

Dear friends,

Covid has created a particularly unique moment in our world's history. This worldwide pandemic has had a profound impact on every country in the world including Vietnam. **However, because the Vietnamese government acted quickly and decisively to contain the virus there were less than 400 cases of Covid infection and no deaths.** By the time Do arrived in Quang Ngai in early June, the threat from the virus was over so very few people were wearing face masks.

While quarantined in Saigon, Do was not idle. He was in regular communication with our partners in Quang Ngai province-the Women's Union, the Vietnamese Association for the victims of Agent Orange, the Red Cross, the Farmer's Union and Mr. Thuan, our well driller. Do suggested to the Women's Union, on behalf of MQI, that they waive the monthly interest rates for the women receiving loans to provide some economic relief for these poor women. The Women's Union enthusiastically agreed.

While Covid added a new dimension to the hardships of facilitating our projects in Vietnam, other existing hardships have, for years, made Do's work difficult and sometimes dangerous. While traveling in Quang Ngai this year he traveled by motorbike in heat well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit with humidity to match. He and our other partners were forced to seek shelter from the heat regularly during the day to cool down before continuing.

Last year Do traveled to Quang Ngai province to meet with Mr. Thuan, our well driller, even though a typhoon was raging through Quang Ngai province. Do's family and friends asked him not to go because of the danger-gale force winds and trees being blown over, but he felt obligated to fulfill his promise to the well driller and for those villagers who desperately needed access to water.



Primary School children from Khanh Giang with water well funded in 2019 by MQI.

Do's determination and perseverance continues to drive MQI's projects.



We know it's ambitious in these times, but we also believe in you — our supporters — to keep this work going.

These are our goals for the upcoming year - please help us reach them!

3 Water wells - \$ 3,000 each

5 Water filtration systems for primary schools - \$ 800 each

10 Wheel chairs - \$ 92 each

15 Scholarships - \$ 50 each

10 Bicycles - \$ 100 each

6 Forage Grinding Machines - \$ 120 each

Your donations are all appreciated!

Thank you for your continued support of this important work.

2019 brought completion of key water well projects

With your help, we hope to fund more water wells and water filtration systems this year.



Phan Van Do with the water well funded by MQI in 2019 for the Binh My village primary school.

Grinding machines will save hundreds of hours



A local farmer illustrates use of a grinding machine. These will be instrumental in grinding agricultural bi-products and forage such as banana trunks into animal feed.



Binh My students are able to wash their hands because of the new filtration system funded in 2019.



Do and his wife Ngon, along with government and school officials, celebrate the new water well for the Binh My primary school.



Do and one local woman who will benefit from the grinding machine.

MQI has been well known and respected in Quang Ngai province for nearly 30 years. This means that every year we are inundated with requests for help from organizations we are already working with and other organizations who have heard of us.

This year, despite Covid, is no different. One organization, the Farmer's Union, had a particularly compelling request; to provide farmers with grinding machines to chop up banana trunks and other forage for their cows and pigs. **These farmers spend a considerable amount of time each day grinding food for their animals.** This is hard work and time consuming and in this heat, exhausting.

This year the Farmer's Union has asked us to fund grinding machines for farmers to use instead of chopping by hand. Each machine will be used by a group of farmers. We are able to get these machines at a reduced price because the seller is a former student of Do's.

As an added benefit of the grinding machines, the farmers who receive these machines will help grind forage for local women.

Your generous support, always critical to the success of these projects, is more important than ever. Your contributions not only fund our projects but they honor our Vietnamese partners who have worked so hard for nearly three decades to help the people in need in Vietnam.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mike Boehm *nds*



Mike Boehm and Phan Van Do

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