



*"IF YOU THINK YOU ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE,  
YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN BED WITH A MOSQUITO."*

I know all too well the power of mosquitoes after a bout with dengue fever, but I also know firsthand that a small organization can make a large impact when comprised of committed, talented people. Our team of speech pathologists, audiologists, auditory-verbal therapists, and deaf education specialists who have been volunteering their time and expertise over the past two years in support of the Global Foundation For Children With Hearing Loss is proof of that. Our Vietnam Deaf Education Program is enabling the Vietnamese to put in place processes, professional support, and family knowledge to benefit hundreds of children with hearing loss across 20 provinces in Vietnam. *Not bad for a mosquito...*

We are just back to the US after a few weeks in Hanoi, Nha Trang, and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. In true mosquito spirit, we met with government agencies and financial institutions there to share our work and its alignment with the country's inclusive education policy. We will continue to explore opportunities to collaborate and expand the impact of our successful Vietnam Deaf Education Program.

We also spent time preparing for our March 2012 Mobile Mission. Our team will travel to schools in Nha Trang and Lai Thieu to build on the training that teachers received during our summer program. We will counsel families and fit Phonak and Unitron hearing aids on children who need them. During this Mobile Mission, we will also extend our work beyond the schools to Ho Chi Minh City's hospitals where medical teams have requested more education about pediatric audiology and auditory-verbal therapy.

While in Vietnam, we also began exploring research collaborations with Vietnamese universities that will benefit the deaf education community.

We have big visions for our Vietnam Deaf Education Program but plans don't always have to be grandiose to have an impact. Case in point, during our recent trip, we delivered a donated audiometer that will make a big difference to a community in Nha Trang. Children with hearing loss there currently travel hours by motorbike to Ho Chi Minh City to receive audiology support. Through our summer audiology training, March Mobile Mission, and this donation, we are contributing to the improvement in delivery of services in Nha Trang. In October, we received a generous supply of refurbished hearing aids from a hospital clinic in the UK. These hearing aids will go a long way in ensuring that children with hearing loss in Vietnam have access to the technology they need.

The generosity of time, spirit, in-kind and financial support by those we are fortunate to be associated with is what has made the Global Foundation what it is. In 16 months, we have trained over 150 teachers, 120 families, and 70 other professionals about audiology, speech pathology, early intervention, and auditory-verbal education. We have fit 110 hearing aids on young children. Our efforts are impacting the education of over 900 children with hearing loss. Since our program participants are sharing learning with others, the benefits are exponential – and sustainable. We are just getting started. This organization and our continued progress in Vietnam is a direct reflection of your support and generous contributions.

**Thank you!**

For those of you attending the **ASHA Convention** this week, I hope you'll join us for our presentation about our Vietnam Deaf Education Program. It is scheduled for 3-4 pm on Saturday, November 19.

Thank you again for believing in us and the power of mosquitoes.

Warm regards,



Paige Stringer  
Founder / Executive Director

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