

November 2019

Dear friends,

As 2019 comes to a close I'm looking back over our projects funded so far this year with your help. One project I especially want to share with you is the newly created wheelchair project established in My Lai and elsewhere in the province. These wheelchairs in many ways benefit the families more than the actual recipients. Most of the ten recipients that we visited in March (out of 50 recipients funded this year) were mentally incapacitated. **Without these wheelchairs their caregivers would have been unable to take them outside for a walk or take them to the market.** They would, as they had been for so many years, have remained bedridden.

These wheelchairs have made a significant difference in the lives of these families. Our partners for distributing the wheelchairs are VAVA (Vietnamese Association of Victims of Agent Orange) and the provincial Red Cross.

Our other projects continue to change lives. The water filtration systems we fund for primary schools provide clean, safe water for students to drink and to wash their hands before meals. These systems also relieve the burden of the school officials who, in the past, had to buy plastic containers of water for the children. The budget for these mountainous schools is meager—not having to buy water frees up these scarce funds for purchasing other necessary school supplies. The project featured on the back side of this newsletter is Soui Cha, an H're ethnic village.



Mrs. Vo Thi Thuy with her mother, Mrs. Ho Thi Thai, in her wheelchair. Mrs. Thai is a victim of Agent Orange, and had been confined to her bed for so long that she was initially fearful of using the wheelchair.



Mike Boehm and Mrs. Ho Thi Dieu, who was exposed to Agent Orange as a child.

Your donations are all appreciated!

A \$90 donation will provide a wheelchair for someone in need.



Your donation of

-\$3,000 will provide a clean water well project for a community.

-\$750 will provide a water filtration system for a rural primary school.

-\$450 will provide a cow for a woman and her family.

-\$100 will provide a bicycle for a student in need.

-\$50 will provide a scholarship for a student for one semester.

Thank you for your continued support of this important work.



The Quang Ngai Provincial Red Cross volunteers assist Mrs. Mai. After delivering her third child Mrs. Nguyen became deaf, mute, blind and paralyzed.

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Delays in this recent water well project have pushed its progress into typhoon season.



Phan Van Do oversees the project on behalf of MQI



Mr. Thuan's crew unload the well-drilling equipment in the rain.



The village funded the holding tank for this well.

Water wells are also more than a guaranteed year round source of water.

Bringing the water to any community provides **daily relief** for women who have traditionally walked many kilometers to obtain water. This makes a **huge difference** in their daily lives.

They have many physical tasks that they must accomplish every day in addition to working in the rice paddies, where temperatures sometimes exceed a hundred degrees. Women also collect forage for their cows, do the cooking, housecleaning, wash clothes, and take care of their children.

It's projects like these that remind me again and again about how, small as they are, they have made a significant difference. Your support of our work, now and in the past, has made these projects possible.

We ask you again this season to reach deep and make a donation to impact everyday lives of people to whom we owe so much.



In peace and hope that you will join our efforts,

nds
Mike Boehm

Phan Van Do and Mike Boehm

Mike and Do with Mr. Doan Ngoc Hien, who received a new wheelchair through VAVA.

Below: Do gathers with some of the women of Binh My village who received small business loans earlier this year. Each loan term is now three years and MQI is now on its sixth cycle of providing these loans. The repayment rate is consistently over 94%. Binh My is just one of the many villages to receive these loans through MQI.



It takes a village. And as one of our supporters, you are part of our village.