

Friends of Central Highlands, Vietnam

FoCHgram for December 2007

A Special Communiqué to Keep You, the Donors, Informed & Up-to-Date with Ongoing Projects of FoCH, Inc.

Prepared by: **JERRY HARLOWE**
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER



Please remember, that individually we have more in one day than any child at Vinh Son has in a year.



CHRISTMAS 2007

Because of your continued support FoCH will be able to provide the children of the orphanage their 3rd Christmas party. This year promises to be a little better than the previous ones and will include a visit to the children by a fully uniformed Santa Clause.

Of course we are still seeking additional funds but the party will go on, come what may, even with the outside chance that we may have a deep snow in Kon Tum by December 22nd.



The Friends of the Central Highlands, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization exempt from income taxes under IRS code, section 501 (c) (3). FEI # 731471423. <http://www.fochvn.org> fochgram@yahoo.com



October 2007 Visit to Kon Tum

During the month of October we had 5 Board members at the orphanage. There were 2 members from the US, one from England and 2 members from Viet Nam.

In addition to our normal monthly deliveries, we once again brought massive amounts of clothing, we inspected the past and continuing projects and we had numerous meetings and site inspections.

I can report that FoCH has a solid Quality-of-Life program that I will highlight here with a simple photo:



So, what's the big deal about flip-flop sandals?

Most the children at Vinh Son go about bare foot when not going to school and that causes a problem. Not so much dirty feet that can be washed clean, but it is the fact that the children are constantly infected with worms. And it is the simple fact that the worms are in the dirt and are easily picked up through bare feet. Once on the foot the worms work their way through the skin, into the blood and the body of the kids. There is a constant

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battle with the worm problem at the orphanage, and simple things such as FLIP FLOPS and instructing the kids to wear them can make a difference.

Our Acting Director in Viet Nam made the decision to purchase the foot wear and has had detailed conversations with the adult staff there as to the importance of wearing the sandals.



Also, in the battle to improve the general welfare and health of the kids, we have purchased food trays with covers for the kids. Previously food was mixed in 1 bowl and the bowls sat gathering flies and other insects until claimed by a child. Now, the food is dished out in separate trays and covered. Again, a simple idea that has provided a small step up in the daily Quality-of-Life issues at the orphanage.

One also must remember that trying to do these small things is also subject to the old tribal traditions and life style. It is not easy to change things...and we do not try to IMPOSE our views on the quality of life..... but we quietly stay involved and do

our best to show there is another way of living.



Update on Thien

Just to let you know, Thien is still active in FoCH activities, although she is seriously restricted. Her good and wise counsel continues and helps to guide our efforts in the end of this year and looking forward into 2008. Also, Thien has provided FoCH with a possible new Board Member, Y, who is an excellent candidate in my opinion. That process will go forward and the announcement will be made after the January Board Elections of FoCH, Inc.

Back to Thien: We all had dinner several times while together in Viet Nam and Thien is determined to stay as active as possible. She has even said she will try to come to the Christmas Party and enjoy the thrills of it all with the children.

Operations Officers 2007

U.S. OFFICE:

Chief Operations Officer

Jerry Harlowe

Chief Financial Officer

Cindy Flynn

Director of Viet Nam Operations US Office

Gene Flynn

VIETNAM OFFICE:

Acting Director of Viet Nam Operations

Thao

Senior Advisor

Thien

Send Contributions to:
FOCH, INC
P.O. BOX 123
KERSEY, PA. 15846

