

Betula Asian Aid Foundation

Newsletter March 2021

Dear friends of Betula,

Hope you and yours are safe and sound. We are only 3 months in to 2021 and already have been busy with many new activities. Besides helping in Vietnam and Laos through our grass root network we are happy to inform you that we may start similar activities in Cambodia soonest. Please read below about some of our activities during the first few months of this year.



Micro credit for people living with a disability

In Hue we were asked to help a union for people living with a disability. Many of their members earn a living by running a small shop or some farming activity. Due to covid lockdowns sales were on hold and the unprecedented storms had destroyed crops and killed animals. Members were forced to stop and lost their sole source of income.

We discussed how to help the members and came up with a “micro credit program”. Initially for 5 members who have small tailor shops, raise chickens or sell daily necessities. We lent them small amounts in order to buy the necessary “inventory” to restart or continue their business. The money will be paid back in 3 instalments over 9 months. After the loans have been paid back, we can help other members in the union in a similar way. Thankful for a generous donation that made this program possible.



Heart conditions in Hue

We learned about 2 heart patients in Hue that needed urgent support.

Quang, who is only 22 years old and in his 4th year at university has a heart condition called cardiomyopathy. His heart muscle doesn't function well. The condition is chronic. He needed an operation urgently. Quang's family was very worried as they lost Quang's younger brother last year showing similar symptoms. The expensive operation was not completely covered by the insurance. The family sold a part of their land and we supported the final missing part to make the operation possible. Last week we received the good news that Quang his operation went well and he is feeling much better. Sen is 51 years old. She lives with her 2 young children, husband and older sister in a small village near Hue. They are a poor farmer family. Sen also needed surgery. She is covered by an insurance given by the state to the

poorest citizens. For some additional cost for travel, boarding and food our help was requested. Sen her operation also went well. We wish them both a speedy recovery.



Happy year of the OX

As every year we helped to organize the lunar new year celebrations for the poor and those living with a disability.

In Hue we gave almost 100 food packages for poor elderly, disabled and disadvantaged families living in a mountainous area near Hue city. In Gia Lai we had a new year party for over 30 disadvantaged children. In Quang Tri, in cooperation with Medipeace, new year gifts including warm jackets and blankets for 40 children with disabilities were given. After the terrible flood last year many of the families did not have enough clothes and blankets.



In Quang Nam where we cooperate with VNHIP, we gave food packages and lucky money to 40 children living with or affected by HIV. In the Northern province of Nam Dinh we gave food packages to 30 families, mainly elderly and 150 students also received notebooks. We hope it brought warmth and happiness for the new Year of the Ox.



Tha can move on

For several years we support 2 girls in Da Nang providing medicine for their heart condition.

The medicine is necessary to live a relatively normal life. One of them is Tha, who just graduated from high school and is looking for a job. All jobs she likes though request additional training or experience. We discussed with Tha what she would like to do and she loves to learn doing hair and nails. We support the vocational training she selected and gave her a second hand EBike to get there. Good luck Tha.





Trip to Quy Nhon

Before covid struck, short trips and longer holidays were so normal for most of us. Many disadvantaged people though have never been outside their village. This goes as well for many of the disadvantaged and orphan children we support in Gia Lai. Not only have they never been on a trip, they have also never been to the sea. As they had done so well at school, we organized a 3-day trip for some of them to Quy Nhon. Here they could enjoy the beach and the local seafood.





Baby Nira is a 6 months old baby girl from Gia Lai. Her parents are Jarai minority. Nira was diagnosed with a heart condition. The local hospital though is not equipped to do a proper examination. We therefore brought the girl to Ho Chi Minh city.

The doctor here advised that Nira would need catherization. Because of a very generous donation we will be able to help Nira get the operation she needs. We keep you posted on her situation.



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

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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