

Betula Asian Aid Foundation

Newsletter December 2022

Dear friends of Betula,

Hope you are doing well. Another year has passed. I feel it was just last month when I wrote the new year newsletter for 2022. From Bangkok a big thank you for your ongoing support over the past year. I like to wish everybody a merry Christmas and a happy and most importantly healthy 2023.

Please find below some of the cases we supported over the last few months of 2022.



Opening shop and Zen café

Our partner Tam Binh in Hue initiated to open a shop and café where several students living with a disability can sell products they make and sell coffee and other drinks. It's a great opportunity to promote their handmade products, earn some money, communicate and be active outside school activities. We supported the purchase of countertop, fridge and other inventory.



Bikes to go to school

Last September the new school year kicked off. For many kids this meant to change from primary to high school. Often the high school is located further from home. The distance often too far to walk. We don't want anyone to miss out on school, being late or arriving home in the dark. Therefore, we provided for several children a (second hand) bike so that they can ride to school.



School fees for children living with a disability in Quang Tri

In addition to all the school fee support mentioned in the previous newsletter we were asked by our partner Medipeace to support 20 students living with a disability in Quang Tri province. They all come from poor farmer families and needed the support to be able to stay in school. We were happy to help buying schoolbooks, uniforms, bags and stationaries.



Hepatitis B a big problem

Hepatitis B is a serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). For most people, hepatitis B is short term, also called acute, and lasts less than six months. But for others, the infection becomes chronic, meaning it lasts more than six months. Having chronic hepatitis B increases your risk of developing liver failure, liver cancer or cirrhosis — a condition that permanently scars the liver. Most adults with hepatitis B recover fully, even if their symptoms are severe. Infants and children are more likely to develop a long-lasting hepatitis B infection. This is known as a chronic infection. A vaccine can prevent hepatitis B, but there's no cure if you have the condition. If you're infected, taking certain precautions can help prevent spreading the virus to others.

In Vietnam hepatitis B is very common. Especially in rural areas many cases are chronic, children are infected from mother on baby when born. Only when children get tired frequently or have other health issues the Hepatitis B infection is being detected. For several children we help to provide the necessary medication to reduce the viral content and avoid severe kidney damage, failure or cancer in near future. The medicines are costly and need to be taken for an unknown period of time. We consider ourselves lucky to have found donors willing to help support the medicine for these children. Please help us help.



The development of hearing aids

If I remember well, it was in 2004 when we checked several groups of hearing- impaired children. Most of them could not be helped as they were “profoundly” deaf. As we still keep in touch with several of these children of 2004, we learn about the development of hearing aids. Amazingly we now have been able to help 2 hearing impaired women get the hearing aid they needed. They now have some hearing in one ear.



Flood emergency support

As in previous years the central provinces of Vietnam were hit hard by 10-15 severe tropical storms and typhoons. Main problem areas were Quang Nam and Hue where we are active with our foundation. The typhoon led to flooding of areas and damage to homes. Every year the storms get stronger and the amounts of rain bigger. As in previous years we helped with emergency relief distributing food and other necessities for about 50 poor families.



Booklet

In 2023, the foundation will exist 10 years and I have been providing humanitarian aid in South East Asia for 20 years, especially Vietnam and Thailand. I wrote a small book on the occasion. "Not to forget" can be ordered from January via info@betula-asianaid.org. Please indicate the number of copies and the shipping address. The cost per booklet including shipping 22,95 euro. The proceeds go entirely to the foundation and are used for the purchase of books for underprivileged children. The book is only available in Dutch.



In short

- **Tuan is 41 years old** and lives in a small village near Hue. He had a working accident that left his **body burned for 50%**. The operations and medicine cost a lot of money for this poor family of 5. They have a healthcare insurance but additional cost for medicine are not covered. We are happy to be able to support.
- **Grannies gall bladder stones.** In Ho Chi Minh we got a request to help a grannie who needed to be admitted to the hospital with gall bladder stones. She earns a living by picking up plastic in the streets. Our support for hospital admission was needed and granted.

- **Thanh is blind since the day he was born.** He lives with his parents. The family is very poor. Thanh is struggling with severe kidney problems. He needs to visit the hospital 3 times a week. Thanh has a health care insurance, but the traveling costs add up. This is where our help is requested. We are happy to support here and wish him good health.



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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