

Making a Difference in Vietnam



University Lion Paige Stringer is leading an initiative to establish a teacher training program for Vietnamese teachers of the deaf through her nonprofit organization, the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss.

All children develop their acumen for language in the first six years of life. Because the ability to hear sound directly affects language acquisition, it is essential that children with hearing loss receive quality hearing aids and have access to expert teachers during this critical stage of development.

There are over 180,000 children with hearing loss in Vietnam. The government only recently began providing these children with necessary resources. Hearing aids are in limited supply and less than 20% of the teachers are formally trained to help these children develop language. Without language, education is difficult to come by. Without quality education, job prospects are dim. As a result, many Vietnamese deaf and hard-of-hearing children are unable to achieve the fullest potential as human beings and end up dependent on society for support.

Paige was born hard-of-hearing, but was identified with hearing loss early in life and received the quality hearing aids and strong teacher support she needed to assimilate successfully into hearing society. She attended regular schools alongside her hearing peers, earned a full tennis scholarship to the U of Washington, achieved a Masters degree, and went on to a successful 12-year corporate marketing career. She now has her own company that provides marketing and editorial services to the travel industry.

Paige traveled throughout SE Asia last year and was struck by the lack of resources available to children with hear-

ing loss in these countries. She left compelled to help these children access at least some of the resources that she was fortunate to have. Paige collaborated with the Thuan An School in Vietnam to develop a teacher training program. Ten experts in audiology, speech language, and auditory-verbal education will mentor 80 Vietnamese teachers of the deaf in a one-month intensive workshop in Vietnam. Since one teacher works with 10 children, a single workshop will directly impact the education potential of 800 Vietnamese children. That is 800 children that could be set on a course for a better life. Because the teachers who attend the workshop will share their learning with other teachers, these benefits are exponential.

Paige founded the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss in February, 2009 to empower the world's hard-of-hearing and deaf children with the resources and education they deserve. Lion Fred Minifie serves as president of the board and Lion Suzanne Quigley is an advisor. Martha Harney, who manages the NW Lions Foundation Hearing Aid Bank at the University of Washington is also a board member.

The Global Foundation is raising \$140,000 to fund the Vietnam project. In June, the University Lions Club generously pledged \$10,000. The Global Foundation continues to seek support from other clubs in our district so that they may qualify for a Lions Clubs International matching grant. The board is also soliciting grant organizations, foundations, and private donors. To learn more about this project and how you can contribute, please visit www.childrenwithhearingloss.org or contact Paige Stringer at paige@childrenwithhearingloss.org.

NEW B-6

Greetings Multiple District 19 and my Zone B-6! I woke up at 12:01am on July 1, 2009 and discovered that I went from being Zone Chairperson Elect to Zone Chairperson. What a shock! Of course it wore off quickly because I fell back to sleep within seconds.

I would like to thank our outgoing Zone Chairperson, Steve Brooks, for the fine job he accomplished during his term. He is a prime example of a 100% Zone Chairperson who is and will be a big asset to the Zone and Lions overall. He strived to make his year a strong year for our Zone. He did an outstanding service to Zone 6 by adding new clubs and new members. Thanks Past Zone Chairperson Steve.

Who am I? I am now Zone Chairperson Doug Houghton of the Marysville Lions Club. I have been a Lion since 1984 and I have held all the club positions that you can name and some of them several times. I have also held several positions with the Snohomish County Sight & Hearing Foundation. I am presently the treasurer of the foundation. I have been married to a wonderful wife, Bernadette (Bernie) for 28 years. She graduated from Western Washington University and has been teaching for 25 years. I have two sons who followed my example by graduating from the best university in the state, the University of Washington. Yes, I am a Husky. I have been employed by the

Tips from

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Lions--this is about some o send them to

State (Departm 32 years.

I look forwa incoming Presi make this a gre all to have their time, both on th the District Leve of the great job

Our corn bo new year. Mark through 9/7/09 signed up for a Fair.

Also mark ye event for the 60th Anniversa Saturday, Sep them for ticket fast.

I will have mo I receive my fir a good summe Zone Chairpe

Congratulations and thank



To the volunteers and friends of 19B Lions, 19B Lion Central Lions Club, L.E.R.C., Luxottica, Northwest Lions Foundation for Sig Hearing Foundation of Snohomish County and VOSH make the June 30th Snohomish County 2009 "Project H success. It was a day when the Lions motto, "WE SERV it felt good!

Thanks, also, to 19B Lions for volunteering. Thanks to volunteers for providing books for the kids from the 19 To **Everett Central Lions Club**, thanks for your support **LERC**, you came through with reading glasses, su **Luxottica** was there with volunteers from **Lens Craft and Sunglass Hut** and free prescription glasses with **Northwest Lions Foundation** sent the Health Scre