

Betula Asian Aid Foundation

Newsletter September 2021

Dear friends of Betula ,

Hope you and yours are safe and sound. This newsletter is a special edition. All the activities below have been made possible because of one single generous donation by Johan Logtenberg, a dear friend and loyal supporter of Betula. So far he has raised over €10.000 with his campaign “ride a bike”. From the 14th to the 16th of September Johan and his 3 daughters are cycling 498 km from the north to the south of The Netherlands. Please read below about the sustainable life changing impact we were able to make. A huge thank you!



“Ride a bike” for disabled children in Quang Tri

In the province of Quang Tri in central Vietnam our local partner Medipeace conducted a survey on the need of bicycles among children with disabilities in 5 communes. The survey showed that a lot of children with disabilities who needed a bicycle couldn't get one as their families are too poor. The bicycles would help the children being more mobile. With the donation of €1.000 for this purpose we were able to provide tri- and bicycles equipped with a pump for 15 children.



Rescue Mission for Chi

We consider being a victim of human trafficking one of the worst things that can happen to any human being. Our partner Blue Dragon in Hanoi rescues on a regular basis victims of human trafficking. We then help the victims supporting health care related issues they face. This time though because of the donation of €1.500 we were able to support a complete rescue mission. Please find the story below.

Chi was born in 2002 in Dong Nai province in the south of Vietnam. When the family faced financial difficulties Chi, her sister and father had to go live in a small room. Her mother left them to marry another man. Conflicts started between Chi and her father and she ended up in the street joining street-connected youth. She got pregnant at the age of 14 and gave birth to a boy. Her grandmother helped her take care of him.

In early 2020 Chi opened a small clothing store. An acquaintance persuaded her to go to China where they could buy very cheap clothes and make a good profit. Chi agreed and followed the acquaintance to cross the border illegally. When in China, she immediately was handed over to another person who confiscated her papers and mobile phone. She was given the choice of being a sex worker or a forced bride. Chi ended up in a forced marriage. The traffickers received \$25.000 for selling her.

One day Chi pretended to be sick and asked to go to hospital. When her husband took her to the hospital, she ran into a police station and asked for help. She was finally free. However, because she was staying illegally in the country, Chi was in custody for 4 months. Blue Dragon worked with partners to have her repatriated. After quarantine and staying in the hospital she was brought back to Hanoi. Chi is now under good care and gets the legal, medical and psycho-social support she needs.



A home for Tieu

We learned about Tieu, a 14-year old girl from Dien Bien Phu in the north west of Vietnam. She is living with her parents, who are both mentally disabled, and her younger brother. The house they were living in was about to collapse. The very poor family was in need of a decent home. With the help of neighbours doing the construction and the support of €750 from our side, the family got a new home.





Home renovations in Quang Tri

So many families had been hit hard last year by the storm and floods in Quang Tri. We helped out with food packages, clothes and blankets where we could. However, we were not able to support repairments to the many damaged homes as we lacked the budget. Now with the donation of €1.750 for this cause we were able to help. We selected 7 poor families in the Hai Lang district that was hit hardest. They had urgent need to improve the roofs, doors, floors and toilets of their houses before the new raining season starts. In cooperation with Medipeace and the “Village Health Workers Association” we carried out this project.





School support in Gia Lai, Da Lat and Hue

Due to Covid 19 the financial situation of many families is worse than ever before. More families will not be able to send their children to school this year. With the special donation of €1.000 though, we could support more children to stay in school than other years. In Gia Lai we helped almost 10 children with books, uniforms and one bicycle. In Da Lat we helped a pagoda, that takes care of 40 disadvantaged children, buying monthly food supply and provided schoolbooks and uniforms for 3 children. In Hue we helped our partner the Tan Binh Centre. We supported to buy daily necessities and air coolers for the 20 disabled children and paid the annual school fee for 2 of them.





Covid 19 support

Where South East Asia was handling the first wave of Covid 19 quite well, the countries are now being hit very hard due to the new Delta variant. Lockdowns for several months in Thailand and Vietnam created a huge increase in poverty. Many people are without income for months, the number of homeless people doubled in a short period of time. In July and August we were able to provide about 1000 meals and several hundred 'happy bags', filled with daily necessities and dry food for the homeless in Bangkok. In Vietnam, Saigon and the Southern province of Binh Duong are hit hardest. We could provide a few hundred food packages before people were forced to stay at home last month and the army controlled the streets. All this was made possible because of the donation of €2.000.



My thoughts are with those who suffer from Covid 19 because they are sick or affected in any other way. I wish you all good health and stay safe!

Kees
