

Education

By Alison Vidotto, President ACCV



The Australian Charity for the Children of Vietnam (ACCV) was established in 2007 when we began working with a small group of young blind people. In 2013, just six years later, ACCV supported some 200 families living in poverty with blind or seriously ill children.

ACCV is a non-funded organisation; we must generate support from individuals and the community. We are grateful for the support of HIWC; as a result our programmes have changed the lives of many.

At ACCV we welcome the friendly hands-on approach of the CAC committee. The relationship between our staff and the committee is an added benefit. Regular visits by HIWC are always welcome, and I believe when organisations like ours work together for the greater good we achieve much more.

We are delighted that HIWC supports ACCV's vision and purpose in that everyone must have access to fundamental resources such as medical care and education for a community to have social development. We have worked closely on several projects involving educating young blind and disadvantaged students living in poverty, and supporting ill children at the National Paediatric Hospital.

HIWC's impact on the lives of these children cannot be overstated. I'd like to share the heart-lifting stories of Mo and Chin, both children born with Brittle Bone Disease.

Initially, their parents had to borrow money for their medical care. Being in dire financial situations their options became limited very quickly and it was not possible to continue to borrow; treatment was therefore limited or non-existent. Mo's situation was more serious than Chin's. She could not support her body weight; her bones were so brittle and, unfortunately, she suffered multiple fractures.

Since the support of ACCV, both children's health has improved markedly. Mo is now able to sit in the wheelchair donated by ACCV, and Chin is thriving at school and generally enjoying life. Now both are able to socialise with friends and family. Their general health has also improved and they suffer much less pain and less bone fractures. All other children receiving support have similar stories, and it's a joy to see them happy and enjoying life. What life changers basic medical care and a wheelchair or two can be!

HIWC recently funded the implementation of the ELITE course in the Dong Da Blind Association.

This class is already proving a big success. Fourteen blind students form the first class and these numbers will increase after Tet. HIWC funds all course materials and student transportation.

These classes open enormous opportunities for young blind people. Many students have been at home isolated since they lost their sight. Socialising and learning skills for the future makes an appreciable difference to them. From classes ACCV has run in other districts we have found that after completing English language and IT courses students get jobs, go back to school and to university; some have returned to their rural community to teach English and IT to the blind.

ACCV programmes would not be possible without the support of organisations like HIWC. Thank you, and "Chúc Mừng Năm Mới" to all.

Mười bốn thanh niên khiếm thị ở Hội Người mù Đống Đa đã tham gia lớp học tiếng Anh đầu tiên của ACCV - Tổ Chức Từ thiện cho Trẻ Em Việt Nam của Úc - sử dụng tài liệu và phương pháp Elite do HIWC tài trợ. Khóa học nhằm mục đích tạo cơ hội lớn cho thanh niên khiếm thị hòa nhập và tham gia hoạt động xã hội. Ngoài ra, HIWC cũng hỗ trợ ACCV cấp học bổng cho nhiều sinh viên nghèo hay trả tiền thuốc men và điều trị bệnh tiểu đường, xương thủy tinh...cho các bệnh nhi.