

# Betula Asian Aid Foundation

## Newsletter January 2022

Dear friends of Betula,

From our side a belated and an early very healthy 2022. Belated for our friends in the west and an early one for our friends in the east where new year will be celebrated on the first of February. The year 2021 was a challenging and tumultuous year where we had to focus on covid support in Vietnam and Thailand but did lots of other life changing activities as well. We hope 2022 will bring us back to some sort of normal again. Stay safe and sound and we hope for your ongoing support in 2022.



## **Micro credits in Hue**

One year ago, we started a micro credit project in Hue where we supported 5 small shopkeepers living with disabilities. Their shops faced problems often due to covid lockdowns. We are glad to inform that the shops revived and all shopkeepers have been able to pay back their loans on time in full. This is a great result. The fund of 1000 euro is now used to help other shopkeepers to start up or boost their businesses.



## **Nhan rescued from China**

What victims of human trafficking have to endure is beyond words. Our partner Blue Dragon rescues victims of human trafficking and we try to support where medical assistance is needed. Nhan is a 16 years old girl from Northern Vietnam. She was rescued from China where she as a 14-year-old was forced into marriage.

Upon arrival in Vietnam, she was in a wheelchair and needed urgent medical support. She had been severely abused before she could escape. We supported Nhan's emergency hospital admittance. Her condition deteriorated quickly and she went into a coma. Not given much hope by her doctors to

survive, she amazingly recovered. Sadly, during her health check-ups, the poor girl was diagnosed with cancer. She went back home to her family and celebrated with them her first ever birthday party last week.

While writing this letter I received the very sad news that Nhan passed away the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Sad but thankful that she was with the ones she loved and no longer in captivity. Our thoughts are with her and her family.



### **Babies in Da Lat**

Too many babies are still being abandoned by their “parents”. Unwanted pregnancy, no financial means to raise a (additional) child. Often by single moms left by a boyfriend not willing to take responsibility. Two catholic nuns in Da Lat took it on them to take care of some of these babies. They provide a home and food for the babies. We supported the initiative by donating milk, diapers and clothes for 4 babies for 4 months.



## Phuoc

We know Phuoc since 2004 when we met her in a centre for disabled children in Bac Giang. We introduced her to a vocational training centre in Hanoi where she learned sewing clothes and embroidery. In 2006 when she finished her training, she went back home. Here she opened with our support a small shop to make and repair clothes.

In 2016 Phuoc married her husband who is blind. As she says “I am his sight, he is my legs”. The couple has 2 kids. As covid and lockdowns struck, the family had a hard time to make ends meet. Then her 2 kids got sick and needed to be hospitalized. Phuoc asked us for small support to cover hospital expenses. The children are doing well. We were happy to help her.



## Covid support Hue

In Vietnam the moment covid cases are known somewhere, that particular village, district, city or even province will go in complete lockdown. This was the case in a village near Hue City. During the lockdown of several weeks people were not able to go to work and it was very hard to get food. We were asked to give some emergency support. We donated, among other things, rice, noodles and canned fish for 50 families in need.



### In short

- **Deceased family members can be brought home.**

Over the last few months, we supported the Hue hospital again to make sure deceased family members could be brought home to have a proper funeral.

- **Health insurance.**

We wish to prevent poor people facing big hospital expenses. In Hue we therefore annually help several poor families to get health care insurances.

- **Vocational training Hue.**

As many people lost their jobs during covid lockdowns especially in the hospitality industry, we helped 2 young women attend vocational trainings so they could change carriers.



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

Why would you support us? Betula works at grass root level and direct. Your donations are completely used to help the beneficiaries. Thanks!

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