students.



In addition to learning knowledge and skills in caring for PWDs, students also have the opportunity to share about the difficulties and pressures they encounter in the care process. VNHIP is very happy to organize the "first" classes in life that are truly memorable and meaningful.



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# REHABILITATION AND HOME CARE INTERVENTION FOR PWDS SERVICE

After participating in the screening and conducting the opening of the case, assessing to build a suitable support plan at home, 840 PWDs received rehabilitation training services and home care instructions.

Thanks to the enthusiastic and dedicated guidance of the team of technicians, doctors, and nurses, many PWDs have greatly improved their health.

"I really look forward to the day when the technician comes to my house to guide the training, from a person who needed help to walk and was very dependent on family members, now I can move by myself, ride a bicycle to go to the market to buy things..." shared by Ms. Xuan



## **TRAINING TO IMPROVE CAPACITY AND WORKING EXPERIENCE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR COMMUNE OFFICIALS, TECHNICIANS AND NURSES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT**

Practicing support for people with disabilities in the community requires comprehensiveness and multidisciplinary integration, and also requires more skills than working in health facilities.

We have organized many training courses with diverse topics on both professional knowledge and social skills such as information exploitation skills, counseling skills and empathy for people with disabilities, and notes when implementing community-based health models. Through the training sessions, the trainees all had very positive feedback on the applicability of the knowledge imparted.



# Project HIV CARE SAVES LIVES

## Highlight Results

114

Gifts were given to children with and affected by HIV/AIDS through social events such as: International Children's Day, Mid-Autumn Festival

24

Children with and affected by HIV/AIDS were supported with monthly nutrition costs in 2024

30

Children and young people under 25 years old with and affected by HIV participated in summer picnic activities

60

Children with and affected by HIV/AIDS received scholarships for the 2024 - 2025 school year

20

Young parents and young people with HIV participated in a knowledge and skills sharing course on health care and prevention of common diseases related to HIV/AIDS

12

Families of children with and affected by HIV/AIDS received livelihood support to improve income

15

Children with/affected by HIV/AIDS participated in 06 life skills activities during the summer

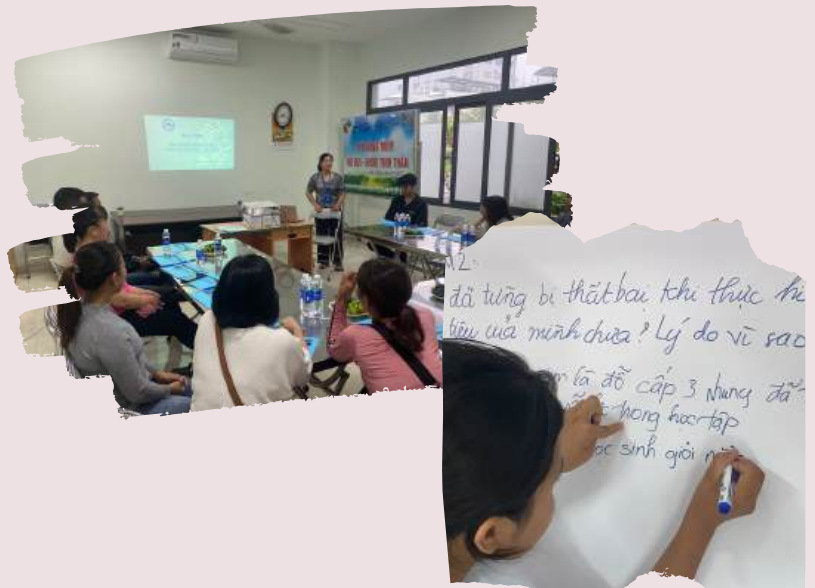
08

Young people with HIV/AIDS received scholarships for vocational training/college/university studies in the 2024-2025 school year



Following the success of the summer program "Developing soft skills for vulnerable children in Da Nang city", this year VNHIP continues to coordinate with Da Nang CDC to implement classes to support the improvement of children's skills. Improve important soft skills for children with 6 different topics. Starting with the topic "Effective communication skills", students gain a deeper understanding of the importance of communication in daily life, in learning as well as in the future working environment. Besides, to have fluency in communication, listening skills are an inseparable part.

At the end of the sharing session, the students self-assess their communication scores and together make plans to improve their own communication weaknesses in the near future.



# SUCCESSFUL STORY

Phuc's story is a miraculous journey from suffering to hope. Born with HIV/AIDS, she lost her mother to the disease when she was just 2 years old. She and her father, who was also living with HIV/AIDS, faced countless challenges—not only battling the illness but also enduring the heavy burden of societal stigma and prejudice. However, with the unwavering support of the VNHIP organization since she was 3 years old, Phuc was given the opportunity to change the course of her life.



Phuc and her mother - 2007

From a young age, VNHIP provided her with monthly allowance support, contributing to her physical growth and helping to minimize the harmful effects of HIV/AIDS on her health. This support enabled her to maintain good health and develop like any other child.

In addition to nutritional aid, Phuc received valuable scholarships from VNHIP each year, alleviating her family's financial burdens and allowing her to focus on her studies. Despite the challenges posed by her health condition, her academic journey remained uninterrupted, and she consistently excelled in school.



A key element of Phuc's success was the social activities organized by VNHIP. Events such as Lunar New Year celebrations, Children's Day, summer camps, and the Mid-Autumn Festival gave her opportunities to connect with others, build friendships, and feel a sense of belonging within the community. These experiences helped her overcome feelings of isolation and abandonment, replacing them with love and care from those around her.

In addition, the life skills training she received through VNHIP equipped her with essential soft skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and independence. These skills have been invaluable in her everyday life, enhancing her confidence and supporting her growth both academically and personally.

After years of determination and hard work, Phuc has achieved remarkable success. At the age of 18, she entered **Dong A University** as a first-year law student. This milestone represents the extraordinary journey of a young girl who overcame immense obstacles to become a resilient student, prepared to take on future challenges.



*Phuc participated in VNHIP's events throughout the years*

Phuc's story is not only one of personal perseverance but also a powerful testament to the strength of community and the transformative impact of comprehensive support from organizations like VNHIP. The care and assistance she received enabled her to not only survive but to thrive, excelling in both her education and her life. With her unbreakable spirit, Phuc has not only faced the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS but has emerged victorious, achieving outstanding success in her academic and personal endeavors.

**For more success stories,  
YOU CAN HELP**

- Monthly/yearly sponsorship for children infected/affected by HIV with \$50 monthly
- Contributing to social events for children infected/affected by HIV
- Scholarships for the young infected/affected by HIV with \$500



# Project Inclusive Education

## Highlight Results

04

Training courses to improve capacity and teaching experience for students with disabilities in integrated classes with the participation of 75 leaders and teachers of students with disabilities at 08 schools under the project

250

Teachers participated in retraining courses from teachers trained by the project, including topics such as skills to develop positive behavior for students with disabilities in integrated classes, methods to build individual education plans for students with disabilities, etc.

65

Students with disabilities participated in learning and supplementary activities to support life skills in 08 Integration rooms

60<sup>+</sup>

Parents of students with disabilities participated in 1-1 meetings with homeroom teachers to jointly build individual education plans for their children

70

Students with disabilities, parents and 10 teachers participated in diverse outdoor experiences including learning about cultural traditions, practicing arts, traditional craft villages and activities with meaningful messages about environmental protection in the locality where they were born live.

33

Parents participated in community exchange activities to share experiences and difficulties in raising children, thereby creating connections between parents to support each other

16

Teachers were honored at Le awarded the Dedicated Teacher Award to teachers who make efforts to help children with disabilities achieve success in their studies

## 1-1 Parent Meetings, Personalization in Communication and Assessment

More than 60 parents of students with disabilities participated in 1-1 meetings with homeroom teachers to share the difficulties in raising children at school and at home. Through this, it is also an opportunity for parents to understand their children's strengths through the inclusive education program. Parents are emphasized in their role as accompaniment to teachers in the process of personalizing a suitable educational plan for their children. Teachers listen to parents' concerns and answer questions, and at the same time show parents the products that students have made in the school's inclusive room





# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION TEACHING WITH THE HEART

In the small room used by the school to combine the library and the "Inclusion" room - is where Ms. Thuy, a vocal music teacher at Tran Phu Secondary School, will meet students with disabilities in the school twice a month. To teach children more about life skills, they are learning together how to make refreshing lemonade for the summer. The teachers thoughtfully guided the 10 students step by step, not forgetting to tell them to go home and practice making it for their parents.

"Each student with disabilities has a unique world, personality and strengths. I choose to accompany and help them better understand their own value through their personal emotions and actions, from which they learn to be more open with those around them. At first, myself and my colleagues also encountered many difficulties when approaching the students. Some students ran around during class, or did not pay attention in class, affecting other students, but gradually, When you learn to be more patient with children and understand them better, everything becomes easier."



In the Inclusion room at Nguyen Ba Ngoc primary school, each special lesson will only have 1-2 children but the lessons are carefully and interestingly prepared by Ms. Hieu. Because the children's attention span will be shorter than that of other students, the teacher has divided the activities into appropriate time periods, combined with illustrative and colorful lectures for the children to fully enjoy and participate.

As a Gen Z teacher, Ms. Hieu was assigned to teach the Inclusion class right from the first days of working at school. Until now, nearly 5 years into her career, she has never once felt like giving up or feeling disadvantaged than other teachers when taking on classes with students with disabilities. Her dedication is rewarded with the students' progress. When they memorize all the letters and read each number, she has more motivation to stick with them. "When I'm devoted to the children, they also love me back" - Ms. Hieu shared.

To bond with students with disabilities, professional knowledge alone is not enough. The bond between teacher and student is not only knowledge, but also understanding and love, helping students eliminate timidity and proving that they are still useful people. Understanding the disadvantages of children with disabilities, teachers have become second fathers and mothers who always accompany and open a new world with less fortunate students with love and tolerance.



# Special Thanks

To achieve the above results and positive impacts on the community, we cannot complete without your cooperation and support. In 2025, we look forward to continuing our mission of contributing to society, especially improving health, education and life for disadvantaged groups in Vietnam.

Your contribution, no matter how little or much, will be a great encouragement to us.

## YOU CAN HELP

- Monthly/yearly sponsorship for children infected/affected by HIV with \$50 monthly
- Contributing to social events for children infected/affected by HIV, children with disabilities
- Scholarships for the young infected/affected by HIV, children with disabilities with \$500
- Contribute to maintaining inclusive education support rooms for children with disability with \$800 per month



*VNHIP would like to especially thank the sponsors and partners who have supported our project over the years. and wish everyone a peaceful new year.*

- USAID, NACCET, CCIHP
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