

Fall 2008 NEWSLETTER

Newsbits:

- The Fall 2008 **COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN** is underway. Our member number is 11923, and we are listed as the *Southeast Asia Christian Humanitarian Aid Program*.

Our advertising for the CFC campaign is limited to this newsletter, and so your response as well as your efforts to tell others is very important.. Please remember us in your workplace giving campaign, enlist your friends to help, and designate your generous gifts to this program.

Southeast Asia Christian Humanitarian Aid Program

11923

- We have just completed a permanent **relocation to North Carolina**, necessary for care of an aging parent. The name, programs and services of ECR have not changed. We hope you will note the changes in your address lists and continue to pray for us and help us financially. The economic climate increases our dependence on your generosity -- we can't do this without you.

Our mailing address is PO Box 1505, Shelby, NC 28151.
The office is located at 1506 Wesson Road, Shelby, NC 28152.

Please direct e-mail correspondence to info@ecrus.org.

Phone: (757) 513-6444



- **Baby The-Anh** has been scheduled for his third reconstructive surgery in October. In the first procedure, surgeons were able to reconstruct his mouth. In the second procedure, ophthalmic surgeons began adjusting placement of his eyes. This is a miracle in the making. We continue to help the orphanage in Can Tho where this child is cared for.

- **Scholarships** for the current school term were granted to 13 applicants, 11 of them shown here with two parents and Mr. Nhan, our representative in Can Tho City . Our Board of Directors



directly oversees this program and makes the annual grants, which cover the tuition needs of each of these young people. The average grant is \$156 per school year, and we are working now to at least double the number of grants for the coming year. Donations to this fund should be annotated "scholarships" and sent to PO Box 1505, Shelby, NC 28151. 100% of these gifts go directly to the students for their school expenses.

- In January of this year, our **14th annual medical team** worked for a week in the highlands of Lam Dong province, outside of Dalat, in ethnic tribal villages where health care is minimal. This team



treated over 1250 patients in the five days of clinics. Follow-up care for severe-need patients is continuing; we welcome your gifts to help provide this extra care.



- We are launching a **Pure Water program** for Hang Hot and other villages in Lam Dong Province, a new initiative for ECR with far-reaching potential. Projected to extend five years and cost \$106,000 annually, this program will bring clean water to villages that literally do not have a source of water. The “package deal” will include water delivery and purification, a basic sewage system, de-worming of the entire community and training in hygiene and personal sanitation.

Hang Hot, an ethnic K’ho village of approximately 850 people, is situated on top of one of the mountains in Lam Dong Province. Typical of the villages throughout the area, Hang Hot has no local source of water; it has to be hand-carried uphill the distance of three football fields, and then it is only available during the rainy season. Our goal is to provide a component system to bring water to a reservoir in the village and distribute it so that all families have reasonable access to that water all year long. A filtering system that can be maintained and operated by village workers will be included, as will a latrine system.



Currently, every resident of this village (and the others in the area) suffers from parasitic infections, primarily worms. The program will include a comprehensive de-worming phase coupled with training in washing and cooking techniques. The goal is to obtain satisfactory levels of sanitation to prevent infections and increase personal health.

In October of 2008, we will complete an on-site assessment of the Hang Hot village. This will be to determine the best means of delivering water to the village and storing it, and establish a viable blueprint for the project. In early February 2009, a team of medical and logistics professionals will spend a week there, working with village leaders and the provincial health department to set down a plan and timetable for the project. In the spring of 2009 we will begin the construction of the reservoir, then set up the delivery system and bring in the purification unit.



Teams of volunteers will be brought in for various phases of the project: installation of water delivery and latrine systems, training of village maintenance crews, hygiene training, and medical professionals for de-worming, health screening and follow-up. These teams will be in recruitment and performance status throughout the year, offering increased opportunities (and needs) for direct missions involvement by people who are able and ready to be the change agents needed.

Funding is of course a serious need, as it is in any endeavor of this kind. Which one of these options is right for you?

- A one-time gift of \$500.
- \$50 to help one family in Hang Hot receive training in clean health habits.
- A challenge gift of \$1,000, \$2000, \$5,000 or \$10,000.
- A matching gift, which will actuate a challenge gift that is pending.
- A monthly contribution of \$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100 for 1,2,3, 4 or 5 years .
- A commitment of \$53,000 to fund an entire village water system.

We encourage you to contact us about your interest in this project. If there is a way for you to be involved in this, to personally change a life for good and help provide better health to an entire generation of children in these villages, we want to help you make that happen. Contact us now.

call (757) 513-6444 or write to us at info@ecrus.org

www.ecrus.org