

**Forgotten People Foundation  
Executive Director Report  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Greetings friends of the Forgotten People Foundation! We hope each of you is happy and healthy and that your hearts remain open to the wonderful opportunities FPF is finding to support the health and education needs of children and adult living in extreme poverty in northern Vietnam.

As we prepare for our annual trip to Hanoi we have received requests for support in each of the areas described below. Please note – absolutely no donation money is spent to support travel costs of FPF representatives! We are proud of our record in this area and you should be confident that your dollars are used to help those in serious need!

**Winter season fundraising focused on education and health care needs**

FPF is focusing winter fundraising efforts on education and health care needs of rural villagers as well as residents at the Home for Abandoned and Disabled Children. This winter, fundraising is focused on three packages of supplies and services including:

Education packs (\$10/each): Contain pen/pencil sets, eraser, notebooks, early readers, storybooks, crayons, and stickers contained in a small backpack. In addition to large supplies of educational materials, we distribute many Education packs to children in rural villages. We are in need of money to purchase 50 Education packs.

Dignity packs (\$20/each): Contain two toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, sanitary wipes, antibacterial gel, two washcloths, feminine products, deodorant, a supply of vitamins, two new t-shirts, and a small toy. Dignity packs are given to both children and adults in rural villages and we are in need of money to purchase 50 Dignity packs.

Rehabilitation packs (\$50/each): Contain toys and manipulatives designed to improve coordination, strength, flexibility, and range of motion for children and adults at the Home for Abandoned and Disabled Children. These materials have been identified by U.S. doctors and physical therapists and are delivered to severely disabled residents at the orphanage and include instructions for use in Vietnamese. We are in need of donations to support purchase of 15 Rehabilitation packs.

In addition, we are constantly seeking donations to support large purchases such as:

- Bulk tuition vouchers for rural children to attend school: \$100 sends 10 children to school for one year
- Customized wheelchairs and shower chairs to improve safety at the orphanage: \$200
- Large purchases of rice and nutritious foods during winter food shortages: \$300 can supplement food for an entire community or leper village during the coldest winter months
- FPF is planning to build a school to accommodate 200 children living in the most poor and rural region of Bac Giang province: seeking 10, \$1,000 donations

Please consider making a donation to support one or more of the causes above. Simply write a check to the Forgotten People Foundation and indicate on your check how you'd like the money to be spent! We will do our very best to accommodate your wishes.

In addition to ongoing fundraising many other important things are happening in FPF. Please read about several below.

### **Making connections online leads to new partners in Hanoi**

Board member Hank Bersani (professor of special education at Western Oregon University) recently opened a Facebook page and posted a link to the FPF website. One of Hank's friends – a colleague, who was a disability specialist in the Clinton White House, sent the link to a friend from the World Institute on Disability in Berkeley CA. She sent the link to a friend at the World Bank, who sent the link to the representative of the World Bank in Vietnam. He arranged a visit to HADC with several World Bank employees and spouses. They sent us updated photos, and they are making regular (monthly) visits to the Home for Abandoned and Disabled Children in Huang La village. We are looking forward to meeting them in Hanoi in December!



*HADC residents enjoy toys, new beds, and a visit from World Bank employees*



*New gardens outside the HADC made possible through FPF donations*

### **HADC construction and grounds work nearing completion**

FPF continues to work diligently to support the health and educational needs of abandoned, disabled, and impoverished individuals in northern Vietnam. Our largest project continues to be construction of a new Home for Abandoned and Disabled Children (HADC) in Huang La village. Through Foundation contributions the new building has been completed and it is absolutely beautiful! The added square footage has allowed several new residents to be served and we look forward to meeting the new smiling faces on our next trip to visit!

Our efforts now begin to focus on closing the hunger gap during the cold, winter months as residents struggle for necessary food stores, warm clothing, and vitamins and medicines to stay healthy. FPF is exploring physical therapy training and nursing training for the nuns to support the care of the residents at the HADC. We look forward to the December '10 trip to further develop these plans.



*Photo showing completed construction at the HADC with improvements to grounds*

In addition to construction projects, specific fundraising occurred to raise money for specialized hospital beds necessary to provide safe, comfortable bedding for residents. A total of 15 new beds were purchased and donation plaques were affixed to each thanking donors. Again, the generosity and compassion of FPF supporters has made a dramatic impact on the comfort and care of the residents at the HADC.



*World Bank partner with HADC resident, Kim Chee*

The final stages of construction are focusing on improvement of the grounds surrounding the HADC making it a more safe and supportive environment for the residents.

### **Vietnamese Student Association at Arizona State University supports FPF**

The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) at Arizona State University held a 30-hour famine to raise awareness and money to eradicate hunger in the world and they generously donated their successes to the Forgotten People Foundation raising over \$2,000! This money will be used to ensure no food shortages during winter months at the Home for Abandoned and Disabled Children. We are grateful to Monkieu Tran and her fellow students for their hard work and generosity! It is precisely these acts of selflessness and advocacy upon which FPF has been built.



*Vietnamese Student Association at Arizona State University group photo*

### **Student chapter of FPF at Western Oregon University planning trip in December '10**

The student chapter of FPF at Western Oregon University is planning a service trip to Hanoi during winter break in December '10. Accompanying the students will be Dr. Mark Girod, Executive Director, and Board Member, Dr. Hank Bersani. The group will again be hosted by the sisters of the Bac Ninh Diocese and will visit the Home for Abandoned and Disabled Children, several local schools, and will investigate several other potential collaborations and connections that will aid the work of FPF. The student group has been busy raising funds through taco, popcorn, bracelets, scarf and Mother Day sales. To help the Forgotten People Foundation Club reach their goal, please contact Kristen Nance by email at [knance06@wou.edu](mailto:knance06@wou.edu).

Members of the student chapter of the Forgotten People Foundation at Western Oregon University include (from left to right, see below): Francisco Aranda, Jackie Arrezola, Stephanie Rodriguez, Krislyn Nance, Tasha Trump, and Maria Manriquez.



*Student chapter of FPF at Western Oregon University group photo*

### **Western Oregon University health education students support FPF**

Western Oregon University students Riecke-Gonzales, Rachel Hampton, and Melissa Kramer worked in support of FPF in the context of Dr. Daniel Lopez-Cevallos' class ED 471 Program Planning. The goal of the class is to prepare students with the skills and experiences necessary to lead programs, events, and organizations promoting health and wellness. Students working on behalf of FPF coordinated a major fund-raiser at McKay High School in Salem, Oregon. Working in partnership with student government at McKay, these three university students helped to raise \$200.00 and the money was presented to Foundation Board President, Dr. Jerry Braza and Executive Director, Dr. Mark Girod at an all school assembly in June '10.

### **Fall City High School students raise money for FPF**

Students at Talmadge Middle School and Central High School in Independence, Oregon and most significantly, students at Falls City High School in Falls City, Oregon continue to work diligently raising money and awareness for the organization. Brittany Damewood leads the student group at Falls City High School where students have been running a "penny drive" for two years and have raised \$400. Brittany started working on behalf of the Foundation almost four years ago and is our most active student member! Read more about the FPF penny drive in an article from the Itemizer Observer:

<http://www.polkio.com/archives/Story.aspx/17004/students-want-your-pennies>

Brittany and several other local high school students hope to travel to Hanoi in December '11 in partnership with FPF.

### **FPF preparing for leprosy outreach in northern Vietnam**

Working in cooperation with Bishop Cosme Hoàng Van Dat, S.J. of the Bac Ninh diocese, we are hoping to launch more systematic support for those suffering from Hansen's disease, more commonly known as leprosy. Bishop Cosme has a history of advocacy and support for those suffering from this disfiguring disease so one of our goals is to explore possible partnerships in this area. Hansen's disease is a curable, bacterial infection and the Foundation believes no one should suffer from this terrible disease in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Barb Copeland serves as FPF internist**

The Forgotten People Foundation was fortunate to have the support of Barb Copeland this year as she completed an internship for her studies at Western Oregon University. Barb worked to coordinate several activities including preparations for the next online newsletter, updating and improving the organization website, and exploring a frequent flier miles donation system so travelers can donate frequent flier miles to FPF. We are grateful to Barb and thank her for her service to the organization.

### **FPF visits with Monmouth Social Hour Club**

Dr. Mark Girod, Executive Director, and Board Member, Dr. Hank Bersani spoke recently to the Monmouth Social Hour Club in Monmouth, Oregon. The club has been in existence for more than 100 years and serves as both a book group and a philanthropic organization in the community. Drs. Girod and Bersani spoke about the work of FPF and received more than \$200 in generous donations from the group. We look forward to continuing a partnership with this group of deeply caring women!

### **Additional thanks to supporters and friends**

The Forgotten People Foundation wishes to thank all friends and supporters of the forgotten people of Vietnam and we wish each of you a happy and healthy winter season! In particular, FPF owes enormous thanks to Webmaster Bob Welsh and Treasurer, Debbie Diehm. Without these two generous and skillful partners, FPF simply would not be successful. Thank you.

### **Visit FPF online and on Facebook!**

Bookmark the FPF website and visit us often to check on progress and developments within the organization.

[www.forgottenpeople.net](http://www.forgottenpeople.net)

Also visit us on Facebook [here](#) - or by searching for The Forgotten People Foundation!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Girod, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Forgotten People Foundation  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010