

News from Foundation Child Surgery Vietnam

In our newsletter you can read what Foundation Child Surgery Vietnam is currently working on. We would like to inform you (and keep you informed) about our recent projects and the actions we take to raise funds, to find sponsors and to bring our foundation under attention.

Visit to Vietnam – Peace Village and Friendship Village



In January 2014 Jo Koster, president of the foundation, went to Hanoi. During his stay he visited several villages where the foundation is (or was) active to sharpen the relationships. For example, he had another meeting with the Hanoi International Women's Club – in a slightly larger setting than before. They are very impressed with our work and would like to (continue to) support us. Jo also returned to Peace Village and Friendship Village, shelters for second or third generation children that are affected by Agent Orange. In case places remain, they will be offered to 'regular' children with disabilities. In both villages the foundation has provided special wheelchairs.

Peace Village finds its origin in Friedensdorf, a community in Germany that formerly attracted the fate of children who got stuck in the war events in Vietnam. The people brought the children to Germany for rehabilitation and sent them back home afterwards. Meanwhile an American organization promotes itself for it. The rehabilitation department needed chairs that offer the children good support as their body does not obey and slips away easily. Four tilting mobile chairs and six simpler chairs for the little children found a place. Also, one of the employees of Peace Village received a special wheelchair for her heavily handicapped son. She brings her son every day to the center where a special wheelchair is available thanks to a donation of a former visitor. Earlier, we pledged to make sure she would have a special wheelchair at her disposal at home so now she also has maintenance at home.

Friendship Village, on the outskirts of Hanoi, is supported by American veterans. Children can be accommodated here for rehabilitation and can learn a profession so they are able to support themselves afterwards. They only stay for a limited period of time. We donated a number of walking frames and four wheelchairs of different product. A part of the wheelchairs is suitable to provide support to children who easily slip away. In due course they can take the chairs back home.

Initially we wanted to assist in operations – some children have muscle spasms what makes care difficult. After operations their independence often increases. Compared to our program, this material aid is relatively small. Also in our working field we occasionally assist by providing wheelchairs or prostheses.

Activities in Vietnam



A couple of statistics:

- Within the Deltoid project in Vinh we have operated and helped 102 children.
- A sample port is being constructed in a border district of Ky Anh. A caterer collected money from colleagues and thereby has contributed to the operations of 18 children from Ky Anh. More information about this project can also be found on our Facebook page.
- In several rehabilitation centers around Hanoi a common training program has been started to take in burn injury recovery. Thanks to this program already 98 children and some elderly people were helped so far. This program will certainly continue a couple of years.
- The fourth subproject was rolled out in Thay Nguyen in 2013. This also is a training to treat burn injuries. We helped 100 children in total. We ended the same project in Son La, where we helped 60 children.
- On November 17, 2013 an operation project started in the province Ha-Giang. The Vietnamese government carried out a screening herself after we trained her. 160 children were found that can be operated.
- Globally counted we helped about 620 children in 2013. We have not reached that amount before!
- To conclude we are proud to mention we can get going on the east coast in Quang Ninh. More information about this project will follow.



Award for Dong An



In April Dong An will receive an award handed out by (or in behalf of) the vice-president of Vietnam for the work he does for disabled children. A beautiful crown for his effort! Besides, it appears Jo Koster can look forward to an acknowledgement from the province Dien Bien for the support of the foundation in that area.

We will also open up an area again: the coastal province Quang Ninh. This area contains a chain of mountains where really poor people live. Child Surgery Vietnam has an extraordinary good connection with the local government there.

Short news

Pitch at ABN AMRO

Last year Jo Koster gave a pitch for the department Advice for Charities of ABN AMRO. The bank gives charities the opportunity to present themselves in order to get a good impression of what they do. When clients of ABN want to donate their money to a charity, the bank is able to give a proper advice and to assist the client in his choice. The 'giving-mission' and 'giving-strategy' are central in this.

Of course Jo made a good impression on the audience and the bank with an excellent presentation. We hope we have aroused the interest of ABN and their clients.



Container action

In many supermarkets collecting tins for Child Surgery Vietnam are placed at the deposit-automates. Clients of the supermarket are asked to donate their deposit voucher in the tin to help the foundation. Often it concerns small amounts which differ from €0,10 to €3,60 but altogether it results in a nice amount: above €3.000,-.

In consult with the supermarket manager these tins are placed for several weeks. This is possible twice a year: during summer and winter. Unfortunately we see the revenue declines the last years. One of the causes is that other 'charities' also make use of this possibility what results in less spots for our foundation. In spite of the fact that the container action is under pressure, we think it is definitely worth it. We managed to get all supermarkets on our course again and participated in the December action (which started December 1st).

Riksja Travel



Riksja Travel supports many aid projects worldwide. This travel organization thinks it is self-evident to do something for people in other countries.

The projects on which they focus are namely small-scaled and local. Foundation Child Surgery Vietnam therefore fits their philosophy perfectly. Per booking RT asks €12,- without obligation per travelling person for the charity which the organization supports in the concerning country in order to increase the engagement with the country of destination.

Besides, the personnel holds annual actions in order to give an extra donation. In September 2013 seven 'Riksja riders' separated their powers over two different actions to raise money for our foundation: eight hours of meditation and running a whole marathon (42 km) through Leiden and environment. This special action brought up about €20.000,- what to us is a wonderful (single) contribution. Riksja Travel, thanks a lot!



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Hallmark KGD, member PARTIN

Wilde Ganzen (Wild Geese)

The development organization Wilde Ganzen took a look at the operation projects of Child Surgery Vietnam in the province of Son-La. The organization was very positive about the contribution that our foundation makes to the wellbeing and the health of the Vietnamese children in the remote areas. Wilde Ganzen has pledged support to us, what means that we are able to help 650 instead of 400 children thanks to their support. Wilde Ganzen actually gives an allowance of 55% on the revenues of the foundation.



Would you like to support Wilde Ganzen and Child Surgery Vietnam by means of a donation? This is possible through account number 40.000 in the name of WILDE GANZEN, quoting our project "CENTER II VIETNAM A2013.0391". We thank you in advance for your help. Every little helps.

Needs



It occurs that, once in a while, we also act as an agent in small incidental needs in Vietnam. Through Internet we got in touch with a Dutch man who married a Vietnamese woman. Their baby suffered from lung complains because of infected amniotic fluid.

The family ran out all their resources and together with friends we helped them. We gave financial aid and offered advice in hospital business. We are happy to say that baby Tommy in the meantime is doing well.

We keep saying that you can achieve so much more when you receive aid on a young age. In Son La a man brought his grandchild for an operation.

He himself had an ugly double cleft lip and he immediately received help as well. During the second project in Son La he showed up. A classic example! Now people did not dislike him anymore, people thought he was 'handsome'. Now he could join meetings, finally! But he also did not spill his food anymore. That was a thing that worried him for 41 years. And this is the reason we especially work in the remote area: to face the arrears. The photos of the progress that he made can be seen on page 3.

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<http://www.facebook.com/childsurgeryvietnam>.

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