

IMPROVING THE STANDARDS  
OF HEALTHCARE IN VIETNAM



### To all of our supporters

Its hard to believe its been 10 years since VNHIP began its operations in Viet Nam. We have come a long way during that time with a lot of help. Our projects have become more refined during this time and we are now really focused on making long-term sustainable impacts on health and quality of life. I'd like to personally thank all of our supporters and staff over the years. You make all of this possible.  
Josh Solomon, Director, VNHIP

**Thank you!**

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

NLR Mekong and Liliane Fond  
The Maddox Foundation  
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DISABILITIES

## Inclusive education for children with disabilities

Nhan (12 years old) and her sister Nhe (8 years old) live in a mountainous village called Ta Duy Commune in the Nam Giang District of Quang Nam. Nhan and Nhe are both intellectually disabled. Their parents work on a small farm on the hill far from home and they barely earn enough to feed their children. Their family is one of the poorest in the village and lack basic needs. Due to their disability, Nhan and Nhe are studying at a significantly lower grade level than their peers. The family have encountered significant difficulties in securing schooling for their children.



In partnership with local communities, VNHIP has provided a comprehensive package to keep 30 children with disabilities (CWDs) in mainstream schools. This package includes: training for teachers to better educate CWDs, support for basic health care, provision of assistive devices, and scholarships to the poorest CWDs. Nhan and Nhe are among the CWDs that received benefits from VNHIP.

We'd like to say special thanks to NLR Mekong and Liliane Fond for their kind support to make this happen. We would like to reach 30 more CWDs who need help to fulfill their right to education.

## Support a child in the Kianh center to receive a hearing aid

Anh Thu is a 3-year old girl with a hearing impairment. Because of the poverty of her family, her parents could not afford her a hearing aid that she would need to get her enrolled at the Kianh Center- a school for CWDs near Hoi An Ancient Town run by the Kianh Foundation (<https://kianh.org.uk/>). Due to the cost of the hearing aids, VNHIP only had funding for one of the two aids she required.



With the grant from Liliane Fond and NLR Mekong, VNHIP and Kianh Center plan to support CWDs with assistive devices, physical therapy, and other early interventions so that CWDs can go to either specialty schools or stay in their local public school.

## "We Ring The Bell" - Every child has right to go to school

In cooperation with NLR Mekong and Liliane Fond, VNHIP and its partner schools joined in the "We Ring The Bell" event together with 30 countries on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2018. The large

school bells circulated amongst different persons and organizations. More than 600 people participated in this event to promote the statement “All children are welcome to school, including children with disability”.



## Capacity development for teachers to educate children with disabilities

To enable more children with disabilities in the remote communities to access to 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. Thanks to NLR Mekong and Liliane Fond for its technical and financial support.



Nguyen Thi Hoang Yen, Professor, Doctor of Philosophy, from Hanoi Education University-provided training in the class.



A teacher attending the course on education for CWDs at the Kianh Center

## HIV CARE SAVES LIVES

### Girls go to school

Lan and Huong are 9-year-old twins. They are living with their grandparents in a remote mountainous village in the Central Vietnam. Lan was infected with HIV during birth while Huong was not. Their father died of HIV when they were four years old. Their mother, Phuong, had to leave their home town to earn a living. She would often lose her job when she was found out to be HIV-infected



Unfortunately, Lan got tuberculosis of her hip this year and stayed in the hospital for a month. Phuong lost her job again and eventually had to borrow 900 USD for Lan’s medicine and for the family’s food. After recovering from her infection, Lan couldn’t go to school because of her weakness. Her mother also could not afford the cost of school. Phuong felt exhausted from all these



burdens and contemplated keeping Lan out of school forever. Indeed, Lan hadn't been to school for more than 2 months.

Thanks to the Help for Hope, we were able to help Lan's family with medicine, food, clothes and a monthly living allowance. We convinced her mother to allow Lan to get back to school. We are happy that Lan is currently back in school.. Her health is better and her mother has a new job!

## E-bike for kid and International Children's Day event



VNHIP provided an e-bike for the boy who was infected with HIV and living 20 km from his school. With this e-bike, he can commute to school daily. Thank you David Sisson and family for your donation that made this possible.



VNHIP organized International Children's Day for 100 children living with HIV, those affected by HIV, and their care givers. The children had fun together and also got gifts on this special day. Thanks to Help for Hope for making this event happen.

## Life skill development



To help the children further develop and refine the skills that they need to successfully navigate the challenges of life, Hulza provided financial support to VNHIP to organize two training courses on life-skill development for 25 children living with HIV and those affected by HIV at Da Nang city in Central Vietnam.

For part of the training, we took the disadvantaged children with their caregivers to Son Tra Peninsula in Danang city to learn about the ecosystem of the peninsula. Through this activity, we aimed to raise the awareness of the children on the protection of wild animals and to help them find solutions that will improve the community's responsibilities for preserving wild animals and lead to eco-friendly living.

## Art Auction in Australia

VNHIP Tasmanian Art Auction is an event that was organized by a group of enthusiastic volunteers to raise money for scholarships for children who have been affected by HIV in Quang Nam Province. Thank you to all the contributing artists, the support team and those who dedicated time and money to this event. This event raised AUD 11,000 for VNHIP and will brighten the lives of disadvantaged children. In this school's new year, VNHIP will provide scholarships for the children who are desperately in need. Thank you Benjamin Dudman and all the supporters for your endeavors to keep the children in school another year!



*Ben Dudman along side one of the many paintings kindly donated*



*Over one hundred guests attended the Auction dinner*

## NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

### Research and handbook for patients with diabetes

VNHIP partners with universities and institutes to conduct research and create opportunities for master students in Vietnam. Utilizing VNHIP's relationships with WHO and universities in the USA, studies are ongoing that will provide valuable insight into non-communicable diseases.

This year, VNHIP signed an agreement with the University of Edinburgh on a placement-based dissertation for its master students.



Currently, Ms. Caroline Bec is conducting research on the perspectives towards diabetes among ethnic patients living in mountainous area of Nam Giang district in Quang Nam Province. Research such as this will help VNHIP develop a culturally-appropriate self-help guide for patients with diabetes and their family to better manage this disease.



More patients with NCDs have been taken care this year with the support of VNHIP. We continue to provide the necessary equipment such as blood pressure monitors, scales and blood glucose test kits for doctors to assist with the proper screening, diagnosis and treatment of hypertension and diabetes. Our project covered 10 communes with 79 villages, with a total population of more than 74,700 in the Nam Giang District of the Quang Nam Province. More than 700 cases of

hypertension and 120 cases of diabetes were detected and managed by our program.

# WASH

Many schools in Nam Giang mountainous district have a shortage of clean water for daily activities. The frequent use of unhygienic water results in common water borne diseases such as diarrhea, trachoma, worm infection, skin rashes, allergies etc. This not only affects the health of children but directly affects the quality of education as well



With funding from Betula Foundation, VNHIP provided clean water systems for more than 10 schools in the Nam Giang District of Quang Nam Province. Clean water improved the hygiene of hundreds of students and teachers, preventing common water borne diseases and improving the quality of teaching and learning for both teachers and students



Thanks to Betula Foundation for “bringing safe water” for these schools and we hope more schools will have improvements in their hygiene through funding from Betula in the future as well.

# Prizes from Quang Nam, Da Nang and MoH

VNHIP’s team is proud of its productive year and was recognized by Vietnam’s Ministry of Health, Quang Nam People’s Committee and Da Nang People’s Committee.



# New Country Director: Dr. Kinh Ho

Dr. Kinh Ho is joining VNHIP as a Country Director in June. Dr. Kinh has worked in hospital and public health setting more





than 20 years. Prior to joining VNHIP, he spent time with Plan International as a health specialist/coordinator; COO of Danang Hoan My Hospital; and DISTINCT Project funded by USAID as a Health Coordinator. Dr. Kinh’s knowledge and experience in management and leadership will be an asset to our team .

Dr. Kinh has a MD from Hue Medical School, and also received his MPH from University of South Florida - USA via Fulbright Scholarship.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kinh to VNHIP

## Volunteer



### Jenifer Ho

“It has been a pleasure working with VNHIP’s team. I have truly learned so much from VNHIP’s projects that help children living with HIV and disabilities. It is evident how passionate you are with everything you do”

Ms. Jennifer Nhu Ho, a student of the University of Houston, Texas, who worked with VNHIP’s team in Vietnam to develop the guide on advanced training on life-skills development for children living with HIV.



### Caroline Bec

“I had an opportunity to see the work of VNHIP in the rural community of Ta Bhing. Along the mountains covered in luxurious forest, following the sinuous water, lies the different villages where VNHIP raises awareness about diabetes. I am here researching about perspectives of diabetes among patients, village health workers and doctors that leads to creation of a self-help guide for diabetes patients. I have been welcomed by the Ta Bhing communities and supported by VNHIP staff which made my time here precious and full of joy” - Ms. Caroline Bec from the University of Edinburgh.

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