

DRAGON TALES

An update on the work of Blue Dragon Children's Foundation

Vietnam - June 2010

An Amazing Rescue

During March, Blue Dragon staff crossed the border into China with Vietnamese police on a highly unusual mission. Their goal was to find and rescue 3 girls who had been tricked into crossing the border and kidnapped – to be sold to a brothel.

The girls, aged 14 – 20, were from southern Vietnam and had been promised good jobs in Hanoi. Instead they were taken into China by a husband and wife team of traffickers who planned to make thousands of dollars by selling them.

Terrified but determined, the girls showed extraordinary bravery: when left in a locked room for a few minutes, they kicked down the door and fled. Through inexplicable good fortune, they ran right into the home of a Chinese family which spoke some Vietnamese and, despite imminent danger, hid the girls in their attic for over 2 weeks.

The girls rang their parents in Vietnam, who contacted the police, who in turn contacted Blue Dragon to ask for assistance.

Having organized countless rescue trips in the past, Blue Dragon's lawyer, Mr Van, volunteered to accompany the police into China – a highly unconventional approach – where they sought out the girls and lay in wait until late one night when they could get them safely away.

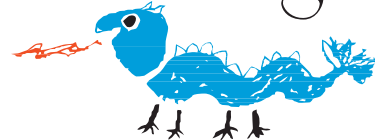
The girls are back with their families now; not victims, but heroes who refused to be abused!

Blue Dragon will now support them to attend school or training courses, and we plan to build a new house for the youngest girl who currently lives in a thatched hut.

This is the home of one of the 3 girls who was trafficked. Susceptible to poor weather and with a floor of sand, building a new house for this family is a high priority.

For privacy and security reasons, we cannot show photos of the people mentioned in this story.

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CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Blue Dragon in a nutshell

Founded 2002 in Hanoi.

Mission: To help disadvantaged kids and families to break out of a life of poverty, forever.

Supports 900 kids in Vietnam.

Employs 35 staff, including social workers, teachers, psychologists, accountants and legal advocates.

How can you help? Visit www.streetkidsinvietnam.com to donate online. You will be helping the poorest and the most vulnerable in society.

Aussies!

The end of the financial year is coming soon. Remember to make out your cheque to "AFAP – Blue Dragon" for tax deductibility!

Street Kids Shelter Appeal

Many Blue Dragon supporters recently will have received a special, one-off request to make a gift to our appeal for funds for House 52, our children's shelter, in Hanoi.

We have the opportunity to secure a five-year lease on this residential facility, which is located near our headquarters and which accommodates seventeen Blue Dragon boys.

An Australian foundation and long-term Blue Dragon supporter, Planet Wheeler, has made a *challenge gift* to the Appeal. Planet Wheeler will match dollar-for-dollar every dollar we raise, to \$30,000 US.

The deadline for gifts to the appeal is 31 July 2010.

All gifts of all amounts are welcomed. And with the end of the Australian tax year looming, now is a good time to consider this important request.

Read more about it, and find out more information about donating, by clicking [here](#).

Thank you.



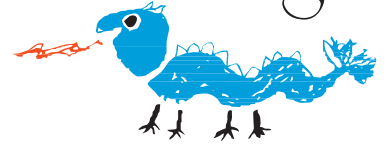
House 52.

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Then and now.....

“Old” friends of Blue Dragon around the world may remember the touching story of Hien, a girl in northern Vietnam who we first came across in 2004.

Then aged 12, Hien lived with her mother in an abandoned, snake infested house that was falling down around their ears.

Despite their hardships, Hien's mother – who carries bricks in a factory to make a living - kept her daughter in school and insisted that she do her best.

Given this situation, how could we NOT offer to help!?

With support from some friends – including Christine Meyer of Project Dream, the Hanoi International Women's Club, and the New Zealand Embassy in Hanoi – we were able to guarantee to support Hien right through to the end of high school, and – the icing on the cake – we built her a brand new house.

This month, Hien will sit her final Grade 12 exams. She's made it to the end of high school!

We're really proud that she made it this far – but Hien's education is not over yet. She now dreams of becoming a social worker so that she can help others, just as she was helped.

During the summer, our Hanoi centre will invite her to work with us to give her a taste of life as a social worker; and later this year we look forward to supporting Hien as she embarks on her next step as a uni student.



Hien outside the home she lived in, age 12.



Hien and her mother at the opening of their new house!



This is Hien in 2010, finishing grade 12.

Hien, you're amazing!

Staff profile

Whats your name?

My name is Trang.

Whats your job?

I am an Education and Training Coordinator.

How long have you worked for Blue Dragon?

I have worked for Blue Dragon two and a half years.

Do you find working at Blue Dragon rewarding?

Yes, of course, because my work can contribute to help the kids have better lives, because I can have many many “brothers” and “sisters” and last but not least because I can learn a lot from the kids, as well as from my great colleagues.

What is it like working at Blue Dragon?

Working at Blue Dragon is a wonderful opportunity but also a big challenge for anyone.

What is your typical day like?

This is a difficult question for me because it's quite hard to identify my typical day as on each day I have different tasks to do.

Tell us about something you have worked on recently

I have worked with helping a boy find a job in hospitality. He started work for a restaurant about 2 months ago and he is doing his job very well. We are very happy and proud of him.



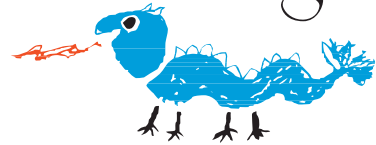
To find out more about Blue Dragon's work with kids in need check out our blog by clicking [here](#).

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Featured fundraisers

» The kids and staff of Blue Dragon in Vietnam send special thanks to all our friends in Tasmania, Australia, for their support during Blue Dragon week in March. Members of the new support group, Friends of Blue Dragon (Tasmania), organised a great week of visits to schools large and small in and around Hobart, as well as a business lunch and a host of other events. Blue Dragon founder, Michael Brosowski, and former street kid Vi Do, traveled to Tasmania for the week and were thrilled with the incredible generosity and hospitality of the locals! All funds raised will support our outreach work with street kids.

» Over the course of March, April and May the Planet Wheeler Events Committee have been raising funds and awareness for Blue Dragon children's foundation through the Lonely Planet head office in Melbourne. To date they have held a Trivia Night, two raffles, sold Chocolates and most recently held a Silent Auction with artwork donated by Hanh, a child who's life was transformed with the help of Blue Dragon. They have raised a total of \$2734.15 which will be matched by Planet Wheeler dollar for dollar.

» An anonymous London based donor has committed \$5000 US for the building of a school library about 40 km from Hanoi. Keep your eye on the Blue Dragon blog for stories about how this develops.

To find out about other organisations and people who have donated money to us click [here](#).

Blue Dragon around the world

As Blue Dragon reaches more children in Vietnam, we need more support from our friends around the world. We are now fortunate to have support from three groups:

Blue Dragon Children's Foundation Australia: This is the official Board that governs our work in Vietnam. The Board meets quarterly, and can be contacted at sussie@bdcf.org

Friends of Blue Dragon (Tasmania): Based in Hobart, this is a volunteer group working together to raise funds and awareness. Visit their website: bluedragonfriends.org.au

Blue Dragon Children's Trust (New Zealand): This Wellington-based volunteer group aims to raise support for our work throughout New Zealand. Contact them at: bdctnz@gmail.com

Thanks!

The March edition of Dragon Tales appealed for funds to support the family of a 12 year old girl named Bong in central Vietnam. Bong's mother, who collects scrap for a living, needed surgery, and Bong's family home was completely empty of furniture except for a simple bed.

Thanks to your support, Bong's mother is now well; her parents have paid off their debt of almost \$300; and her father has some new fishing nets to increase his daily catch - and the family's income.

Life is looking much better for Bong and her whole family!



Bong (on the right) with her father and siblings, showing off their new fishing nets.

Donate today!

Click one of the icons below to donate online.

PayPal

(Worldwide)
Not tax-deductible

100 FRIENDS

Tax-deductible
for Americans



AFAP

Tax-deductible
for Australians

info@bdcf.org

www.streetkidsinvietnam.com

www.vietnamstreets.blogspot.com