



Brian Penti showing a patient how to inject insulin in clinic.

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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. We have come a long way in the last several years with the help of many wonderful volunteers and through collaboration with local and international charities and several other organizations. Below is an update of our projects.

Health Improvement Project

Our Health Improvement Project is going well. We are still travelling to clinics in the countryside and continuing to teach local health care providers and care directly for the sickest in the area. We have seen over 2000 patients and provided them with medications and education about their diseases. We have covered 28 of the 34 hamlets in our neighboring districts and plan to complete these by the end of the year. We will start in a poor district on the Laos border in early 2010.

We are still working on enacting our program in the entire province. We have met with the Vietnamese Minister of Health and the World Health Organization and are working on collaboration.

This project is made possible by the wonderful work of our visiting healthcare workers. In the last 6 months, David Cooke, Judy Avenell and Heather McKendry have come over to help us in caring for patients and teaching doctors in



the local clinics. We are looking for more help for the next year.

Our program has made much progress due to tireless volunteers and the dedicated health workers at the local clinics. Our plan to improve the health care delivery to all people in the area and to make these changes sustainable is becoming a reality. Our training of physicians and introduction of effective medicines is changing the care and quality of life of the poor with debilitating diseases.

Improving the Standard of Healthcare in Central Viet Nam



One of our patients learning to use a peak flow meter.

HIV

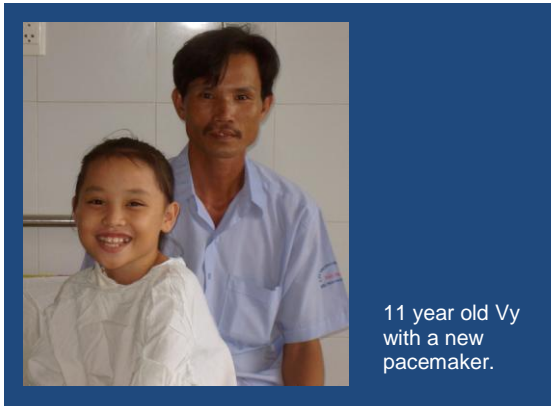
Our pediatric HIV Program has suffered some losses in the last 6 months. We are sad to announce that 4 children who we found in the countryside of Hoi An and began treating have died due to the progression of the disease. We would also like to add a special note about one of our long time patients, Nam. He passed away this past spring from complications with his HIV and an infection of his knee. He was an 11 year old boy we had been treating for the last 7 years. We are sad to let him go but are grateful we had the chance to get to know him, love him, and show him more of life and the world.

Our HIV program continues on while we evaluate and manage more infected children in our province. We continue to assist these children's families to seek treatment in Saigon. Some children are well enough to wait until the medications arrive here in central Viet Nam for treatment. We are still working with others to bring treatment here to central Viet Nam, but have yet to overcome all the obstacles.



Heart Program

We have had a lot of success with our adult and pediatric heart programs. Our program resources have expanded to include the Da Nang Cardiac team of Da Nang General Hospital. We have been working together to get surgeries done for those who need it most by using all of our resources, including our physicians, support groups, and sources of financial support.



We've been very busy with the Adult Heart Program. We have completed all of the 15 surgeries we planned for in the last 6 months. These surgeries continue to be more expensive in adults and with our network referrals, our waiting list has filled to the point of having to turn patients away!

Our Pediatric Program been going strong as well. We recently helped an 11 year old girl who had frequent fainting spells. She lives with her parents who are rice farmers and 2 older sisters. Everyone thought she fainted from lack of food, but she finally went to the hospital and the Da Nang cardiac team discovered she needed a pacemaker. Our wonderful Hoi An Foundation team worked hard to raise the money for her surgery since the family could not afford the procedure. Through many private donations, we were able to get her a pacemaker.

Though we have completed a lot of surgeries in the last 6 months, they have consumed a large part of our operating budget. They are cheap by western standards (\$2000 to \$3000 each on average) and change people's lives. Because of ineffective infectious disease management in children, there are a substantial number of adults with life-limiting heart disease. We cannot begin to care for them all without more help. Consider sponsoring part or all of a surgery. See our website for details.

New Projects

We have recently started working with Project Indochina to expand our health care improvement programs to Tay Giang, a province near the Lao Border in central Viet Nam. This area is extremely poor and the access to clean water and quality health care does not exist. Project Indochina is a great organization that works on education and community development. We are happy to work with them!

We also recently visited a leper colony outside of Da Nang. Leprosy has not been active in this area for nearly 10 years, but with the stigmas of this disease, the colony remains isolated from the general population.

We visited this area and held a medical clinic. We dressed wounds and saw patients for chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. The clinic's medications were inadequate for the community's needs, so we are stocking them with necessary drugs. We are also sending a group of the patients to Da Nang to get much needed and neglected cataract surgeries and hearing tests.

Cherilyn Tran, a student from Brown University, joined us for 6 weeks. She collected epidemiologic data on chronic disease risk factors in addition to working with us in our clinics. We are looking to publish her results. She was a lot of help and we would like to have her visit us again!!!

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



Fundraising

With the increased scope of our work, we will need more funding for the upcoming year. Due to the success of our fundraiser in 2008, we have planned another event this early December 2009 in Denver, Colorado and Atlanta, Georgia. They will be a charity dinner with beautiful local items and crafts from Viet Nam for auction. For more details including how you may purchase tickets, please contact us at info@hoianfoundation.org.

If you have ideas for fundraising opportunities, please let us know. Small events can have a big impact on the life of someone less fortunate!



Gifts that Change Lives



If you cannot attend our holiday 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

Hoi An Foundation would like to thank **Planet Wheeler** for its generous donation towards our work and our care for the people of central Viet Nam.

We would also like to thank **Paul Ward**, CEO of Hastings-Macleay Division of General Practice from Port Macquarie NSW Australia for initiating our doctor exchange program and his continued contributions to our foundation.

We would also like to thank all of the following volunteers for their time and expertise:

David Cooke, General Practice MD from Port Macquarie NSW Australia
Judy Avenell, RN from Port Macquarie NSW Australia
Heather McKendry, General Practice MD from Thornton NSW Australia
Jerry Popham, MD and his accompanying group of doctors from Denver, Colorado USA

New Staff

We are happy to announce additions to our team here in Viet Nam.

Maire McCann joins the Hoi An Foundation with a wide range of nursing experiences in both hospital & community settings. Having spent 6 years working in the Australian Outback Mai's experiences serve her well in the Hoi An Foundations work in rural & remote areas of Quang Nam Province. With a love of all areas of living & volunteering in Viet Nam Mai hopes to remain here indefinitely.

We are also joined by Brian Penti who is now our main medical liaison. Brian is a Family Medicine doctor from Boston. He works with the Global Health Primary Care Initiative based at Boston University. Brian assists our work by providing and coordinating our medical services. He returns to Hoi An many times a year.