



**Global
Foundation
For Children
With Hearing Loss**



The Global Foundation for Children With Hearing Loss aims to make a direct and lasting impact on the futures of thousands of deaf and hard-of-hearing children around the world by providing them with access to the technology, education, and resources they need to become contributing members of society.

We are collaborating with Vietnam's Thuan An Center to implement an intensive teacher training program for Vietnamese teachers of the deaf and hard-of hearing in Summer, 2010.

Learn more at:
www.childrenwithhearingloss.org

Happy Holidays! As we wind down 2009, it is satisfying to reflect on the progress that the Foundation has made in seven short months since incorporation and I am so appreciative of your interest and support. However, we still have a long way to go and much to do.

In a recent paper, international researchers Helen Goulios and Robert Patuzzi noted that as awareness for hearing loss increases and access to technology improves in developing countries, the shortage of trained professionals in hearing-related fields will be exacerbated. To address this, Goulios and Patuzzi expressed that "developing countries must concentrate on the initiation of education programs."

The Foundation and Vietnam's Thuan An Center are working together to establish such a program. Starting next summer, our three-year initiative will increase the number of trained teachers in auditory-verbal education for hearing-impaired children in Vietnam. As a result, more Vietnamese children with hearing loss will have the tools they need to develop language and communication skills. This, in turn, will enhance their ability to assimilate and reach their full potential in hearing society. Our first training workshop next summer will train 85 teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing. Since one teacher works with 10 kids, we will be enhancing the education of 850 children. I can't help but get an adrenaline rush thinking about that.

I'm proud of all that the Foundation's board and Vietnam program development team has accomplished thus far - and I am grateful to you for your support of our work. Thank you very much for your friendship.

Founder and Executive Director

Report from Vietnam

Executive Director Paige Stringer spent six weeks in Vietnam last Fall networking with government officials, professionals, and academics within the Vietnamese deaf education community, and progressing the logistics for the teacher training program the Foundation will host at Thuan An Center next summer. Some trip highlights:

- Ho Chi Minh City University has agreed to certify our program
- Buffalo Tours of Vietnam signed on as a program sponsor
- Established ties with Hanoi University and Ho Chi Minh City College for ongoing collaboration and research
- Attended the UN People to People symposium, shared the foundation's work with US, AUS speech language pathologists
- Worked with Thuan An to identify 34 schools to participate in our first workshop. It was wonderful to review the list and see the geographical reach that our program will serve.

For more trip reports, stories, and reflections, please visit our blog at: <http://childrenwithhearingloss.blogspot.com/>

For a Vietnamese perspective on our program's objectives, watch our [short video interview](#) with Thuy Nguyen, Director of Thuan An.

Vietnam Training Program Update

The first Vietnamese teacher training workshop at Thuan An next summer will focus on auditory-verbal principles for hearing-impaired children between 0-6 years of age. Our program development team is hard at work developing the curriculum for the month-long program that includes lectures and practicum for teachers and evening sessions for parents. ****Trained professionals in audiology, speech language pathology, early intervention, and auditory-verbal education interested in serving as lecturers in Vietnam, are invited to contact us at info@childrenwithhearingloss.org.***

Oticon Focus on People Awards

Paige Stringer was honored with Oticon's Focus on People advocacy award in November. The hearing aid company's annual award recognizes hearing-impaired individuals who are changing perceptions about hearing loss around the world. [Click here](#) for media coverage.

How to Participate

We are always interested to hear from you! Please feel free to email us anytime at info@childrenwithhearingloss.org with thoughts, ideas, questions, and/or suggestions. Here are some other ways to stay engaged with what we are doing and help us promote our work:

- Join us on [Facebook](#)
- Forward this newsletter and share our [website](#) within your circle
- Download our [Good Search Yahoo toolbar](#) for your Internet searches and online shopping. Good Search will contribute a penny to us every time you search the web and a percentage of every online purchase you make at participating stores. There is no cost to you. Simply click on the gold box labeled "Download Toolbar" located [here](#).
- Make a tax deductible [donation](#). We are grateful for your support.

WARM WISHES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

