



ALISON Y. VIDOTTO WITH CHILDREN IN BẮC NINH PROVINCE

SEEING *THE* POSSIBILITIES

THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITY FOR THE CHILDREN OF VIỆT NAM BELIEVES THAT, "EVERYONE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL"

The Vidotto Family made their first trip to Ha Noi in September of 2006 and were very taken with the street children they met...

By the spring of 2007 they had started their own organization to assist children like them. The Australian Charity for the Children of Vietnam (ACCV, operates under www.accv.net.au) the motto "Helping children to break the cycle of poverty." This non-sectarian group is dedicated to helping children attain education in order to leave poverty behind. The Vidottos believe

that education and vocational training are integral in alleviating poverty. They primarily focus on disadvantaged children and youth suffering from blindness, although they also assist others with educational, financial, health and other difficulties.

One fine example of ACCV's work is the story of Thảo, a lovely young girl who grew up very poor. Thảo and her mother collected rubbish in order to survive, yet despite the challenges of extreme poverty she has always enjoyed and focused on her studies, and even finished High School with excellent grades.

Thảo has been chasing a dream since the age of 12, when she learned that her mother was very ill. Thảo wants to be a doctor. With her mother at her side she travelled to Hai Phuong to sit the admission examinations for the Medical University. The exams were very difficult and Thảo had the added distraction of fatigue and hunger because they had spent all of their money on travel and lodging, and she hadn't eaten for a few days.

But she still managed to complete all the examinations—and passed with flying colors! She faced the problem of financing six years of Medical