

Greetings to those who are new on our mailing list. We're happy that you are joining us. I have just returned from a trip to Hoi An. I was accompanied by Jess Solomon and Richard Joneswood. We spent a week in Hoi An after a brief recovery period in Ha Noi. We accomplished a lot with the help of Jackie, Colin, Roe and Robyn. We worked on the following projects:

1) Reunification of Hien and Hau with their mother. Hien and Hau were placed in the orphanage because their mother was unable to take care of them due to financial problems. We built her a new house (she had previously lived in a wood house that was in bad shape). We visited her new house and bought her 2



pigs. She now has a new job making incense and pigs to start breeding for sale. We hope to have Hien and Hau back at home in the next 6 months. They will be missed at the orphanage but we feel strongly that they are better off with their mother back in the community.



2) Disabled Bathroom. Progress is being made on the disabled bathroom. They were in the middle of the construction while we were there. It's going well and I expect it will be finished soon. The caregivers and volunteers can then start teaching the children independence in their personal hygiene.



3) Nam. Nam is a child outside of Hoi An with HIV. We think that both his sister and parents died of AIDS. He lives with his grandmother and great grandmother and they are quite poor. The orphanage supplies them with a monthly stipend. When we saw Nam last year, we started him empirically on Bactrim to prevent some of the infections associated with HIV. We have been unable to get him in touch with an organization in the area that cares for children infected with HIV. I went out to see him last month with Jackie. We



We brought a dermatologist with us who is treating a bad skin rash that Nam has developed. The rash has improved but Nam looks ill overall. The next week, I went to the American Embassy in Ha Noi and found a group from the CDC that is setting up treatment clinics for patients with HIV. I told them about Nam and they agreed to help us. Jackie will be

taking Nam to see them in the next few weeks. Hopefully we can get some more information as to the extent of his disease (CD4 count/viral load) and how we can better help him.

4) New Classroom. Thanks to the help of Colin Schroeder, the new classroom for the disabled children is finished. It looks great. Jackie and the Kianh Foundation are working to get a new teacher for the disabled children. Once a teacher is found, classes can begin. Jackie reports that most of the children who are going to classes are doing well. Vo, Thanh and Sen seem to be doing well and learning fast. Teaching these children is not an easy task.



They each have different abilities to learn as well as different needs. Roe Schroeder has been working with all of the children and has a good sense of their abilities. We hope to continue teaching the children in an effort to prepare them for an independent life in the community.

5) Shunt Surgery. Great news! Thi Hong got her shunt surgery. After a lot of work and effort (especially by Robyn Morley), Thi Hong went to Saigon and had surgery. She is doing well and recovering in the hospital. Robyn has been staying there with her. Once she is well enough, she will return to Hoi An Orphanage. We hope for a speedy recovery.



6) Dien Ban – During our visit, we took an afternoon trip out to the small orphanage in Dien Ban. It is an orphanage with 15 children that I first visited 2 years ago. I was told that one of the children named Ben had a “liver problem.” After 4 months of taking her around central Vietnam getting tests, we finally diagnosed her with a rare form of Thalassemia called Hemoglobin H Disease. One of the children named Hien has cerebral



palsy. The children at the orphanage seem very happy and well cared for. Co Hoa is the head of the orphanage and is wonderful with the children. They receive funding from an organization in France that seems to take care of most of the daily needs. When I lived in Vietnam, we would go to this orphanage to visit and help with problems around the house (fixing bikes, making new furniture, etc.). On this latest visit, we noted two things at the orphanage that need fixing. The bathroom water drains into the kitchen where the

dishes are washed and the wood burning stove fills the house with smoke. Colin has a plan to fix the bathroom drainage and we will put in a ceiling vent over the stove. We hope to get these finished in the next few weeks. On a side note, the boys of the orphanage are using a guitar that is held together by tape. Jackie will buy one in town and bring it out to them.



7) Thuy Deaf School – Woody, Jackie and I visited Thuy in the School for the Disabled in Da Nang. She looked very happy with the other children. I heard her speak for the first time. She is doing well and learning fast. The hearing aids are working well and we paid for her next year at school. She still has some difficulty walking but is doing better with therapy. We're excited to see her progress over the next year.



Those are the ongoing projects with the Hoi An Foundation and the Kianh Foundation. As you can see, we have many projects going on and Jackie, Robyn, Colin and Roe are quite busy in Hoi An. After our week in Vietnam, we were exhausted. It was great to be back in Hoi An and with the children but our days filled up fast with little time for rest. We were able to take some time in Laos with Jackie, traveling up from Vientienne to Luang Prabang. It was a good vacation for all of us.

After long talks with Jackie, we feel its best to merge the two foundations into one. Our goals and projects are the same and we feel it would be less confusing and easier to manage one foundation with offices in England and America. We plan on calling it the "Hoi An Children's Foundation." Getting this accomplished will be a momentous feat. It involves an incredible amount of paperwork and legwork but we feel it will be easier in the long run. Nothing will change here with the Hoi An Foundation except the name and the website.

It is finally time to raise some money for the Foundation. The number of projects, as well as the expense of the projects, has increased. I am tentatively planning a fundraiser here in Denver in January or February. It will be an evening event with music, food, a silent auction and a short talk on the Foundation. There may be a similar event in Atlanta, Ga. I will keep everyone updated when we settle on the specifics.

Thanks again to everyone for their continued support of the Foundation. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and I look forward to a productive year.

Josh Solomon

