

PRESS RELEASE

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Gift of wheelchairs and hearing-aids from LDSC

Ninh Binh (30 June 2010) – The lives of 430 disabled people and their families will be significantly improved through a wheelchair and hearing-aid donation program sponsored by the Latter Day Saints Charities (LDSC). All of the donated wheelchairs and hearing-aids will be fitted by teams of doctors and therapists in the north and central of Viet Nam.

Latter-Day Saint Charities is a private, nonprofit charity agency, registered with the Vietnamese Government and the U.S. Agency for International Development. LDSC offers humanitarian relief throughout approximately 150 countries worldwide. One hundred percent of all donations go to relief and development programs.

Today, 75 wheelchairs and 26 hearing-aids will be distributed to people with mobility impairments and hearing impairments living in Ninh Binh province. This is the seventh major donation of wheelchairs from the Latter Day Saint Charities to VVAF in Vietnam since 2003. Currently, 2,072 people with mobility impairments have received wheelchairs in 11 Northern and Central provinces.

This multi-functional wheelchair is high quality and has long-term use value. This wheelchair project will help VVAF to achieve one of its most important goals, which is to meet the needs of patients with mobility impairment through wheelchairs.

Additionally, for the year 2010, LDSC has decided to donate \$15,000 through the Dioxin Resolution Initiatives in Vietnam (DRIVE) program to assist 80 children and adult with hearing impairments in Thai Binh, Ninh Binh and Nam Dinh Provinces. These are the digital hearing aids which attached to an ear mould and fits comfortably behind the ear for children with disabilities. This is not only to help enhance the hearing abilities but also to give children with disabilities the chance of opening up a world of education, work and social life for their future.

Together with the support from Ford Foundation in the Program: “Dioxin Resolution Initiatives in Vietnam” (DRIVE) phase II 2009-2011, this project will not only help to strengthen the community based rehabilitation network, but also to achieve one of its most important goals to provide support for poor children with disabilities in 6 Provinces including Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang and Quang Nam in Vietnam.

Up until now, in Viet Nam, LDSC has been working on:

1. Ketsana Typhoon Relief
2. Two Vision Projects, one completed & one scheduled to complete in the fall.
3. Over 2,000 wheelchairs throughout Vietnam (CP & Tricycle wheelchair included)
4. Therapeutic Devices/Orthopedic braces
5. Rehabilitation Center Training & equipment for Center
6. Hearing Assessment & Hearing Aids for poor & needy children
7. Repairing water systems for clean water
8. Provide materials & supplies for Orphanages & Girls Shelters.
9. Clean water filter systems for 2 schools.
10. Provide newborn kits
11. Health Fair/ Puppet Show to elementary schools
12. Built Monkey Bridge to provide a way for students to cross the river to get to school.
13. Teaching English

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