

Christian Children's Fund

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Youth Lead the Way in Children's Clubs in Vietnam

Richmond, Va. – May 26, 2009 – From learning about the dangers of swimming to reading books to playing sports to helping the elderly, clubs in Vietnam are changing the way children look at life.

Duc, a 17-year-old youth leader in one of the clubs, has used a leadership opportunity to educate children about the dangers of swimming.

"I like jumping into the stream from the bridge. I'm not afraid; living or dying is fate," a young boy once told him. These types of comments give Duc the opportunity to teach others on the dangers of drowning and how it can be prevented.

For Duc, this type of training occurs once a week at a children's club in the province of Bac Kan in Vietnam. Christian Children's Fund, which will become ChildFund International on July 1, collaborates on sponsorship and programs with ChildFund Australia in Vietnam.

The children's clubs are initiated by the Child Protection Program of ChildFund Vietnam in order to support a safe and healthy environment for enhancing children in poor communities to develop to their full potential.

After two years of piloting the program in the Cao Phong and Bach Thong Areas, which are about 100 miles from Vietnam's capital, the children's club model was revised and rolled out in eight other communities in Vietnam. It has attracted about 5,000 children as participants this year.

The local communities help the children find a common meeting area.

In addition to Duc's swimming class, educational sessions and recreational activities such as reading books and playing sports take place. Children also plan community activities such as helping the elderly and the poor, cleaning the village and planting trees.

"I like my club because I can play sports here," says 12-year-old Luan.



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Christian Children's Fund is a global force for children, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, CCF works in 31 countries and helps more than 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. CCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance. It has earned 4 stars from Charity Navigator.

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The clubs attest to the creative management skills and capability of children to organize themselves. Children have established their own management board and selected members from themselves to coordinate activities considering group discussions.

Bui Thi Beo, a 76-year-old woman in one of the communities, appreciates how the club has helped her and her community.

“I can’t find words to say thanks to the little kids,” she says. “They are very good. They help me with a lot and it makes such an old person like me feel very happy. I wish to live longer to see the kids grow up. I believe they will become good people.”

CCF and ChildFund Australia have helped more than 17,000 children and family members in Vietnam since 2005.

For more information about CCF, visit www.christianchildrensfund.org.

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