



Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc.
Liên Hiệp Những người bạn của trẻ em mồ côi Việt Nam

REPORT TO DONORS FOR 2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

CONTENTS

Our donors

Project summary

Project details

OUR DONORS

Overview

Since 2011, I have taken leave from work to take a road trip through Vietnam to carry out assistance projects for our tiny registered charity *Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc.* I pay for my own holiday. The guarantee to donors is that **every** donated dollar goes to direct assistance in Vietnam. In past years I followed the “barefoot charity model”: a yearly road trip; one man; one motorbike. This year all the work was project managed in Vietnam. Thank you, you know who you are! Local project partners helped with each project. Our local project partners are mostly the traditional breadwinners of Vietnam – the women. They are also uni student groups and nuns, both Christian and Buddhist.

Our Committee thanks people who helped us assist communities in Vietnam:

Monthly contributors

Family and friends who made monthly contributions: **Clive, Vytas, Michael & Adrienne, Geoff & Rachelle, Hayden & YẾN, Helen & David.**

Donors

David Penalver was a retired architect, artist and teacher who had travelled to Central Vietnam and volunteered for us. As one of his last dying wishes, David wrote out a large cheque for our charity. Thank you also to David’s wife Daphne for looking after David and facilitating this important donation.

Our Friends who gave donations were **Amanda, Dennis, Karna, Julie & Jan, Paul & Suzette, Aranda Men’s Group, Tshewang, Lucia Schneck, Mona Monivari, Gary Potts, Ella Vecellio, Pat Hourigan**, Vietnamese-Australians **Kim Huỳnh, Yen Tran, Ngoc Nguyen**; and others.

Board & Advisers

Our board, **Julie, Dennis, Geoff** and **Clive**, provided encouragement and support. I also regularly consult our Australian-Vietnamese cultural advisers **Loan & Tiệp**. They are very patient in explaining Vietnamese method and custom to Westerners.

Local Interpreters

Our volunteer interpreters and “fixers” in Vietnam included **Châu, Thao, Thuy, Hiệp, Xoan**. Interpreters help to negotiate each project, fix any problems and ensure completion.

Local Project Partners

We rely on local project partners. These monastic, volunteer or social groups spend their valuable time. This requires detailed local knowledge, visits and negotiations with people in their homes. We get a “multiplier effect” from time contributed by these helpers. Our project partners in Vietnam (dropping titles such as “Sister” for simplicity) were:

- Sự phụ Quảng Trí (in charge), Bưu Trì Pagoda orphanage, Cần Thơ.
- YẾN (in charge) and Quế (assisting), Thiên Ân orphanage, Cần Thơ.
- Bích Hường (host) and Kim Anh (in charge), Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa of Calcutta’s order), orphanage and single mothers shelter, Mai Ấm Tình Mẹ, Bình Dương.
- Thao, serving M’ Nong people in Dak Mil, Dak Nông, near Buôn Mê Thuột.
- Mùi (in charge), Linh An orphanage and single mothers shelter, Lâm Hà, Lâm Đồng Province, near Đà Lạt. Tu Hội Nhập Thể Tận Hiến Truyền Giáo order.
- Lâm and helpers, Nha Trang, managing our medicines supply project to the southern coast.

- Hue Lasan uni student social club, serving Vân Kiều people in Bản Khe Ngài, Đắkrông, near Khe Sanh, Quảng Trị.
- Nhân (in charge), Bắc Ái Vinh (Vinh Sisters of Charity order), serving Phong Nha villages.
- Hiệp and Hope Connection volunteer group, Kỳ Sơn village, Nghệ An.
- Legion of Mary (Legio Marie) women's group, Thạch Long & Thạch Sơn village, Hà Tĩnh.
- Phần, market sellers volunteer group, Hà Tĩnh.
- Xoan, English teacher, Hậu Lộc High School, Hà Tĩnh.
- Lành (in charge), 19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled, Vinh Sisters of Charity, Xã Đòai.
- Kính (deputy), Phát Diệm Holy Cross order, serving the poor around Phát Diệm.
- Phuong Lien, St Paul De Chartres order, serving disabled and poor in Saigon.
- Street Singers Group, Dong Nai, assisting An Vu orphanage in Binh Phuoc province.
- Dr Trong, medical volunteers, Gia Lai province.
- Danang Uni Christian student volunteer group for Ba Nam and Protection Centre No 5.

To summarise, the help from monthly contributors, donors, board members, advisers, local interpreters and local project partners enables us to take Australian friendship to Vietnam, to carry out both small and large local projects, at orphanages and villages.

On behalf of Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc, I wish to express thanks to all, for generous donations to the fund, practical help, moral support and good counsel.



Peter Kabaila
Public Officer

PROJECT SUMMARY

Every dollar you donated went to direct assistance in Vietnam.

During the 2021 financial year we carried out a wide range of projects. This included encouraging children to attend school, aid to villages with leprosy, and assistance to households disadvantaged by the epidemic.

Projects partnered with student volunteer groups were especially successful. These provided on-the-ground assistance to orphanages and the poor in both urban and mountain indigenous communities.

100% of every dollar donated went to direct assistance in Vietnam, because we have \$0 admin cost. This financial year, donation income was \$54,273. This included a one-off donation cheque of \$30,000 from David Penalver as his last dying wish. It provided funds for us to operate for 18 months. We spent \$20,824 of these funds on projects summarised below. All of this financial year's projects were planned and carried out by our project manager and partners in Vietnam in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic.

2020-21 FIN YR PROJECT SUMMARY

	\$ AUD	PROJECT
1	\$1200	Storm relief for Van Kieu people, Quang Tri.
2	\$730	Lam Ha shelter and orphanage in Lam Dong.
3	\$100	Clothes for M'Nung people in Daknong.
4	\$615	Bicycles for students in Ha Tinh villages by Nam and Hiep.
5	\$410	Single mother shelter in Ha Tinh.
6	\$455	Street kids meet Uni students at Child Protection Centre 5, Danang.
7	\$285	Fence and chicken house for elderly woman living on public land.
8	\$625	Mai Am Tinh Me in Binh Duong.
9	\$620	Chicken project in a village in Ha Tinh.
10	\$950	Phong Nha chicken raising and roof repair by uni students.
11	\$1210	Buu Tri and Thien An orphanages, Can Tho
12	\$620	Gia Lai leper village
13	\$575	An Vu orphanage, Binh Phuoc
14	\$880	Disabled centre Xa Doiai.
15	\$1370	Phat Diem chickens for 20, food for 20 families.
16	\$1440	Bikes and awards for school students Ha Tinh.
17	\$700	Thach Long ("Loaves & fishes") lockdown project
18	\$2000	Saigon lockdown project
19	\$300	Danang lockdown project
20	\$920	Con Cuong Thai ethnic village, Nghe An project (by Hiep and Nam and Dong). Money sent for their annual project providing school materials, winter clothing and food security.
21	\$2000	All Souls Day for 50 Saigon families.
22	\$1200	Dai Loc village chicken and duck raising for 15 & food for 10 families
23	\$1620	Support for students in 5 villages (28M)
	TOTAL	
	\$20,824	

PROJECT DETAILS

\$1200 Storm relief for Van Kieu people, Quang Tri.



Student volunteers carrying supplies along the mountain track to the village.

Funding: Friends of Vietnam
Orphanages: \$1,200. Interpreter's fundraising in Saigon and Danang: \$1,895. Lasan Student Group: \$290.

Each family received 20 kg rice, 1 kg dried fish, 1 kg meat sausage, 1 litre oil, 1 litre fish sauce, 1 kg salt, 2 soap bars, 2 toothpaste, 5 toothbrushes =
\$41.70/family x 51 families = \$2,127

Warm clothes for 30 children \$278
Student funding \$290: Truck \$62, bus \$94, food for 30 students on trip \$62, sweets for children \$72.

\$730 Lam Ha shelter and orphanage in Lam Dong.



Making a heart shape next to our donation

For this project we provided baby supplies (wet tissues, baby formula, an electric blender, 560 nappies, hand sanitiser and yogurt), cleaning supplies (bleach, washing powder, toilet cleaner, glass spray, cleaner) and food (milk, beef, pork, minced meat, peanuts, snacks, dry noodles, cooking oil, sweets). We spent 11.7M VND = \$730 AUD

\$100 Clothes for M'Nung people in Daknong.



Left, M'Nung kids around the donated clothing. Right, happy with new school bags.

Our interp asked the Ha Tinh City market sellers group for winter clothes and school bags for M'Nung people in Dak Mil in the Central Highlands. The market sellers group fundraised and collected hundreds of clothing items and school bags, many of them new (unsold) items from the Ha Tinh market. We then had them sent by bus to the Central Highlands for distribution by our local contact there.

\$615 Bicycles for students in Ha Tinh villages by Nam and Hiep.



Uyen Nhi with her father and her siblings

Nam, Hiep and Dong are three men who were school mates and now help us run a project each year in their home province of Ha Tinh.

With our interp, they located and visited disadvantaged families in their local villages and provided encouragement awards of bicycles to 7 school students. \$617=10.5 M. Each bike cost \$82 (1.4M). Chickens were also purchased \$41 (0.7M) to help one family (the Khanh Huyen family).

\$410 Single mother shelter in Ha Tinh.



Three week old newborn with mother

For this project, we provided the things the shelter needs for 6 months:

2,500 baby cleaning gauzes 0.66M
600 baby nappies 0.12 M
200 sanitary pads 0.5M
200 women's daily pads 0.5M
400 nappies for newborns 0.6M
10 shower gel bottles 0.4 M
5 baby pillows 0.25M
5 sleeping suits 0.3M
4 x 5 litre washing liquid 0.56M
5 milk bottles 0.23M
2 x 1 litre shampoo bottles 0.3M
2 bottles of face soap 0.25M
3 sets pyjamas for single mums 0.5M
20 boxes of paper tissues 0.15
30 pairs baby gloves 0.3M
10 shower cloths 0.2M
30 baby bath towels 0.52M
10 bottles of eucalyptus oil 0.4M
3 tubs of cream for stretch marks for mothers after giving birth 0.25M

\$455

Street kids meet Uni students at Child Protection Centre 5, Danang.



All working together

Our group of 20 uni students in Danang organized a competition and game show for the kids and prepared a big group lunch.

They interviewed the cook at the Centre about what equipment and cleaning supplies they needed then gift-wrapped a beautiful prize for each child at the Centre. The kids took part in an environmental protection quiz, drew an environmental theme poster and gave a talk about their poster.

The children got involved, very excited and enjoyed it very much. Every child had an opportunity to shine and get a personal prize.

Costs were:

Group lunch \$100

Kids prizes \$164

Kitchen & cleaning materials \$189

\$285

Fence and chicken house for elderly woman living on public land.



Ba Nam has built a shanty on public land. Her 3m x 5m shelter needed a fence and chicken house.

We used a uni student volunteer group. We funded the materials and the 30 students provided all the volunteer labour. So our project cost was very low.

We provided 3 bamboo knives, wire rolls, 70 metres of 1.2m wire netting and 3 flat roofing sheets. After finishing the fence we also provided a lunch for the students.

Ba Nam's vegetables are now safe from cows. But there are no clear winners. Ba Nam says her chickens are now safe. She now worries that thieves could cut and steal her fence (because wire netting is more valuable than chickens!)



\$625

Mai Am Tinh Me in Binh Duong.



Selfie



Things we provided

This single mother shelter and orphanage supports many women every year, because Binh Duong is an industrial zone near Saigon. So there are many young girls from villages all around Vietnam who come here to work.

Women and men come to the factory district from many villages. They bring a lack of female education and a lack of responsibility from the men. Women, despite being the traditional breadwinners and carers, are at a disadvantage. Men may create a result and then walk away and get into a new relationship.

The woman who becomes pregnant will get into trouble with family, with the village, with wider society, and maybe cannot marry later. That is why women look for a shelter to hide, be protected and keep their secret from their family. After giving birth, they give up the baby and start a new life. One result is babies left at the orphanage.

\$620

Chicken project in a village in Ha Tinh.



Left: Hieu and Thanh. Right: Hoan

This chicken raising project was carried out by the market sellers group of women in Ha Tinh. They selected the most disadvantaged households in one village. This is a great partnership because the market sellers are “doers”.

This year, we provided 300 chickens for the 10 most disadvantaged households in Cam Xuyen, village. Chicken raising gives people an opportunity to have an occupation, providing eggs for nutrition and some cash income.

Each household received 30 chickens and a 25 kg bag of feed. The cost was \$1.45/chicken and \$18.50/bag of feed, averaging \$62 per household.

\$950

Phong Nha chicken raising and roof repair by uni students.



Nguyen Van An, fulltime carer for his wife and 30 year old son, feeding his new chickens.

Troc is a village near Phong Nha in Quang Binh province (Central Vietnam). To help them rebuild their economy, we provided chickens and feed for 15 of the most disadvantaged families in the village. We also got an elderly woman's damaged roof repaired.

Our project partner for this little grass-roots project was the young and lively Sister Nhàn. She runs a small monastic community of six Sisters of Charity. Sister Nhàn gathered an enthusiastic and hard working group of 25 young people who carried out all the volunteer labour.



Volunteers at work repairing a roof.

They made a list of disadvantaged households most in need and helped them make chicken houses. Then they gathered the people together and organized a distribution of 30 chickens (\$1.47/chicken) and a bag of 25kg of chicken feed (\$14.70/bag) for each family.

Twelve of the young people's group also repaired a damaged roof for an elderly. We provided second-hand roof tiles and screws (\$68).

\$1210

Buu Tri and Thien An orphanages, Can Tho



These temple boys want to do lots of things (mainly flying?)

We have been assisting children at Buu Tri Buddhist Temple orphanage and Thien An Christian orphanage for more than 6 years. The two orphanages have a close relationship and support each other.

Our project manager recruited a class of 10 uni students from Can Tho University and 5 seminarians to organize games and a drawing competition on the theme "What is my dream?" for the 50 primary school children of the two orphanages.

At the end of the day, every child was proud of their prize of a personal diary, a soft toy and study materials. Every group also got a poster prize. The orphanages received food, school sandals and shampoos.

\$620

Gia Lai leper village



Our project manager checking blood pressure.



Treating an infected amputation stump

Gia Lai province is named after its largest indigenous group, the J'rai (Jarai) people. In the 1960s, Vietnamese cultural assimilation and land grabbing led to opposition by the indigenous mountain (Montagnard) groups. During the Vietnam War, US Special Forces recruited many Jarai (as well as other mountain groups) to oppose the Viet Cong. At the end of the war, some Jarai were evacuated to the US.

Gia Lai remains an isolated province. Its lepers do not seem to get the same level of support as the government-run Quynh Lap leper colony in the North.

This project was to provide a health check, medicines and food parcels for lepers and their village neighbours. Medical volunteer doctors and nurses inspected and treated open sores for 50 lepers and also treated 200 other people (mainly women and children). The Jarai interpreter was a big help.

\$575

An Vu orphanage, Binh Phuoc



Highlight of the day – food.



Our project for 6 months food security at the orphanage: 1,000kg rice, 20 litres fish sauce, 20 litres cooking oil, milk, noodles.

An Vũ orphanage is a new place we found this year. This orphanage was built by the Vietnamese pop songwriter Vũ Thành An (see above). It is now run by a group of 5 nuns.

For this project we cooperated with a street singing group of 20 people, led by a Dong Nai University teacher. They sing on city streets to raise funds for charity. Now they are setting up a music cafe for the same purpose.

The street singers had raised 30M and we contributed 10M (\$575). This included lunch, 6 months food supply for the orphanage and donated clothing for all the children.

\$880

Disabled centre Xa Doiai.



Children play together at the disabled centre.

For the past 5 years we helped the disabled centre at Xa Doiai in Nghe An. It is run by a very capable older nun who manages this convent of young nuns. They provide the rostered care. This year, our local contact Thuy carried out the project with a small group of uni students.

Rice -600 kg
Shampoo -24 x 1 litre
Washing liquid - 36 x 2 litres
Cooking oil - 10 x 5 litres
Fish sauce - 24 x 1 litre
Milk - 108 cans
Floor cleaner - 24 x 2 litres
Nappies - 450 napkins

\$1370

Phat Diem chickens for 20, food for 20 families.



Nguyen Thi Ngai

Our project partner, sister Kinh in the town of Phat Diem was very excited to tell us about last year's chicken project. It was very successful in raising household income and providing an occupation for 20 disadvantaged households in local villages.

So this year, we continued providing chickens for 20 families, most of them elderly or single women living without income. Each family got 30 two-week-old chickens and 25kg of chicken food for first the first month of chicken raising (\$1,070).

We also provided 20 food packages for elderly or disabled people that sister Kinh often visits and helps with cleaning around the house. Each got 20 kg of rice, a litre of cooking oil and litre of fish sauce (\$300). Our funding assists Sister Kinh's mission to the poor.



10 disabled women live in a group house

\$1440

Bikes and awards for school students Ha Tinh.



These children have to grow into their bicycles!

In this project we wanted to encourage children from poor families who studied well to continue their achievement. Last year we gave warm jackets, school bags, notebooks and pens for 30 students on teacher's day to encourage students from a "beggar village" i.e. village with no employment.

Bikes for 7 primary school students. \$575. We asked teachers to select primary school children who were most disadvantaged and needed encouragement. Unlike in Australia, the children will grow into their bicycle, mothers and fathers and older siblings will also use it as their main local transport.

Books and school materials for 33 students. \$575. We provided whole sets of books and notebooks for high school students. We asked teachers to choose 3 students from each class who are disadvantaged but study well.

School fee scholarships for 5 students \$290. Five students had families raise half of their school fees and we paid the other half. We want to encourage these children to continue going to school and also help parents reduce the stress of unemployment due to Covid lockdowns.



Students receive their encouragement awards at high school

\$700

Thach Long ("Loaves & fishes") lockdown project



Women's group packaging the parcels.

We assisted 35 households with our "loaves and fishes" project (Thach Long is a Christian fishing village). This project was triggered by a flood of lockdowns in Vietnam.

A local villager listed the 35 most disadvantaged households; this was confirmed by others in the community. Our charity provided food to mainly single, elderly women, or the disabled. Each \$20 food parcel was 2 whole fish, 5 bread loaves (actually *banh mi* or baguettes), 10kg rice, 1kg ground pork sausage, 1kg sugar, 1 litre cooking oil and 1 litre of fish sauce.

\$2000 Saigon lockdown project



Our project being unloaded in a Saigon street.

Our project partner was Sister Phuong Lien of the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres community in Saigon. The sisters forwarded a researched list of 140 disadvantaged households. We selected 70. The sisters contacted each household and organised purchase and delivery of food and a little bit of money to pay for cooking gas, medicines, etc.

Each household received 5kg rice, 1 box of noodles, 1 litre oil, 750 ml fish sauce, 1 bag of fish balls, 1 bag of ground meat sausage, 0.5 kg sugar and 200k VND (\$12 AUD). The total project was $\$28.60 \times 70 \text{ households} = \$2,000$.

\$300 Danang lockdown project



Village leader takes food to each family on his farm transport trailer.

Our project aimed to communicate our concern for 15 disadvantaged households in one area of Danang (Hoa Quy) and provide these households with some encouragement.

Our volunteer worked with a local leader in Hoa Quy to draw up a list of the 15 most disadvantaged households, buy food, visit each household and reassure those who are frustrated with the lockdown.

Each household received 10kg rice (\$8.6), a box of 30 instant noodle packs (\$6), 1kg sugar (\$1.20), 1kg chicken powder (\$3), 1litre fish sauce (\$1). The total project cost was $\$19.80 \times 15 \text{ households} = \300



Shelter on public land for seven road workers.

\$2,000

Covid affected & disabled families in Saigon



Vong had studied IT but has not yet found a job. Now he is suffering from joint and kidney disease but can't afford medical treatment.

This was our second Saigon project. This time it was targeted at families of people who have died from Covid and families with disabilities. The assistance was adjusted to the needs of each family at a budget of 0.7M VND (\$40) per family. Most of the main needs were daily necessities such as noodles, milk, food, medicine, clothes and baby supplies.

Our project partner was Sister Phuong Lien of the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres community in Saigon. The sisters forwarded a researched list of 50 families who had family members die from Covid or had disabled people. The sisters contacted each household and organised purchase and delivery of food and other necessities to each household.

\$920

Kho mu indigenous people, remote village, Nghe An



Children and people in the village gather to receive the winter jackets and shoes.

This project was winter jacket and shoes for 55 indigenous children and school equipment for a local school in a mountain village in Con Cuong, Nghe An.

Our project partner, Hiệp and his friends in Hope Connection volunteer group with some help from local teachers made a plan and gathered children in a meeting room of the village to distribute the project.

The project supplied 55 winter jackets and 55 pairs of shoes for 55 indigenous children and some school equipment for the school @\$920.

\$1,375

Chicken & duck raising, Hà Thành village, central Vietnam



Representatives of the 15 families who received chickens and ducks to raise.



Elderly people getting their food parcels

We provided chickens, ducks and poultry feed for 15 families = \$975. Food supplies for 10 elderly people = \$300. Transport = \$100. Project total = \$1,375

Our local contact, Hùng, selected 15 of the most disadvantaged families in the village who were sufficiently able-bodied to raise chickens and ducks. We provided each family 20 three-week old chickens, 20 one week old ducks and 25kg of feed = \$65/family.

In the village we helped 10 elderly people who live alone, some sick. Each received a \$30 food parcel of: 10kg rice, 1litre fish sauce, 1litre cooking oil, 1 soy sauce bottle, 16 small cans of milk, 1kg sugar, 500gm seasoning and medical oil.

\$1,620

Student support in 5 villages



Our project partner Nam and his workmate came to each family to contribute the warm jacket and notebooks and pens for children.

Our project partner, Nam, is a government worker and Xoan is a high school teacher. They help us to select children from five villages in Ha Tĩnh Thạch Sơn, Thạch Hạ, Hòa Bình, Đông Sơn, Quý Yên.

We supported 15 children in primary school, secondary school, high school each @ \$60 (half school fee), and 3 first year Uni students, each @ \$120.

We also contributed warm jackets, clothes and notebooks and pens for 15 children, each @ \$30. Disabled children who cannot study received clothing and milk.