

### Hoi Am Thua Sai Orphanage

On Friday, 13 February we visited two orphanages that I had not been to previously and it was also a nice surprise to find out they were both run by Christian nuns. Thua Sai is home to around 20 children, some of whom suffer from mental or physical disability. Due to it being the Tet holiday, some children who have parents had been taken home for the holidays but we still got to meet most of the kids. The home is brightly painted by an old student and these colourful displays give it a sense of fun. There are both indoor and outdoor classrooms for the nun to teach the children as well as local villagers in the evenings. We were given a list of items that the nun needed for the children and were more than happy to support them.



During our tour of the building we visited the children's bedroom. The head nun also sleeps in here with one of the autistic children so there's more than 20 people in one room. Although we provided pillows and blankets we all noticed that the bunks were in a very bad condition. With very thin planks of wood and rusted supports, they didn't look like they would support the children as they grow. My friends and I agreed that the biggest investment we could make here was to purchase new beds for the children. If you would like to donate to this project head to my website!

#### ***What was spent?***

\$170 on pillows, toys, sugar, soap and Tet gifts

\$50 for children's blankets

\$20 car and driver



***[www.quanamfoundation.org](http://www.quanamfoundation.org)***

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## Mai Am Thien Tham Orphanage

After we visited Thua Sai we headed to Thien Tham, closer to Nha Trang and also part of a small Christian community. Home to 13 children we were impressed to see that the nuns not only looked after the children but bred and sold a variety of birds such as pigeons, chickens and pheasant for extra income.

The nun at Thien Tham had recently welcomed a few visitors but were still after a few supplies such as a rice cooker, wardrobe and kitchen bowls.

Quan Am Foundation was happy to provide these small gifts and enjoyed our visit to this beautiful home.

### ***What was spent?***

\$47 on electric rice cooker, wardrobe and kitchen bowls

\$20 for car and driver



## Phu Quang Orphanage

On Thursday 12 February, I went out to visit the Phu Quang pagoda in Ninh Hoa with my friends Quy, Jimmy and Long. Phu Quang is home to around 30 children who attend a local public school. The pagoda itself is a beautiful and peaceful place with views out to the mountains and rice fields. We toured around the children's bedroom which are very tidy, displaying their toys and have views out to the mountains.

The nuns at Phu Quang had provided us a detailed list of supplies they needed which was really helpful for us when we headed to the shops. Quan Am were able to donate the following to this wonderful home:

5L of cooking oil  
4 packets of rice noodles  
4 packets of vermicelli noodles  
3 kgs of sunflower and pumpkin seeds  
7 bags of sweets  
40 packets of soy milk  
4 litres of cleaning supplies  
500 anti-histamine tablets

4 packets of spaghetti  
4 packets of macaroni pasta  
5 packets of rice paper  
2 cooking bowls  
60 packets of instant noodles  
48 cans of drink  
200 paracetamol tablets  
10 boxes of worm tablets

### ***What was spent?***

\$137 on food and supplies

\$25 on medicine

\$41 for car and driver





**Phan Thien Hue - No Arms? No Worries!**

It's hard to believe that Hue is now a big 3 year old boy. He has the ability to surprise me each time I see him and this visit was no different. Hue is doing incredibly well considering his disability. Over the past two months he is now confidently walking and running un-aided, he is feeding himself with a spoon, can recite the alphabet in English and Vietnamese as well as counting to 10. Hue has also taught himself a number of nursery rhymes after he learnt to use a laptop by himself (including YouTube!). You can see the videos on our Facebook page. Hue's favourite activity is to take 'selfies' and my phone has stored hundreds of them over the past few years. He's a big fan of himself and talks non-stop! He is loved and cared for by wonderful nuns and staff at Loc Tho and although I wish I could be with him every day, it makes our visits so much more special.

**What was spent?** \$52 on educational toys



**Mr Duong**

For my past 6 visits to Nha Trang I have stayed with my lovely friends at the Carpe DM hotel. One of their employees is Mr Duong, an older gentleman who guards the hotel at night and has the task of sleeping outside on a cot and being woken up throughout the night to let guests in. Two years ago I was invited to Mr Duong's house to meet his granddaughter Nhung. Nhung was seriously brain damaged as a child and is bed-ridden. Over the past few months her condition has deteriorated and surviving on milk powder alone is not sustaining her growing body. It was so sad to see her family so discouraged. Quan Am Foundation has been supporting the family to provide food, medicine and nappies in previous years. Her parents have two other children and after paying for Nhung's care (food, medicine and nappies) they have barely enough money to feed their other children and send them to school. Although I do not usually support providing money in Vietnam, I have the greatest respect for this family and know that the money is put to good use. Quan Am Foundation also bought a few presents for Nhung's little sister (pictured) and we had some cute cuddles together.

**What was spent?**

\$330 cash donation  
\$10 gifts



## Hong

If I had a little Vietnamese sister it would be Hong (or Pinky as she likes to be called). Hong is a 19 year old University student who I was introduced to last year at her home which she shares with her mother and grandmother. Hong comes from a very poor family and Quan Am was delighted to help donate towards her school fees last year. Hong is now studying at University and accompanied me to visit Thua Sai and Thien Tham orphanages. Quan Am donated a care package to her family which included noodles, rice, seasoning, soy and fish sauce, toiletries and washing powder.

### ***What was spent?***

\$35 on supplies and stationery



## Christmas Fundraising

In December 2014 I returned home to New Zealand for the Christmas holidays. I brought back with me a selection of Cambodian silk decorations and Vietnamese bracelets to sell in order to prepare for this trip. I was overwhelmed with the interest and sold out of decorations thanks to the parish at St Andrews (Mission Bay, Auckland)!



I would also like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to my ongoing supporters of Quan Am Foundation. When relocating to Cambodia I was concerned that without regular fundraisers I would not be able to continue my work in Vietnam, however the backing of old and new supporters has been incredible! I can't thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to provide joy and happiness on your behalf.

If you would like to donate to Quan Am our bank details are:

Kiwibank / 38-9014-0306458-01





# Loc Tho's Playground

You will all know that Loc Tho Pagoda and Orphanage is always the highlight of my visits to Nha Trang and this time was no different. I visited a number of times throughout the week and enjoyed catching up with the children who shyly remember my name now and love to practice their English with me. One of the highlights was to see the children enjoying the playgrounds that we purchased last year! Here are a few snaps of the fun during playtime.



One of the elderly women who care for the pre-school children is Nguyen Tu and I often think of her as Hue's grandmother. I have bought her some small gifts in past visits such as new reading glasses and this time she asked me if I could find her a warm jumper. It was very cold during my visit and I imagine it would be very hard for the older citizens of Loc Tho.



**What was spent?** \$27 on jumper and toiletries



## Tra My and Quy's Family

Since July 2012 I have been friends with a family who live behind the hotel where I stay. Originally making friends with 11 year old Tra My, I am now a regular visitor to their family and big brother Quy.

Although the family are very poor, I always feel blessed by their hospitality and delicious meals I share with them! Recently Quy and his wife had a little baby boy and I was pleased to be able to support them. Thank you to Quy for also arranging the shopping and helping me with translations on our trips to Phu Quang, Thua Sai and Thien Tham orphanages.

### ***What was spent?***

\$40 on food and supplies

\$4 on school stationery for Tra My

\$77 on baby clothing and supplies

