



David Cooke and Judy Avenell volunteering in our clinic.

The 2010 Fundraiser is here – see page 3 for details!

Thank you for your interest in our work

The Hoi An Foundation is a US-based 501(c) 3 working to improve the quality of healthcare in Viet Nam. Our work centers around three areas where we feel there is great need in Viet Nam--chronic disease

management, cardiac defects, and pediatric HIV. Our work continues to progress and these newsletters serve as an update. Thank you for your support of our work.

Health Improvement Project

Our health improvement project has taken a new turn in the last 3 months. We are finally working with the government of Viet Nam in the capital to change policy and practice nationwide. We are formulating a diabetes pilot project in a province outside of Ha Noi. With this pilot we will test a new screening method as well as our treatment model. If this pilot shows that our method is effective, we will work with health officials in Ha Noi to write the national policy on diabetes as well as work on implementation. Our experience in the last 2 years is that diabetes is very prevalent in the poor (around 4%) and largely unmanaged. With our treatment model we hope to get education and medication to those affected in the coming year. We have been doing this on a small scale but now have the chance to enact change on a national level. We are also working to bring some local endocrinologists over to Denver to spend time with our endocrine department at the University of Colorado.

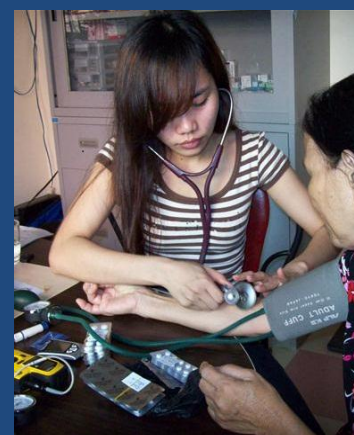


We continue training doctors in chronic disease management in our province of Quang Nam. We have now seen over 3000 patients and worked directly with the doctors in our neighboring districts. The diagnosis and management of these conditions has improved. Our staff has become quite proficient in initial patient evaluations and health education. We have had a number of visiting doctors come and spend one or two weeks with us in these clinics. We always need more help. If you are interested, please contact us.

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Improving the Standard of Healthcare in Central Viet Nam



The newest member of our team, Quynh, checking a patient into clinic

HIV

We currently have 9 children living with HIV who we support in central VN. Working through the street center in nearby Da Nang, we continue to identify new cases. Due to continued social stigmas, many families are reluctant to be contacted and often have to move to areas where they are unknown so their children can attend school. We send 6 children regularly to Ho Chi Minh to receive care. We are lucky to have support from Dr. Doanh Lu. She lives in HCMC and works with the Harvard Medical School AIDS Initiative. She helps ensure our children get seen in the clinic and get started on appropriate care. The 6 receiving care now are doing quite well. We hope to get the 3 new children to HCMC soon for care. We recently relocated a child living with HIV and his brother to an orphanage outside HCMC through the Worldwide Orphans Foundation. His parents were deceased and his grandmother was unable to care for him. We are currently looking for family support for these children. They all come from poor families with sick or deceased parents. If you are interested in supporting a family please contact us.



A young patient of ours with a large hematoma

Heart Program

Our heart program continues to move forward. With the help of the cardiac team in Da Nang we have completed 43 surgeries. Our average cost of surgery is around \$1500. These surgeries are life-changing procedures. Often these patients are the primary or only wage earner of the family. They do not get diagnosed until they are quite advanced and often are unable to work. After surgery, they can return to their normal lives.



Vo Dung proudly showing his new scar

A recent case involves Vo Dung. He is a 46 year old male living in the countryside with 4 children. When we visited his house we found it quite small and in need of repair. For employment they grow rice and raise a pig. For a long time Mr Dung was sick and unable to work – his wife was the primary wage earner. He eventually discovered that he had severe mitral insufficiency. The surgery was \$2500 – a difficult bill to pay as the family made \$40 a month! We made arrangements to finance his surgery and completed the procedure 2 months later (July, 2010). He is now doing well and feels great. He is back to work and healthy. He is happy and wants to say thank you to those who supported us to make this surgery possible and give him his life back.

Another recent case is that of Nguyen Thi Ba. She is a 26 year old female who knew about her heart disease a long time but was unable to afford surgery. She and her husband are fishermen and earn very little. In addition to this, her house was damaged in the storms of 2009. She initially could not come see us because she was too sick and ended up in the hospital. Her younger brother came to ask for help. They also went to the pagoda and newspaper. We worked with the pagoda to help pay for her surgery and completed the procedure in May 2010. She is doing well after the surgery and back home caring for her young child.

New Projects

Centura Health

We have partnered with the charitable arm of Centura Health. They are sending two teams of doctors to Quang Nam in September. One will be a surgical team that will spend 5 days at a poor district hospital in our area teaching laparoscopic surgery and helping with the large list of poor patients needing procedures. The second team will accompany us to the poor mountain areas of Nam Giang. There we will treat the poor patients of the highlands who have limited access to any medical care. We hope this will be the start of an ongoing relationship and lead to future trips.

Project Cure

Project Cure (www.projectcure.org) is a charity based in Denver, Colorado that ships medical equipment all over the world. They have been trying to get a shipment to Viet Nam for some time now. We are working with them to try and bring a large container of equipment (approximately \$400,000 USD worth!) to central Viet Nam. We are working closely with local philanthropists Neal Stanley, Ralph Lidge and Loan Vo to raise money for the initial shipment. With their help, we are hoping to bring some much needed equipment to our area in the next six months.

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“Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful.”
Unknown Author



Fundraiser 2010

Join us for a [Mid-Autumn Moon Dinner and Reception](#) at the Space Gallery in Denver for an amazing five course harvest dinner, prepared by Mary Nguyen, Chef and Owner of Parallel Seventeen.

Sunday, September 26, 2010
Space Gallery
765 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO

5:00 pm Dinner \$125
6:30 pm Cocktail Reception \$40

For ticket information, please e-mail james@hoianfoundation.org or call (720) 327-1994.



Gifts that Change Lives



If you cannot attend our 2010 fundraiser, why not consider doing something different? Your precious donation can make an enormous difference in the life of someone less fortunate. 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.



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FOUNDATION

THANKS!

Dr Heather McKendry and Dr Jeff Regnis for their continued trips to Hoi An to staff our clinic.

James Martinez for his expert help with fundraising.

George Roberge, Neal Stanley, Ralph Lidge and Loan Vo for their persistence and dedication to the difficult task of getting medical equipment into Viet Nam.

Carl Bartecchi for his wisdom and guidance throughout the years.

And thanks to our fulltime staff in Hoi An for their tireless work!

New Staff

We are happy to announce additions to our team.

Nguyen Thi Thu Quynh has joined our staff. She is 24 years old and studied business in university. She volunteered 3 months before being hired full time. She is doing very well as a health educator and works with our other staff to prescreen patients for clinic. She also is in charge of our HIV program. We are happy to have her.

Carol Nagy, a registered nurse from Australia, will be rejoining us next month to help manage our new and ongoing projects.

James Martinez is an event planner in Denver, CO (www.jamesdavidmartinez.com) who is organizing our fundraiser.

Carrie Packard is a non-profit specialist helping with public relations and marketing.