



# BETULA ASIAN AID FOUNDATION

## Newsletter April 2018

**Dear friends of Betula,**

Herewith the first newsletter for 2018. I hope you enjoy reading about the changes we have been able to bring to the lives of men, women and children because of the support you have been giving us. A change for life. For the person we support as well as his or her family.

Thank you.

### Meet Cuong



Cuong is the oldest of 3 children. He has 2 younger brothers. He comes from a very poor family that lives in Thuy Bieu near Hue City. His father is an iron worker, his mother stays home to take care of the children. When Cuong was born he suffered from asphyxiation, therefore not enough oxygen could get to his brain. As a result Cuong now lives with cerebral palsy. Cuong can not walk and can not speak. He uses a wheelchair to get around. His parents were not able to take proper care of the boy.

Because of your support Cuong is now a boarding pupil at the Tam Binh centre for children living with disabilities in Hue. When he came to the centre in Hue, Cuong had great difficulty to move his hands. With lots of therapy he is now able to make small movements. Cuong loves to be in Tam Binh surrounded by his friends and teachers. It puts a big smile on his face.

### Little Thao

We learned about little Thao in January of this year. Thao is only 4 years old and suffers from Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). It is the most common form of arthritis in children and adolescents. The disease commonly occurs in children from the ages of 1 to 6.



Symptoms of JIA are limping, swollen joints, sever joint pains and fever. Not treating it properly may lead to eye diseases and serious growth disturbances. After the diagnose Thao was sent home as her parents could not afford the necessary treatment. We felt we had to help this little girl and therefore support a 6 months hospital treatment. The first 3 months have passed and according to the doctor Thao is on the right track. We wish her all the best.

### The New Year of the dog in Gia Lai



As every year we like to make the lunar New Year a special time for those children who normally do not have much to celebrate.



In Gia Lai we helped to organize a New Year’s party for about 30 minority children. They played games together and were given the traditional New Year’s cake, milk, candy and a small envelop with lucky money.

### New Year in Da Nang



In cooperation with our local partner VNHIP and the Da Nang HIV/AIDS prevention center we organized a Lunar New Year celebration for 25 children living with HIV and affected by HIV in Da Nang city.

The event was full of happiness and joy and included many fun activities, gifts and lucky money.

### New Year in Hue



Also in Hue we helped to make the New Year a little more special. We gave rice, cooking oil, noodles and sugar for 50 poor families.



## Being engaged

One of the special things of BAAF's activities is that we work at grass root level. We support local people through local people. Moreover we work with other local organizations to create "synergy".

When our local volunteer in the Gia Lai province, Ms Nhi was asked to assist Deviemed, a German-Vietnamese organisation for medical aid, she didn't hesitate for a second.



Many of Deviemed's patients are living in remote areas and are not able to get to the hospital without help. Nhi collected throughout the province 3 children with cleft lip and cleft palate. She stayed with them during the two day trip from Gia Lai to Da Nang where the children were operated. And stayed by their sides in the hospital for almost a week. All 3 children were successfully operated and are doing well. Thank you Nhi.

## School support for children living with HIV

People and thus children living with HIV are still being stigmatized in Vietnam. That's why we are happy to see that with our financial support and good local contacts, children living with HIV are able to go to school and can have a normal life.

Many of these children are orphan and therefore live with (one of) their grandparents. These families have hardly any income and depend on our support to send the children to school.

Only in the small region in Quang Nam province where we are active, dozens of other children living with HIV also wish to go to school. We like to offer these children this opportunity. Giving them the life any child deserves and a chance for a brighter future.



Help us help putting smiles on these children's faces.

## In short

- **Duong**, an 8 year old boy from Gia Lai was helped by supporting his annual blood examination.
- For an **elderly woman** in Dong Thap, a province in the Mekong Delta we supported an eye operation necessary to keep her eye sight.
- **Nhung**, a 25 year old woman in Hue needed a health check and small operation that we supported.
- We hope to show you **our new website within 2 months**.

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