



# BETULA ASIAN AID FOUNDATION

## Newsletter August 2019

**Dear friends of Betula,**

Hope you are all doing well. With a small delay I herewith send you our second newsletter for 2019. A delay as I wanted to report to you about my trip to Da Lat and give you the result of the operation of little Nhan. Both have taken place recently.

Moreover I am happy to inform you that since last month we have a new website to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Betula. With special thanks to Magic Bytes who helped us to build the site for free. We hope you like it as much as we do.

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

### Trip to Da Lat



The beginning of July a visit to beautiful Da Lat in Vietnam was made to meet with 2 new potential project partners. One partner is the orphanage Luc Hoa run by a local pagoda. Here about 8 nuns take care of over 40 orphaned or abandoned children. The children go to class there till they can go to regular school and meals and accommodation are provided.

We are still in the process of shaping our cooperation but for starters we help to organize the lunar new year and full moon festivity for the children. Moreover we are looking for funds to help build a wall that prevents water from running down the hill entering their ground causing floods in the dormitories and kitchen. It will also help to prevent the stealing of bicycles from the kids.

The second partner SOS Hoa Binh, is a small clinic for mentally disabled children. The children here need daily intensive care that can only be provided by their parents. Many of which are single mothers without any income as they are taking care of their kids. For some of these parents we are considering a way to help cover some of their monthly costs.

## Nhan her second operation



You may remember Nhan who we helped to have a complicated surgery removing 2 tumours around her eyes and nose 3 years ago. At that time, as Nhan was still young and fragile, the doctor could not finish all the necessary operations. Some small tumours remained and the restructuring of the nose bone had to wait.

Several months ago we supported Nhan her annual check-up. The result was not good and the doctor advised to operate as quick as possible to prevent worse from happening. These kind of operations are costly. With the help of a generous sponsor Nhan could have her second surgery by the end of July.

As I am writing this, Nhan is recovering. The complicated operation went well. A small tumour that was left in the area of her left eye has been removed. Nhan will need further examination of her eyes though. We wish the little girl all the best and we will follow up on her situation.



## New homes for family of disabled children

One of our strengths I modestly believe is the synergy we achieve by working closely with our partners. One of our partners Blue Dragon Children Foundation in Hanoi requested support to renovate and partially rebuild homes for the families of 2 disabled children that are in their program. With the help of the WP Schmitz Foundation we were able to support. Here is Thuy Linh's story.



Thuy Linh is the eldest child in a poor family with 3 children in Hanoi. Before, Linh had a history of epilepsy and both Linh and her youngest brother were diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. Their financial situation is very difficult as only her father goes to work and her mother has to stay home to take care of the children.



Before, the family's house was very old, the toilet area was not upgraded for a long time. Their home was often flooded as the floor was lower than the main road. When it rained, lots of water would pour into the house and Linh's family would have to move to her grandparents' house to stay. The house had also become mouldy and the wall's mortar had deteriorated, and was falling onto the floor. It was dangerous for everyone who was living inside.

The internal and external walls were re-plastered, the heat insulation system, the yard and house floor lifted and the doors redone. With these improvements, Linh and her family now have a better place to study and live.

"I love the new house very much. I have my own room for the first time ever!"

## Another case like Nhan



As Nhan her mother Nhi, our local assistant in Gia Lai, is alert on cases such as her daughters, she met with 5 year old Khang. A partner organisation could help out in his case. But as this family is of ethnic minority and the mother doesn't speak Vietnamese nor owns a phone, Nhi travelled 120 km to pick up the mother and the boy and arranged all necessary paperwork for his operation.



The operation went well. We keep an eye on his situation and say thank you to Nhi.

## 2 cases of support in Hue

In Hue where we are active since 2007 we got in touch with 2 cases needing our support.



We supported Mai who lives in Hue city. She sells lottery tickets in the street for a living. Recently she is diagnosed with a nerve system conditions. The doctor advised her to stay in the hospital for treatment and additional acupuncture. Mai has a health insurance provided for the poor. Some additional support is still needed to cover all the expenses.

Quan is only 2 years old. The boy lives with his mother, mentally disabled sister and grandmother in Phu Loc District 20 kilometres from Hue city. His father left his mother soon after he was born. Quan was born with a malformation of his genitals. The family has a health insurance but this condition required a special examination that had to be done in Hanoi. We supported the examination for the boy. The doctors are considering how to proceed this apparently particular case.



## Cleft lip operations



The beginning of April we helped 3 children with cleft lips to do their operations in Da Nang. All children are of ethnic background coming from Gia Lai. They need assistance to find their way to Da Nang, to stay in the hospital and find their way back home.



Next September we will help more children to go to Da Nang for similar operations. Amongst them is the small baby we supported at the beginning of the year with milk. The baby is now strong enough to have the operation.

## In short

- In the northern parts of mountainous Thailand we supported a young mother to get the license to sell lottery tickets. It generates some extra monthly income for her.
- On our monitoring trip in the North of Vietnam we caught up with Yen who we supported in the past with an eye operation and renovation of her home. Yen is one of several people we help paying for their annual health insurance.
- We helped a baby boy in Gia Lai who suffered severe burning wounds on his chest, belly and arms caused by a domestic accident with hot water.
- In Vientiane, Laos we supported a 90 year old woman for several treatments in the local hospital.



Why would you support us? Betula works at grass root 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.

I wish you all good health! Kees