

## 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.

### Short news

- We would like to thank Remind Allround Office Support for offering us a helping hand in taking minutes.
  - In our last newsletter we wrote about the activities of travel organization Riksja Travel. The organization supports many aid projects all over the world and this year we already received an advance of €18.500 this year. This advance comes from a special action of the personnel. Riksja Travel, we are grateful for your effort and your help!
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- Besides all the other sponsors we would especially like to thank MRC-Foundation and Wilde Ganzen. In 2013 we received a large donation of MRC-Foundation and a large allowance of Wilde Ganzen. This made it possible for us to help over 600 children. MRC-Foundation and Wilde Ganzen, thanks again!
  - "THIS IS FOR YOU!" This sweet girl knows we like to help kids. During her participation in a charity walk for the coral reef she earned a little extra which she donated to us. She is happy that she is able to do her share this way.
- About twenty collecting tins for our foundation are placed in several supermarkets in the region 'Het Gooi' (area around Hilversum: Bussum, Eemnes, Hilversum, Huizen, Hilversum (De Meent) and Naarden). The support of Wilde Ganzen is also exposed on these tins. It occurs that these tins are already filled after a week! On a yearly basis about 10.000 – 15.000 small donations are made, the nano-contributions. We are very happy with this effective promotion. The total income of the annual action gives us the opportunity to pay for a fully operation project for 100 kids.
  - On 25 May our partner Dharma Nectar sold biological honey during the Pagode. The profit went to several charities, among others our foundation. Obviously we were also present that day; above all it was a great opportunity to promote ourselves.
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### Support of Wilde Ganzen



Wilde Ganzen has pledged support to us, what means that we are able to more children. The fact is, Wilde Ganzen gives an allowance of 55% on the revenues of the foundation.

Would you like to support Child Surgery Vietnam via Wilde Ganzen by means of a donation? This is possible through account number NL53 INGB 00000 40 000 in the name of Wilde Ganzen in Hilversum, quoting our project "Operaties CII VIETNAM". We thank you in advance for your help. Every little bit helps.

## Plans and projects

As it looks like right now, we will be able to help 700 children – a prominent increase compared to the previous years. This is thanks to the extra support of Wilde Ganzen. The plans involve five hospitals where we work broadly within six different medical fields. Besides, we will bring in an extra discipline on three revalidation centers: recovery of burns. And we will also start our special project for the treatment of shoulder muscles.

## Presenting ourselves in Vietnamese thanks to Phi Le

The Vietnamese-Dutch entrepreneur Phi Le once helped us in his residence with collecting tins in the local supermarket. He is trying to do that again. He also asked us if we have promotion material (e.g. the newsletter, folders) available in Vietnamese. As we do not, a friend of Phi Le offered to help us with that. This will give us the opportunity to spread our message also in Vietnam and therefore present ourselves even more within the Vietnamese community.



## A helping hand of Minne Heeg

Last year we got in touch with the experienced child orthopedist Minne Heeg. Minne's specialization is dislocated hips and he would like to help us in Vietnam by performing surgery, but especially by spreading his knowledge. He will do this all on his own expense.

During summer he will be a week in Vietnam and during lead time Center II will look for potential patients (children of circa eight years old).

## CENTER II

In Vietnam we work together with the organization 'Center II – Direct Support for Disabled Children'. Center II arose from the former (Dutch) Committee Two. After they were forced to discontinue in 2004 Dong Van An, former-employee of the Committee with a lot of experience in organizing operation projects, set up the Vietnamese NGO Center II. Our fund-raising foundation was set up in order to precede the operations for children and to give doctors further training in close cooperation with Center II.

As many aid from elsewhere is being offered in the big cities, we wanted to focus on the remote areas. In the meantime our working procedure and the results are being seen as very unique; there is no other party that has the same concept.

Center II is member of the coordinating organization 'Association for Relief of Disabled Children'(ARDC). In 2005 at least 30 organizations were connected to ARDC, next to 2000 members. In December 2008 the ARDC granted 'Acts of Appreciation' to both Dong Van An and Dr. Hung (leader of the medical team) and to us for supporting the startup and development of ARDC in 2007-2008.





On mission in Quang Ninh



We have got a new region to our disposal: Quang Ninh. The region lies East of Hanoi, near Halong Bay. The government asked Center II for support in setting up medical aid for disabled children. It turned out the government was already following our activities on the background. As long as we have enough medical means we will support them. For the time being it is an experiment in order to determine the effectiveness; we expect that one day we will not be needed anymore.

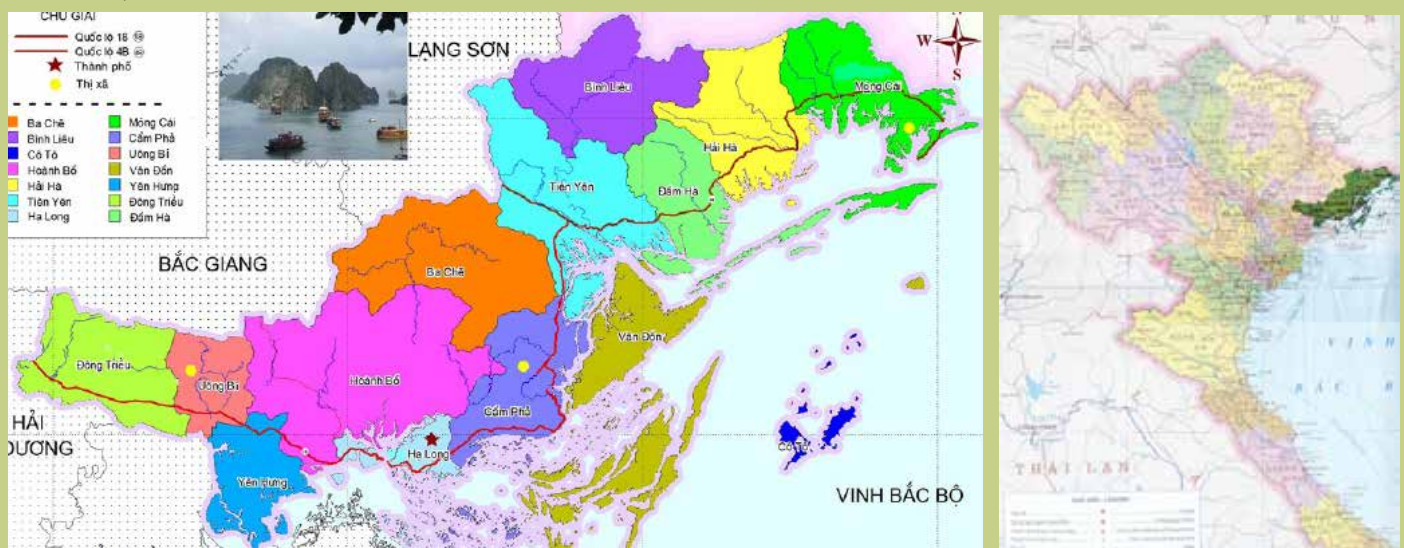


Dong Van An (founder and director of Center II) and Bien Dang (communication employee Center II) look after the organization and execution of the field and final screening and the operations. They will keep us updated about the operations that are being executed. To give an impression of the activities that they do, you can read a report below.



*"We arrived in Quang Ninh. It is a nice day in March. The weather is pleasant and comfortable, which lightens our mood. We are all excited to start working right away. As a coastal province in the Northeast of Vietnam, Quang Ninh is now part of a prioritized economic zone with quite a lot of advantages. The province is considered as 'small-Vietnam' since it has all elements: sea, islands, flatlands and mountains. Quang Ninh has a good economic condition compared to other mountainous regions in Northern Vietnam. However, we are aware of the fact that there are many poor people with disabilities and diseases who do not have access to healthcare services. Our main objective for this trip is to find and help them!"*

*During eight days we will have screenings in eight different locations within the Quang Ninh province, along the border of Vietnam and China. The places we visit en the people we meet – most of them disabled – often leave us with deep impressions. With the following stories we would like to give you also an impression of living with a disability."*



Name: Vu Thi Thanh Xuan

Age: 10 years

Disability: Torticollis, also known as wry neck or loxia

Xuan is well-known within the community of Quang Dien because of her excellent study results. She appears to be a flawless little girl, yet she suffers from Torticollis which makes it impossible for her to freely move her neck (her neck is put in a non-symmetry compulsive position). Her parents have always hoped that her disability can be cured.

Currently Xuan's father cannot work, therefore he stays at home to take care of Xuan. The family consists of four children, Xuan being the youngest. The oldest daughter is married, mother and the second daughter work hard to take care of the family. Together they earn about 6 – 7 million Vietnamese Dong (€200 – €250) per month. As Xuan doesn't have a good health condition, she gets ill quite often which makes her mother very worried. The whole family was really looking forward to the implementation of the Center II program when they heard about it. Xuan told us that once her disability is treated, she wants to help her parents and make her dream of becoming a teacher come true.



Name: Tran Ha Ling

Age: 3 years

Disability: Intensely burned

This is the awful story of the girl Tran Ha Linh, only child living with her parents in Hoanh Mo. She is of San Chi descent, an ethnic minority in Vietnam. In November last year, during an inattentive moment, the girl fell in a boiling pot of soup. As a result the girl burned her entire buttocks, making daily life extremely difficult for her and her parents.

Although everyone tries to help her, the little girl suffers from a lot of pain. Every day she has to get used to the watery, rotten and bleeding skin again. Both her father and mother do not have a job and do not receive financial support of the government. In order to treat her injury, they already borrowed a lot of money and tried different jobs. They hoped her health would improve. However, the scarce life of the family now begins to become poor.



Since the accident Tran Ha Ling went twice to the international burns unit in Hanoi. During the second visit the doctors gave up on her. Luckily we are able to do something thanks to the thorough help of our experts. Tran Ha Linh will have to come back several times, but as the help is now closer to their home this will be easier.





Name: Ho Thanh Xuan

Age: 15 years

Disability: Scoliosis and Mitral insufficiency



We met a mother that brought her daughter with scoliosis (a medical condition in which a person's spine is curved from side to side) to the medical centre of the Dam Ha district.

Mother and daughter travelled about 60 km (37 mi) to get here. They tell us about their miserable living conditions. The young girl does not only suffer from congenital but also from mitral insufficiency (a disorder of the heart in which the mitral valve does not close properly when the heart pumps out blood). She visited several hospitals for treatments. On average such a visit costs 3 million Vietnamese Dong (at least €100). The family already paid a couple of thousand euro for treatments, but in spite of this her disability has not been cured totally. Heart surgeries can extend Xuan's lifespan but the scoliosis will never go away.

The family makes their living by farming and earns about €34 – €68 per month. Due to her poor health Xuan cannot help running the house or farming. When she still went to school (Xuan is able to write and read), other children did not want to play with her; only the teachers cared for her. The only support she has received from the community is a donation of 10 million Dong (€340) by the Communist Youth Union.

After many years of living with a sense of unease, Mrs. Pham (53 years) only has one wish: "that my daughter will be able to continue her life after my husband and I die - with the support of the community." She also frankly told us that when Xuan turns 20 years, there is a possibility that she has to go through another heart surgery (costs: about €3400 / 1 million Dong) en they will not be able to afford that.

After examining the girl, we realized that we could not do anything else to help her. Her back is already fully-grown which makes it impossible to cure the scoliosis. It is an important lesson for those who are responsible for the community's healthcare. When discovering this disability in an early phase, a support corset can make a big difference.

Thus, it is extremely important to find disabled children in an early phase and to help them. That is the reason why we are actively working in that.



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