



Viet Nam
Health
Improvement
Project



Family and friends,

Thank you all for your continued support. 2019 has been a great year. We have welcomed new staff members on the team, written a number of new and exciting grants, fostered new collaborations and developed our ongoing projects. This has all led to a bigger impact on the lives of those in need. Please see below for more details. Thanks again and have a great second half of 2019!

Josh Solomon, Director

Thank you!

We couldn't do our work without your generous support

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DISABILITIES

Drawing contest for children with disabilities (CWDs)



A drawing contest was held in March by VNHIP with the participation of 350 pupils which included many with disabilities. The aim of this contest was to raise the awareness on children with disabilities both in the schools as well as the community. In addition, the conducted a government activity on the Rights of People with Disabilities, especially focusing on the Rights of the Children.



The children were enthusiastic and many beautiful paintings were completed. VNHIP, together with 8 art teachers, judged the works and 25 paintings were selected for prizes. VNHIP will conduct more activities like this in the future.

"We ring the bell" Event



On March 13, VNHIP collaborated with the Department of Education and the primary schools in Nam Giang to organize the "We Ring the Bell" event. This is an annual event to convey the message that "all children are welcome to school, including children with a disability". The title of the event refers to pupils ringing their homemade bells together to show support for the Rights of Children with Disabilities. The local authorities, school leaders and parents also participated in this event. Additionally, some outdoor activities were organized that the children enjoyed.

During this event, VNHIP offered many in-kind support (writing-table, desk-lamp, alphabetic board.....) to poor disabled pupils. This event brought the joy to all students, especially those with disabilities and we hope

it helps to motivate them to overcome difficulties and continue going to school.



Competence development for teachers of children with disabilities

Improving the competence of teachers who have disabled pupils in their mainstreaming class is one of the most important components of the "Inclusive Education" project. In fact, almost teachers of mainstream schools in Viet Nam still do not have the skills and experience to provide inclusive education. Besides, having children with disabilities in classes that already have 35 to 40 students is a big challenge for both teachers and students. To solve this problem, VNHIP have regularly organized training courses and workshops for the teachers of mainstream schools

with help from teachers of special education centers.

At these workshops, the teachers have had the opportunity to share their experiences and skills in teaching pupils with disabilities. Specific cases were presented to facilitate learning. VNHIP is in partnership with the Kianh center to provide competence development for the teachers and the leaders of 10 schools in Nam Giang and Dien Ban districts of Quang Nam province with financial support from NLR Mekong.



HIV CARE SAVES LIVES

Girls go to school

Anh is 18 years old. She lives with her 68 years old grandmother and her older sister in a small house of her uncle's family in Da Nang city. Anh's parents died of HIV/AIDS in 2006 and 2007. While her older sister did not have HIV, Anh was infected by HIV at birth. Despite her old age, Anh's grandmother has worked to earn money for the family. With VNHIP's support by providing a small grant, she has rented a small corner near the bus station to sell coffee. She has worked hard from 4:00am to 6:00pm every day.



Unfortunately, in January of this year, Anh's grandmother became ill for a long time, so she could not go to work. Life became difficult because there was no more income, therefore Anh's nutrition

and education was affected. Due to the sickness, Anh's grandmother could not take her to school every day. During this time, Anh's health status declined due to poor nutrition in spite of taking her ARV medicine daily. To take care of Anh and her older sister for one month, Anh's grandmother had to borrow 10,000,000 VND (around 450 USD) to buy food for the family. With support from Help for Hope, we were able to assist Anh's family with schooling fees, food, clothing and a monthly living allowance. Now Anh is studying at 12th grade at the Vocational Secondary School and she will finish her studies within 18 months, and we do hope she could find a job afterwards. We are so happy to support Anh's family to resume a normal and balanced life

Luna New Year and International Children's Day Events



The event "International Children's Day" was organized by VNHIP in collaboration with Danang Center for Disease Control for the disadvantaged children in Da Nang City on the 1st of June. This is a gift for the children after one year of hard work at school.



Our gratitude goes to Help For Hope Foundation and Betula Asian Aid Foundation for the generous support to make this possible.

New cases in our HIV project

In the beginning of this year, we received 4 new cases including two 2-month old babies. Fortunately, the results of laboratory test showed these two babies were HIV negative. Currently, two babies have been fed by their HIV-infected mothers according to the regimen prescribed by the HIV/AIDS specialist. We have contacted families, consulted their parents and supplied formula milk to these babies.



Khac Minh

Khac Minh is seven year old boy. He is living with his paternal grandfather, two young aunts and younger brother in a poor village at remote area of a mountainous district of Quang Nam Province. He was HIV positive at birth, acquiring infection from his mother. Fortunately his 4-year old younger brother was free from HIV.

In 2017, Minh's father was arrested for buying and selling drugs. After his father was in jail his mother left family without notice.

Minh's paternal grandfather is poor farmer and his property is a small rice-field only.

To earn money for living expenditure he has worked as hired worker after harvest time. At home he has bred chickens for extra income. However all his effort is not enough for his family's expenditure, especially the school fees of two of Minh's aunts who are at grade 8th and 11th.

VNHIP has agreed to support the nourishment of the four new children thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Non communicable diseases (NCDs) prevention program in the mountainous district

NCDs still remains as a priority amongst the programs of VNHIP. This year, the program expanded to one more commune with 10 villages, covering a total of 5 communes and 34 villages. At this point, 17 commune health workers were trained on diabetes and hypertension diagnosis, treatment, and management following the Vietnam Ministry of Health's Standardized Guidelines. 12 village health workers were trained on health communication skills to promote healthy behaviors and reduce the incidence of diabetes and hypertension. In addition, a series of health communication sessions has been offered by village health workers and reached 6,200 target villagers.



Health workers in training for NCDs. They are in groups to practice measuring blood pressure, calculating a body mass index (BMI), and taking blood glucose tests.



The villagers are participating in a health communication session on reducing high risk behaviors related to diabetes and hypertension.

Improving hygiene and clean water conditions for ethnic students in Vietnam

VNHIP continues to support the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program for schools in ethnic minority communities in Nam Giang District, Quang Nam Province-Vietnam. This year, the program is funded by Czech Republic Embassy in Hanoi. The program aims to (1) provide clean water system,(2) improve sanitation and hygienic condition, and (3) reduce water-borne disease infection for five primary schools in the district. An estimated 68 teachers and 1130 students are beneficiaries from this program. Up to now, a needs assessment on WASH was conducted and 5 schools were selected to be included. 47 teachers from these schools were trained on proper hand-washing and provided with knowledge and skills to prevent common water borne diseases for their students. After training, the teachers held outdoor activities to promote personal hygiene. As a result, 1129 students and 68 teachers

participated in 5 integrated health education sessions. In addition, enabling these positive behaviors to grow, 5 running water systems and sanitation facilities have been building for these schools.



Teachers are in the training and demonstrating proper hand-washing



Students are doing a return demonstration in a school outdoor activity on integrated health communication

Other notes

New Country Director: Dr. Khanh Quang Le



VNHIP would like to inform that we have just recruited Dr. Khanh Quang Le for the Country Director position of VNHIP. Dr. Khanh Quang Le has specialized in Rehabilitation and has a master's degree in Public Health. He worked at Danang University of Medical Technology and Pharmacy for 30 years. He is very experienced in rehabilitation pre-service and in-service training and service delivery. He has also served as a consultant on rehabilitation for the INGOs World Vision, Health Volunteers Organization World Concern. After retirement, he joined the “Comprehensive and Integrated Support Program for Persons with Disabilities funded by USAID”, as a team leader of the rehabilitation component.

Staff training in Hue city

In June, VNHIP staff participated in a training course in Hue organized by our partner, RCI. Here, we learned about children's rights, especially the rights of children with disabilities and child protection policies. At the same time, we shared the skills and experience of case management, one of the most important and useful skills for project managers. Through it, VNHIP also expanded its network of working with other non-governmental organizations. Thank you RCI for this useful training!

