

Childhood – The Foundation of Life



DINH QUAN FIRST AID MEDICAL STATION

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) received financial support from Trade Plus Aid & Lovells to meet the operational needs of our First Aid Medical Station in Dong Nai Province, South Vietnam. This project provides support to approximately 1400 people every year.

BACKGROUND

Hamlet 9 of Gia Canh Village is located in a remote area approximately 18km from Dinh Quan City, and three hours drive northeast of Ho Chi Minh City. The area was densely forested, but in recent years the community has cleared much of the surrounding land for banana plantations and grazing areas for small farm animals. The terrain is rugged and infrastructure non-existent. Dirt tracks link surrounding villages and the poor condition of the tracks means transportation is especially difficult during the rainy season.

Hamlet 9 is inhabited by a small community of approximately 1400 people, 10% of whom are from ethnic minority groups. Housing in this community is very basic and the average income per person is only US\$6 a month.

CNCF INTERVENTION

In 1995 The Christina Noble Children's Foundation was made aware of the plight of this destitute community by the Local Representative Office of The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. CNCF immediately commenced investigations into the most urgent needs of the community and as a result initiated the following three projects in Hamlet 9 of Gia Canh Village:

- (a) *The Construction and Equipping of Six Classrooms - 1996*
- (b) *The Construction and Development of Three Water Wells - 1997*
- (c) *The Construction and Development of a First Aid Medical Station - 1997*

THE FIRST AID MEDICAL STATION

CNCF built and equipped Dinh Quan First Aid Medical Station in Gia Canh Village in 1997 and it was officially opened in August of that year. The poverty experienced by the local community, and the resultant poor standard of hygiene in Hamlet 9, had previously made the community very susceptible to malaria and many other infectious diseases. Previously, there was no provision for medical care in Gia Canh and the local community had to make the arduous journey into Dinh Quan City (18km away) for medical assistance and emergency treatments.

"It's not just about mending bodies, it's about restoring people's independence, giving them a life, not just an existence." Christina Noble

Childhood – The Foundation of Life

The most commonly treated illnesses at the First Aid Medical Station are malaria, diarrhoea, cholera, gastrointestinal infection and dysentery. It also serves the mothers of Gia Canh Village, providing both pre-natal and post-natal care, as well as offering a range of family planning alternatives. Staff at the medical station also provide preventative services, including education on the importance of personal sanitation and good health. A major focus for the medical station has been preventing the high incidence of malaria in the area, by providing households with mosquito repellent, nets and sprays. Since June 1998, CNCF has witnessed a 90% decrease in the reported incidence of malaria in the community.

At the medical station, between January 2001 and December 2001:

- 4,233 consultations and treatment sessions were undertaken
- 597 women and children were vaccinated
- 295 households received insect repellents and sprays
- 732 mosquito nets were distributed

The First Aid Medical Station operates five days a week and is staffed by one doctor, a nurse and an assistant. Seven nights of the week the station is also staffed for emergency calls.



Consultation time at Dinh Quan Medical Station



Families waiting to be seen at Dinh Quan Medical Station

For the purpose of internal management, CNCF undertake regular project visits and assessments and will provide bi-annual reports with relevant photographs and profiles of beneficiaries. These will be added to our website.

Operating Budget	1 Year:	\$3,798 USD
Paid by Trade Plus Aid And Lovells	2 Years:	\$7,596 USD
	3 Years:	\$11,394 USD

CNCF recognise the rewards gained via the implementation of partnerships through cooperation. We cannot continue to achieve our aims for the children with love alone. As our experience vividly illustrates, the financial requirements needed to sustain these aims can only be achieved with the support and kindness of those who share and believe in the work undertaken by Christina's Foundation.

CNCF Vietnam's Audited Financial Statements are available on request.

"It's not just about mending bodies, it's about restoring people's independence, giving them a life, not just an existence." Christina Noble