



VIET NAM Health Improvement Project

changing lives
& **growing**
communities



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OUR NEW VOLUNTEER



Andrew Beckmann

Andrew's professional background includes a career as a Registered Nurse before establishing a Rehabilitation Consultancy practice for people injured at work. During his working career he earned a Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Nursing, Master of Business Administration and a Practitioners Certificate in Mediation.

He has used this knowledge to provide management consultancy services to many businesses in Adelaide, particularly in the areas of strategy, performance management, conflict resolution and management coaching.

A year of achievement for The Viet Nam Health Improvement Project!

- 1 A new health care improvement project funded by a grant from Henkel where we will focus on health and hygiene education for the students at 16 schools in Nam Giang
- 2 Progress in assessments and support for the people in Quang Nam province living in poverty that require surgery to repair heart defects
- 3 Health care improvement in Hoi An adult shelter for the homeless and disadvantaged, applying the Non Communicable Diseases Treatment Protocol (NCD model) developed by VNHIP
- 4 Approval of our new NCD model by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO)
- 5 A new "HIV family support Program" for children living with HIV

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our work.
Without you, none of this is possible!

Nam Giang Health and Hygiene

In February 2015, Vietnam Health Improvement Project (VNHIP) visited and surveyed seven preschools, eight elementary schools and one high school in the Ca Dy commune in Nam Giang.

During this process we identified many hygiene related issues at each



hand washing stations set up at school

school. The survey showed that 14 of the 16 schools have no hygienic toilet or no toilet at all.

Some schools do not have a regular water supply throughout the day. Most schools do not have taps near the toilet or near the dining area for the students to wash their hands. In addition, there is not enough soap provided for the large number of students. We surveyed the students as well and found that the majority were unaware of the importance of personal hygiene. The health impacts of poor hygiene are significant at this age of development for these children.

Thus, it became clear that health education regarding personal hygiene was a priority for this community. The purpose of this project is to contribute to improving overall community health, and more specifically the health of the students in the Ca Dy commune. We will accomplish this through

hand washing principles taught in kindergarten



education for children in preschool, grade 1 and grade 2

Improved knowledge of health and hygiene will lead to healthier lifestyles. In addition, we will provide 16 schools in the commune of Ca Dy with hand washing facilities and items related to personal hygiene such as hand soap, shampoo, and toothbrushes. We look forward to this project bringing some much-needed changes for the Nam Giang community regarding public health and hygiene.

give a one of a kind gift

If you are looking to give a gift, why not consider doing something different? You can make a donation in the name of a loved one and we will send them a letter thanking them and informing them where their money is spent. Your precious donation can make an enormous difference in the life of someone less fortunate.

Non-Communicable Diseases Project



People in Adult Shelter are living happy and healthy with VNHIP's medical support

We are pleased to inform you that the Non Communicable Diseases Treatment Protocol (NCD model) developed by VNHIP has just been approved by Vietnamese Ministry of Health and continues to be supported by the World Health Organization (WHO). This is a great achievement for VNHIP as our team has been working hard to reach this goal for a long time! This is a great motivator for VNHIP to expand our NCD project and benefit more of Viet Nam's disadvantaged people.



VNHIP staff training commune nurses

The Hoi An adult shelter is part of our NCD project. VNHIP maintains regular contact with the Homeless Adult Shelter in Hoi An. VNHIP provides medication to 65 people living in this center and healthcare training for their nurse. This part of the NCD project is progressing well and we have had great results. 97% of patients with hypertension and diabetes are now under control, a great improvement from only 60% prior to starting the project. It has been very rewarding to see this population stay healthy and happy with our medical support. The nurse at the center has been a great advocate for the residents with NCDs. She went so far as to create a separate meal plan for them to include less salt and sugars. She has been integral to the success of this program.

Cardiac Project

VNHIP cardiac program continues to move forward with the support from the Griffin Foundation. To date we have completed 103 surgical cases, bringing great benefit for patients and their families. Their health and happiness after the surgeries are always a source of motivation and pride for VNHIP.

Unfortunately, for some of the people we meet with cardiac conditions, the disease has progressed to such an extent that surgery is no longer an option. This is the case for three of our long-term patients, all of whom are young ladies from poor families. None of them have yet completed school, which would enable them to become financially independent. Until they earn qualifications that would enable them to gain secure employment, their lack of income and the costs of their medication contribute to their families' cycle of poverty.

VNHIP's aim is to support these young people financially in order for them to access medications until they are able to complete their schooling or skills training and can afford to supply their own medication. VNHIP is always on the lookout for funding these life-changing surgeries and medications needs.



Dieu and Tha, girls with cardiac conditions who need medication support



Children Living With HIV

In the last few years, with the development of improved treatment medications and care for people living with HIV, patients now live longer and are able to reintegrate into society. The goal of VNHIP with our HIV program is to reduce the impact of disease and improve the quality of life for children living with HIV in central Viet Nam. We now care for 14 children living with HIV. VNHIP has in the past supported families by providing funds to help to cover medical costs, transportation to Ho Chi Minh City and Tam Ky City for special care and medications, as well as funding for other

medical issues that may arise. We also provide funds for food and transportation for families to visit their children who have been moved to Vung Tau center in southern Viet Nam. VNHIP performs assessments of physical health and social well-being annually for the children with HIV. In addition, we also organize an annual travel holiday for children living with HIV to help them feel like they are a part of a community and to enjoy being kids again. Discrimination persists and the stigma of HIV causes difficulties for families trying to find stable employment. Therefore, providing opportunities with encouraging entrepreneurship to families is a vital step in improving the quality of life and independence of these families.



Thanks to a grant we were awarded by the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, VNHIP has been able to help eligible families in starting or expanding a business enterprises through a micro-credit program. We have just supported our first family with more to follow. With the growth of business and the increase in revenue, families are able to step away from poverty and provide the funds necessary for the medical treatment and well-being of their child living with HIV.

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The Cardiac Teams at Da Nang and Hue General Hospital

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Sherstin and Steve Lommatzsch

Peter Hoang

Chris Otwell and Michele Kackovic

Heather McKendry

Our hard working staff in Viet Nam –Yen, Duy, Andrew and Emily