

JULY 2007



World Health Ambassador Program

Portal for those courageous care givers

Greetings to members, friends and supporters! We have great news to share with you!

All four children identified by the Team during its medical mission to Can Tho, Vietnam are receiving help through our WHA Medical Assistance Fund Program. Three of the patients were diagnosed with life threatening medical illnesses and until now were unable to get help due to financial means. The fourth child, a fifteen-month old boy, will receive treatment for the congenital deformity, cleft palate. The WHA program will assist the children and their families through the treatment process using local medical resources which will be supervised and financed by our organization. Two of our team members who are still on location in Vietnam, Dr. Doanh Lu and Thanh Nguyen, have played a vital part in getting these children the care they needed. Here is an excerpt of the process involved:

"After my many email exchanges with this pediatric cardiologist from Children Hospital at Oakland (CHO) and the chief of cardiology at the Pediatric hospital, and after Thanh's many back-and-forth phone calls with the families, finally they arrived deer-eyed in SaiGon. All three children were evaluated in consultation with the hospital's chief cardiologist, the CHO attending, and a brand new echocardiogram machine. The tallest child, Kieu, has the most correctable heart defect, a PDA. Her partner in crime, a girl several months older, is only a bit more than half her size. This bitsy-teeny tiny girl has a large ASD with pulmonary hypertension. The youngest, a boy, whose right ear is missing, got the most severe heart defect with tetralogy of fallot.

Kieu, the child with PDA went home to await embolization next week. The boy Hao was admitted overnight for a transesophageal echo and transferred to the Heart Institute for a surgical evaluation. The other girl Ngoan was reevaluated and also sent to the Heart Institute

I don't want to bore you with details, but that day, and the next two, were filled with anxiety for the parents and grandparents, hunger for the children because the process took so long they didn't get to eat, and lots of running back and forth for everyone involved... Doanh Lu, MD"

1. **Phat Nguyen**, the fifteen-month old boy with **cleft palate** has been referred by our team to Operation Smile for surgical repair in Saigon. This arrangement was made possible with the help of Drs. Anna Abel and Chuong Phan, our team dentists who also are part of the Operational Smile.
2. **Kieu Nguyen**, the five-year old girl with **Patent Ductus Arteriosus** has been scheduled for PDA coil embolization closure in about two weeks.
3. **Ngoan Nguyen**, the five-year old girl with **Atrial Septal Defect** with severe **Pulmonary Hypertension** will receive additional evaluation prior to surgery.
4. **Hao Nguyen**, the two-year old boy with **Tetralogy of Fallot** will have surgery when he reaches ten kilos. He currently weighs 8.8 kilos.

All procedures are being done at the Heart Institute and the Pediatric Hospital in Saigon, Vietnam. To support this ongoing humanitarian effort, the WHA Program has established a temporary regional office in Saigon located at 766/92/15/15 Cach Mang Thang 8 street, Ward 5, District Tan binh, HCMC

The WHA Program would like to thank Dr. Doanh Lu and Thanh Nguyen for their tireless efforts in coordinating the care of these children with congenital heart diseases. It was neither a simple nor a straightforward process for the patients' families and for the providers themselves.

Thank you for everyone's support in giving these children a **second** chance: the chance to look up and smile, the chance to run and play, and the chance to live and reach their fullest potential without being hindered by frailty or deformity. Suffering is less when you are there to help. Please share this newsletter with friends who may be interested in our program.



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On June 21, Dr. Michael Tsun along with nurses Diane Nguyen and Jennifer Zadell, presented for the Vietnam Medical and Dental Mission at the INOVA Fairfax ICU round. The presentation went quite well with a good turn out and an audience mesmerized by the presenters.

Another notable June accomplishment was that many new members signed up to join the WHA program. The team would like to welcome these new individuals: Dawn Potts (VA), Liza Hoang (VA), Nina Dunham (VA), Ashley Bennett (NY), Maria Bizon (VA), Ken Thai (VA), Dr. Binh Ho (TX), Linda Do, RPH (TX), Loan Lie (CA), and Phuoc Nguyen (FL). Many of these members have already been a big help and in a few cases some have even taken charge of projects we have already had in place.

Here are some of the upcoming events for Fall of 2007.

The WHA program is planning to send an advance Discovery Team to Laos in November of 2007 to evaluate the country as a potential site for future medical and dental mission in 2008. The delegation will have about three to four members who will be visiting government officials, health ministries, hospitals, clinics and villages to lay the foundation for the subsequent mission. The trip is expected to take about 10 days. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Thien Do at thienx75@erols.com.

Dr. Bonnie Cohen, our family practice physician in Massachusetts, and Dr. Nguyen Y-Duc from Texas are designing a Family Practice teaching cooperative program with the Can Tho School of Health Sciences in Can Tho, Vietnam. This is a rare opportunity for our program to work cooperatively with the Family Practice program at this premier medical school in the Mekong Delta region. If you have an interest in this teaching program, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Thien Do or Dr. Cohen at bz49h@yahoo.com.

The Vietnamese Medical Association of NE America (VMA-NEA) is having its annual gala on September 15. The VMA-NEA has been a strong supporter of our program in the past. Dr. Vincent Nguyen, the newly elected president, has kindly pledged to give a proceed of the gala event to our program. We should all make an effort to attend this wonderful event. I have included a copy of the gala flyer with this email.

We are kicking off our fall fund raising campaign with a Blue Hawaii theme party here in Virginia scheduled for Friday, October 5. This is to be followed by a another event in Dallas (TBA). Please mark your calendar so that you will not miss out on these exciting evenings. At these events, not only will you have the opportunity to contribute to a wonderful humanitarian program, you will also have the opportunity to meet many new friends and have a great time. If our previous Happy Hour event is any indicator, these upcoming events should shake and rock. Some members of the team are already busy planning for these events but we definitely can use more help. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Jonathan Lam in Texas at doclam99@yahoo.com or Diane Nguyen in VA at nguyendi917@gmail.com. In preparation for these events, we are looking for both individual and corporate sponsors for our program. Please pass the word around about these upcoming events and forward this email to your friends and contacts.

Have a wonderful summer and we cannot wait to see and meet many of you at our upcoming events!

Michelle M. Pham, Ashley Bennett, Liza Hoang & Vanthanh Ly
News and Publications Section of WHA Program
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save the date

10.05.07

blue hawaii

raffles . art auction . hawaiian dancers
live music . 9 course dinner . cash bar . dancing

lucky three

5900 leesburg pike, falls church, va 22041

(703) 998.8888

hawaiian attire welcomed

FOR TICKET INFORMATION

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