



# BETULA ASIAN AID FOUNDATION

## Newsletter December 2017

**Dear friends of Betula,**

2018 is at our doorsteps. Another year has passed. It has been a very busy and meaningful year for us. No matter what we do, we always keep in mind that all we achieve can only be achieved because of your continuous support. A big thank you!

From Vietnam I would like to wish you a very Healthy New Year.

### **More blind people helped**



In our last newsletter we already mentioned how important it is for us to give blind people the opportunity to see again. An often small operation that changes lives drastically.

In September we were able to help 2 more Jarai minority people. Rlan H is 86 and Ksor Chuot is only 27 years old. Both have (a sort of) cataract. We assisted them at the hospital and paid for their examination and operation.

### **Mid-Autumn festival and mother's Day Hue**



In cooperation with our local partner in Hue we organized a special day for almost 100 elderly, disabled children and orphan children to celebrate mother's Day and the Mid-Autumn festival.

During the day the group was entertained by a famous local artist, the children could play games, stories were told and there was a lovely lunch.





All participants were given some small gifts. The elderly who could not attend the event were visited at home. We brought rice, noodles, cooking oil and sugar. They were very happy to receive the special attention for "Mother's Day".

With a big thank you to our supporters.



## Hung Anh fights tuberculosis

Hung Anh was born in Hanoi in 1996. His father died in prison when he was 8 years old and soon after that his mother also died. Being an orphan Hung Anh moved to his grandmother and other relatives. Here he suffered emotional as well as physical abuse. Three years ago Hung Anh was diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB), a dangerous bacterial infection that attacks the lungs. Hung Anh was treated but due to lack of good nutrition and daily care, the severe side effects of the medication made him stop.

Some time ago Hung Anh came in contact with our partner Blue Dragon in Hanoi. They were able to convince him to give it another try. The regular treatment though would no longer be sufficient. He needs an 8 months intensive treatment in the hospital. A daily injection of the TB medication and monthly health check to examine the effect of the treatment.

Betula in cooperation with Blue Dragon is supporting Hung Anh. His medical and nutritional needs as well as safe accommodation is provided for. We wish Hung Anh prompt recovery.

## School support for over 50 Vietnamese children

Last September the new school year started for Vietnamese children. Unfortunately many children in Vietnam still cannot attend school. Many families cannot afford simple but obligatory things as books, uniforms, additional school fees and therefore keep the children at home or sent them to work.



We believe that helping children to stay in or go back to school is a way to break the circle of poverty for them and their families.



We support over 50 children throughout Vietnam with only 100 euro per year per child. From north to south, minority children, children living with HIV or a disability. We support them all and support them until they finish school.

Help us help to give these children a chance for a brighter future.

### Mid-Autumn Festival in Gia Lai and Da Nang

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a harvest festival celebrated by Vietnamese people. The festival is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar with full moon at night, corresponding to late September to early October of the Gregorian calendar with a full moon at night.

The festival is a time to enjoy the successful reaping of rice and wheat with food offerings made in honor of the moon. Today, it is still an occasion for outdoor reunions among friends and relatives to eat mooncakes and watch the moon, a symbol of harmony and unity.

As every year we organized Mid-Autumn festivities for children living with HIV in Quang Nam province and minority children in Gia Lai province. All Vietnamese children look forward to this festival.

This time they learned how to make their own lanterns, ate the traditional mooncake and received some small gifts.



### Unfortunate Hao

Hao was born in 1989 in Northern province of Thai Nguyen. When he was 19, he worked in the coal mines. Unfortunately he had an accident while he was working. Hao had spine trauma and had so far over 10 operations. With each operation parts of his legs were removed.

Hao is alone. His mother died when he was 9 years old. His father died in the first year after he had the accident. Hoa is at the mercy of strangers. He is now looked after by a caring neighbour. Hao had a “final” operation last week after being in the hospital for 3 months. We supported his operation and the “brace” that enables him to sit up straight. We will keep following Hao and will support him when needed.

## Emergency relief



Over the past few months Vietnam's central provinces have been hit hard by several typhoons creating havoc. Typhoons that are getting more frequent and stronger every year. For many days and sometimes weeks areas were flooded, people lost their homes and livelihoods. Harvests were lost meaning food and income gone.

In our project areas in Hue, Quang Nam and the Mekong Delta we helped by providing food for over 200 families and supported several house renovations.

Funds for the emergency relief have been made available by the WP Schmitz Foundation from Dusseldorf. A warm thank you!



Why support us? Betula works at grassroot level and direct. Your donations are completely used to help the beneficiaries. For more information about the programs and projects please visit our website:

[www.betula-asianaid.org](http://www.betula-asianaid.org)

Your support is needed and appreciated, thank you!

Wish you good health!

Kees