



Hy Vọng



(Hope)

March 2014 Volume 6, Issue 1

Association for the Support of Orphans and Destitute Children in Vietnam

Welcome!

Welcome to the nineteenth issue of *Hy Vọng*, the newsletter for ASSORV California - the Association for the Support of Orphans and Destitute Children in Vietnam. The expression *Hy Vọng* means Hope which is, in essence, what we strive to bring to children in need in Vietnam.

ASSORV California is an independent registered non-profit organization (501) (c) (3) without ethnic, political, or religious character, whose goal is to bring together people who wish to help orphans and destitute children. Primarily supporting three orphanages in Vietnam, ASSORV also brings medical support to isolated and remote areas of the country.

ASSORV California is an off-shoot of ASSORV France (assorv.free.fr) which started operations 20 years ago and was created to raise funds locally and to disburse them directly to the volunteers in the field. Several of our members have been in Vietnam and personally sponsor children.

News

Trip to Vietnam by the volunteers in February 2014

Danielle and members of ASSORV France went to Vietnam in February.

Arriving at Hoa Mai in Da Nang is always fraught with loads of emotion. As the taxi pulls into Hoa Mai, all 7 personnel rush out to practically propel me inside. It was mid-day and most of the children were home for lunch gathered on the front steps with welcoming smiles. A mix of pidgin English, French and many gestures and smiles got us caught up with a year's worth of news: who had left, who were the new faces, and of course progress on the new facility being built. Intensive construction in the area ousted our orphanage which the government is re-locating in an area more desirable closer to schools. Visiting the project later that afternoon, I was relieved to see that it is well under way, larger and better designed, and more importantly, hurricane-proof. Moving

date and grand opening are planned for this summer.



Part of the fun at the Da Nang orphanage is the now traditional shopping trip to Metro, a Costco-like store with the cook. We load up on large quantities of staples, cleaning products, dozens of eggs, and meat. Meat in any quantity is a treat but when you think of dividing it up between 60 mouths, you realize that nothing short of a side of beef would do. Still it is a step toward improving the children's diet for a while.



This time, I had made it my mission to go visit our other two orphanages in the Mekong Delta. With the ASSORV French group, we were bused to Can Tho, a four-hour trip from Ho Chi Minh/Saigon. We were treated to a bit of tourism in the form of boat rides on one of the nine arms of the Mekong. The orphanage there is not as privileged as Da Nang in that the

facility is in bad repair and situated in a swampy area – water everywhere including in the front of the building. One of the highlights was the children's fishing adventure in the pond to catch our lunch. The fish was delicious.



I can report that the new kitchen ASSORV CA funded last year is a welcome addition. This year, we are replacing the ceiling in the boys' dormitory. Still, a great deal remains to be done to improve the facility.

Vi Thanh, some 40 miles further into the delta, is home to our third orphanage. There also, the facility is in need of much work. We agreed to build a kitchen. I was sad to learn that some five children there were without a sponsor. We, at ASSORV CA, clearly need to find more personal involvement. It means so much to a child to know someone somewhere cares enough to support him/her and periodically send a letter or a little gift. It is immensely touching to witness the distribution of letters when we arrive.

At all three orphanages, the high point of our visit is a big party we organize to celebrate a trimester's worth of birthdays with treats and gifts for everyone. I certainly hope to return next year, this time with a few of you from California, to share these experiences.



mountains on the Chinese border for minority ethnic groups (Mhong, Tay, Dong, and others).



Financial report 2013

Income:	
Fundraising	14,492.00
Donation	4,424.00

	18,916.00
Expenses:	
Fundraising	1,710.00
Administration	72.00
(includes tax return filing)	

	1,782.00
Donation to cause	11,248.00

The key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to our readers.

A great way to add useful content to our newsletter is to develop and write our own articles, and to include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product or idea.

In addition to schools and orphanages, ASSORV France and ASSORV CA have helped in emergency situations, such as floods, mudslides and a once-in-a-century frost; the latter of which resulted in the loss of the local rice crop and the death of 50,000 cattle.

ASSORV and ASSORV CA at Work

ASSORV France and ASSORV CA support three existing orphanages, including all teachers' salaries, school supplies, utilities, food, clothing, and medical care. Two of the three orphanages are in the Mekong

Delta, in Can-Tho (created in 1992) and Vin-Thanh (created in 1996). The third orphanage is located in Da-Nang (created in 2002).

Further, ASSORV France and ASSORV CA have assisted in the creation and ongoing support of a primary school in Cao-Bang, located in the

Medical and paramedical volunteers (from France and the US) provide consultations in Vietnam.



We accept donations and sponsorships via our website – www.assorv.com

Be a Contributor!

If you would like to contribute to the projects of ASSORV France and ASSORV CA please sponsor a child!

To sponsor a child you simply need to contribute \$40 per month.

Thank You all of your wonderful support!

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