



Newsletter October 2020

Dear friends of Betula,

I do hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health. Where we hoped that Covid would affect our daily lives only for several months we are now dealing with it for almost nine months and there is still no end in sight. Vietnam had its second wave in July, luckily it was contained within 2 months. Even though the numbers of positive tested people in South East Asia are low there are still no international flights without 2 weeks of quarantine. For the countries here, which heavily develop on tourism, it is catastrophic.

With the new school year starting in September the October newsletter always focuses on our support to keep children in school and the full moon festival celebrations for the children throughout Vietnam. This year due to the 2 waves and lockdowns many families lack the financial means to send their children to school. We therefore helped almost 100 children throughout Vietnam which is almost double the normal number.

The school support means that we pay between 100 and 150 euro per child per school year for the books, uniforms and some other cost that varies depending on the grade the children are in. We can do this because of your support. Thank you.

Nhanh needed medical support

Nhanh is 34 years old. She lives in a small village about 30 minutes from Hue city. During a monitoring trip last January we visited her family as we support 2 of her children so they can go to school. Nhanh was pregnant at that time. Some months ago she was admitted at the hospital as she had difficulty breathing. The doctor diagnosed problems with her heart valve and high blood pressure.



Urgent treatment to not endanger her or the baby's life was necessary. Nhanh has medical insurance but the cost for some medicine and treatment are not covered. We supported her. Nhanh was doing well soon after and gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

A new home for My



We know My for some years now as we help her to stay in school. My is 16 years old. Her father left when she was a child and her mother died 3 years ago. Ever since she lives alone. Sometimes an aunt comes to check on her. But there is hardly any financial support. Some months ago we learned that My was approached by the bank. Her mother had borrowed money some time before she died to pay for her treatment.

The land was the security for the bank even the loan was only 400 euro. We stepped in and helped with the talks with the bank and paid back the loan. As we visited My we saw that her house was in a very bad state and no longer safe to live in. We raised money and were able to build a new small house for My that she can call her home.



Baby Diep

Diep is 1 year old. She is the youngest of 3 children and the family lives in a very remote and mountainous area in central Vietnam. The healthcare facilities here are very poor. The nearest healthcare station with 1 doctor on duty is some hours away. There is also no equipment available to do any thorough examination. Diep hardly moves and there is doubt she can see.

To find out what's going on with Diep, we had a thorough examination done. Cerebral palsy (CP) was diagnosed in Diep. CP is a condition in which the part of the brain that controls muscles is damaged. It occurs during pregnancy, delivery or shortly after birth. Unfortunately, there is not much we can do for her. Brain surgery is very risky and would only have a very limited effect. We will further support the girl where necessary.

Chieu needed a new roof

Chieu is 13 years old. We know this cute boy for 3 years as we support his school fees to stay in school. Chieu his father died many years ago of lung cancer. His mother provides for a living. The work is often in cities far from home. The boy lives alone most of the time.



When we brought our 'Covid food package' to Chieu we saw that the roof of the house was leaking and about to collapse. With a few hundred euro support we helped to build a new roof over the boy's head.

Stay in school

Throughout Vietnam due to a big lockdown in March and April and a smaller one in July families are struggling to make ends meet. There is no stimulus provided by the government. Disadvantaged people rely on charity of relatives, neighbours and friends. One of the biggest dilemmas disadvantaged families face is if they are still able to send their children to school. School cost money and not going saves money or maybe some older kids can even generate income. We don't want families to have to make such decisions. Children belong in school as it's a way out of poverty. In a "normal" year we support between 50-60 children. During this year we support over 100. Pictures say more than words.

Tien Giang



Hue



Hanoi



Gia Lai



Nam Dinh



Quang Nam

In short



- **Nhan.** It has been more than 3 years since we first helped Nhan with the operation of a tumour found in her head. She needed another follow-up surgery on her eye and nose last August. The operation went well. We hope this was her last operation.

- **Health check for 3 orphans.** We support 3 orphan children whose mother died 2 years ago. The father had died many years before. We learned that the father died due to diseases related to HIV/Aids. After a first check 1 of the 3 children unfortunately tested positive. On a second check the other 2 siblings fortunately still tested negative. We make sure treatment is provided.

- **Lao babies.** Lao is also hit hard economically as the country is still closed for tourists. Many families get their income from tourism or tourism related activities. Last month we helped 2 families who have had their baby in hospital but had no money to pay for diapers and other expenses.



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

Your support is needed and appreciated.

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